

Message from Ambassador Lakhdar Brahimi,  
Former Special Advisor to the Secretary-General of the United Nations,  
for Tokyo Peacebuilders Symposium 2008

I am delighted to hear that the first pilot program dedicated to train civilian peacebuilders in Asia, through coursework in Hiroshima and on-the-job training in conflict-affected countries, has now been successfully completed. This outcome is especially satisfying for me, as I was present at the symposium at UN House in Tokyo a year and half ago when this idea was first announced.

The role to be played by civilians in peacebuilding is ever growing, and Asia still has great potential in this respect. I hope that, with this new initiative launched in Japan in cooperation with ASEAN and many other partners, Asia's contribution to peacebuilding will be further advanced. I wish all the present and future peacebuilders great success in their future endeavors for peace.