Reconstruction in conflict areas

Mr. Carlos Lopes, UNITAR Executive Director, who was appointed in March, paid a courtesy visit to the Governor on 22 June.

Mr. Lopes mentioned that the relationship with the Prefecture was very important and should be strengthened further. Activities such as the current project with Hiroshima University should be expanded.

He visited the Peace Memorial Museum and Park and commented “we wish to reconstruct post-conflict areas all over the world following the example of Hiroshima”.

The UNITAR Hiroshima Office was established in 2003 on the invitation of the Prefecture. So far about 950 people have attended its training programmes from more than 50 countries of Asia and the Pacific, mainly developing countries, in areas such as post-conflict reconstruction and the management and conservation of World Heritage Sites.
Hiroshima Programme on Nuclear Issues – UNITAR plans a three year programme from next year

During his visit to Hiroshima on 22 June, the UNITAR Executive Director announced that UNITAR is planning to launch a training programme on nuclear matters in Hiroshima in August for three years from next year. The programme will invite experts from various countries and will focus on two main themes: nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

The UNITAR Hiroshima Office has been conducting training programmes on themes such as the management and conservation of World Heritage Sites and UN peacekeeping but until now has not focused on nuclear issues. The final decision on the programme proposal will be made this August and discussion on the contents will be intensified thereafter.

Executive Director Mr. Carlos Lopes, who took office in March, visited Hiroshima for the first time to greet authorities in the city. He emphasized that Hiroshima is a symbolic place demonstrating how humanity could suffer from nuclear destruction and at the same time show ways of achieving reconciliation and reconstruction. He said that meaningful programmes could be conducted here in Hiroshima. During his visit he met with Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba and requested his support for UNITAR activities. He also met with Governor Yuzan Fujita.
UNITAR Executive Director requested further support from the Prefecture - courtesy visit

UNITAR conducts training activities for government officials in post-conflict countries and regions. Its Executive Director Mr. Carlos Lopes visited Governor Fujita on 22 June and requested further cooperation to expand and enrich its programmes.

UNITAR opened its second regional office, the Hiroshima Office for Asia and the Pacific (HOAP) in the Hiroshima Chamber of Commerce and Industry Building in July 2003. HOAP is conducting events enhancing Hiroshima’s name recognition and characteristics such as a lecture series for Hiroshima citizens and research activities about Hiroshima’s post-war reconstruction.

There have been 29 lectures (roundtables) so far, attended by about 1500 citizens. The Prefecture provides UNITAR with about 800,000 USD for operational costs.

Mr. Lopes, who took up his post in March, mentioned that UNITAR wished to create a network with academic institutions in Japan and to contribute towards peace and culture.