

Report on the Visit to the Hiroshima Culture Center
in São Paulo and the Hiroshima University Brazil Center

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1. Visit Overview

On Saturday, October 18, 2025, Hiroshima University Faculty of Education Dean Yasushi Maruyama, Associate Professor Makiko Santoki, and Associate Professor Jongsung Kim visited the Hiroshima Culture Center (Centro Cultural Hiroshima do Brasil) located in São Paulo, Brazil, and the Hiroshima University Brazil Center located within it. This visit aimed to assess the current state of the facility and explore future collaboration and cooperation possibilities through meetings with the Center's Chairman and relevant directors.

The Hiroshima University Brazil Center within the Hiroshima Culture Center is an overseas base established on April 27, 2009, serving as a key component of Hiroshima University's international education and research network. The establishment of this center has been expected to promote the acceptance of students from Brazil and other countries in Central and South America to the university, and researcher exchanges.

2. Facility Layout and Environment

The Hiroshima Culture Center includes lecture rooms, meeting rooms, a library and resource room, a multipurpose hall, a gymnasium, and spaces for community activities. The facilities confirmed during the visit are as follows:

- Seminar Rooms & Workshop Spaces

Multiple spaces are available for small-scale lectures, discussions, and workshops.

- Gymnasium & Sports Facilities

Sports facilities are equipped for recreational activities such as table tennis.

- Library and Exhibition Space

A library corner and exhibition areas on history and peace are available for free browsing.

- Community Space and Shared Areas

Areas for communal meals and dialogue are provided, where visitors and local residents gather for daily interaction.

- Living Support Facilities

Accommodation spaces for long-term stays, shower and laundry facilities, and a shared

kitchen are available, supporting residential activities.

Additionally, Japanese language education programs (beginner to advanced levels, for children, youth, and adults; in-person, hybrid, and online formats) are offered, providing a place for Brazilians and Japanese Brazilians interested in Japanese culture and language to deepen their learning.

3. Role of the Hiroshima University Brazil Center

The Hiroshima University Brazil Center is positioned as a key hub in Hiroshima University's internationalization strategy. Through this center, the following educational and research activities are being advanced:

- Dispatching students from Japan and conducting local training programs
- Joint research and exchange with universities and research institutions in Brazil
- Academic exchange activities concerning Japanese immigrant history and peace education
- Hosting public lectures and workshops for local citizens

These initiatives aim to foster mutually beneficial relationships, going beyond the role of a mere “overseas branch campus.” Furthermore, the center strives to create spaces for education and dialogue, using layered themes such as colonial and immigrant history, and memories of war and peace as mediators.

4. Significance as Peace Education and Citizenship Education

The Hiroshima Culture Center displays materials on the history of Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Brazil, as well as immigration, war, and peace. The poster for the “Workshop de Paz” (Peace Workshop), featuring the flags of Japan and Brazil side by side, serves as a symbol that transcends a single perspective on history, facilitating the exchange of both nations' historical memories.

Such exhibition and learning spaces provide opportunities for local citizens themselves to reinterpret the meaning of peace and engage in proactive dialogue, based on the complex historical experiences shared by immigrant communities, moving beyond the simplistic framework of victim and perpetrator.

5. Overall Evaluation and Future Implications

The Hiroshima Culture Center and Hiroshima University Brazil Center play a vital role not merely as university “overseas offices,” but as community-rooted hubs for academic and cultural exchange. Specifically, the following points are commendable:

- Community-rooted academic and cultural hub

Research, education, daily life, and cultural exchange intertwine, creating a space where local residents and students/researchers interact regularly.

- Practicing Memory-Based Peace Education

It utilizes themes of immigration history, war, and peace as educational resources, constructing learning spaces that foster shared memory.

- Creating Publicness in Daily Life

Diverse activities—such as shared kitchens, sports, workshops, and exhibitions—are organically connected within a single space, enabling educational practices that extend beyond the classroom.