

# UPEACE WEEKLY SUMMARY



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**Pictured:** The Rector and Vice Rector together with representatives of The Nippon Foundation, Alumni and representatives of the Hiroshima Peace Institute during the mission to Japan.

## UPEACE Expands Academic and Diplomatic Ties on Strategic Mission to Japan

The University for Peace (UPEACE) recently conducted a high-level diplomatic mission to Japan, led by Rector Dr. Francisco Rojas Aravena and Vice Rector Dr. Juan Carlos Sainz-Borgo, who were accompanied by UPEACE graduate, Maya Mizuno. The mission aimed to deepen academic cooperation and identify new opportunities for institutional collaboration with key partners in the Asia-Pacific region.

The delegation's agenda included strategic meetings with prominent institutions such as The Nippon Foundation, Hiroshima City University, the Hiroshima Peace Institute, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. A special highlight was UPEACE's participation in an official event at Expo Osaka 2025, marking its growing presence and engagement in the region.

The Nippon Foundation hosted a dedicated reception for TNFSA Fellows, during which Dr. Rojas delivered remarks as part of the panel discussion "Adapting to Change: New Realities in Peace and Regional Cooperation." He shared the stage with Dr. Martin Weiss, President of the Salzburg Global Seminar, in a dialogue that emphasized the evolving challenges and opportunities in peacebuilding.





**En la foto:** Rector Francisco Rojas, Vice Rector Dr. Juan Carlos Sainz-Borgo and Ms. Maya Mizuno, together with authorities from Hiroshima City University and the Hiroshima Peace Institute.

As part of its diplomatic and academic engagement in Japan, the University for Peace (UPEACE) participated in the "Voices for Peace" forum, organized by the Salzburg Global Seminar at the Austrian Pavilion during Expo Osaka 2025. Rector Dr. Francisco Rojas Aravena served as a keynote speaker alongside Dr. Satoshihiro Akimoto, President of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA. Their dialogue reaffirmed UPEACE's enduring commitment to sustainable peacebuilding in an increasingly complex global landscape.

The mission continued in Hiroshima with a series of academic meetings aimed at expanding collaboration with Hiroshima City University and the Hiroshima Peace Institute. The delegation also visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, underscoring the University's dedication to historical memory, peace education, and the promotion of a global culture of peace.

The visit concluded with a high-level meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and a brief visit with UNU Rector and UPEACE Council Member, Dr. Tshilidzi Marwala. These engagement further solidified diplomatic relations and reinforced the institutional foundations that support UPEACE's global academic mission and international partnerships.

## Canadian Ambassador Visits the University for Peace to Strengthen Academic and Diplomatic Cooperation

Last Tuesday, Her Excellency Ioanna Sahas Martin, Ambassador of Canada to Costa Rica, paid an official visit to the UPEACE campus. She met with Dr. Olivia Sylvester, Head of the Department of Environment and Development, to discuss potential joint projects and opportunities for collaboration.

Their dialogue focused on reinforcing academic and diplomatic ties between Canada and UPEACE, particularly on issues of peace, sustainability, and international cooperation. The visit reaffirmed a shared commitment to advancing education as a foundation for more just, inclusive, and resilient societies.



**Pictured:** Canada's Ambassador to Costa Rica, Ioanna Sahas Martin, with Dr. Olivia Sylvester, during her visit to the campus.



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## UPEACE Partners in National Effort to Combat Illicit Trade and Organized Crime



The University for Peace participated in the campaign “What You Buy Today Defines Tomorrow’s Future—Let’s Take Care of Costa Rica,” led by Crime Stoppers Costa Rica in collaboration with the OAS Department against Transnational Organized Crime, the U.S. Parliamentary Forum on Intelligence and Security, and CADEXCO.

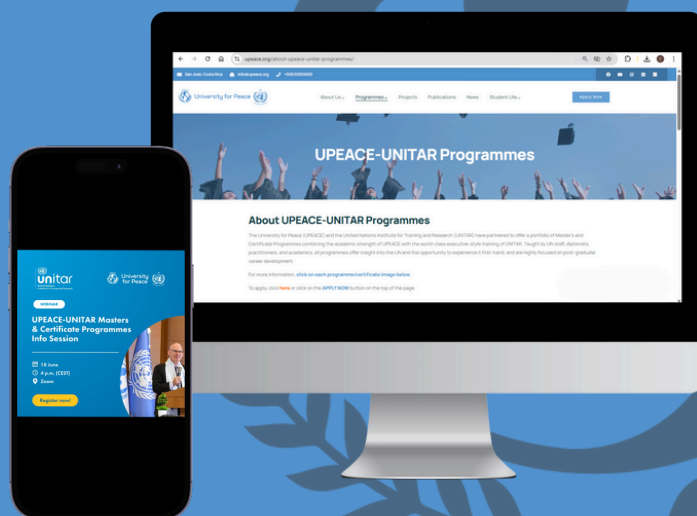
The campaign aims to raise awareness about the impact of illicit trade, which accounts for approximately 2.6% of Costa Rica’s GDP and causes annual fiscal losses exceeding one trillion colones, according to the Chamber of Commerce’s Illicit Trade Observatory.

This initiative aligns with the strategic work of the UPEACE Chair on Combating Illicit Trade and Preventing Transnational Organized Crime, which fosters academic dialogue, training, and international cooperation to address global security challenges.

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