

Kumamoto “KIZUNA” Declaration

The “World Tsunami Awareness Day” was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015. The High School Students Summit on “World Tsunami Awareness Day” was created the following year, in 2016. This year 2024, we, high school students from all over the world, have gathered in Kumamoto, a place which has experienced many disasters, such as the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquakes and the Heavy Rain Disaster of July 2020. Here, we deepened our knowledge of disaster prevention, disaster risk reduction and reconstruction.

Through our discussions, we learned about the hazards faced by various countries and explored different approaches to implementing countermeasures. We also learned about the value of creating bonds and sharing different points of view to form an opinion.

We are determined to put to practice the lessons learned in this summit, to communicate them to the world and to pass them on.

- In order to save lives, while assessing disaster risks, we will:
 - Make information about natural hazards accessible to as many people as possible to raise awareness;
 - Create partnership with local and national governments and organizations to provide assistance in preparing communities for natural hazard;
 - Focus on youth education both through school curriculum and technologies, such as games or applications, so that children are more aware of disaster risks and necessary actions;
 - Create opportunities for international exchanges to discuss and share ideas and solutions such as today’s summit.

- In order to avoid or mitigate the damage from hazards while maintaining harmony with nature, we will:
 - Invest in green cities and use nature-based solutions;
 - Conduct evacuation planning and promote education such as organizing study tours;
 - Invest in resilient infrastructure that is resistant to hazards.

- In order to achieve creative reconstruction following a disaster, we will:
 - Prioritize residents’ voices, beliefs, and values in order to maintain their cultural integrity, ownership, and sustainability;
 - Make recovery-related information accessible by using different languages and different platforms in consideration of various types of social groups and their situations/circumstances;
 - Facilitate awareness to the importance of the mental health to decrease stigmas and increase solidarity of the communities.

We are thankful for the blessings of nature, but we also recognize the dangers it presents. We will continue to promote disaster prevention, disaster risk reduction and reconstruction efforts together with the friends and the “KIZUNA” (bonds) we have formed here, as disaster prevention leaders.

October 24, 2024



High School Students Summit on
“World Tsunami Awareness Day” 2024 in Kumamoto