

Inamura-no-Hi Declaration

The day November 5 was designated as “World Tsunami Awareness Day” at the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in December 2015 deriving from the anecdote known as “Inamura-no-Hi” in which Hamaguchi Goryo saved the villagers’ lives from the tsunami by setting fire to his rice sheaves to guide people to higher ground when the village was struck by the tsunami resulting from the Ansei Nankai Earthquake on November 5, 1854.

Hamaguchi Goryo devoted himself to reconstruction of the devastated village by spending his own fortune to hire the villagers to build an embankment to prepare for future tsunami. It is notable that the embankment actually minimized the damages to the village when a tsunami triggered by the Showa Nankai Great Earthquake hit the village in December 1946.

In making efforts for disaster risk reduction, it is important to focus on three essential elements which are included in the anecdote “Inamura-no-Hi”: (1) the protection of lives, (2) rehabilitation and reconstruction of the affected area, and (3) enhancement of preparedness for future disasters.

This year, we, high school students from 48 countries, participated in the Summit held in Wakayama Prefecture, at the birthplace of the story of “Inamura-no-Hi”, to discuss and share what we should do and what we can do to protect people’s lives from natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunami.

i. Knowledge about disasters

- We thought unpreparedness against natural disasters is the most concerning issue.
- We shared ideas that can be implemented in school curriculums related to natural disasters so that every student can learn about them.
- We decided to work on disaster risk reduction activities (e.g. evacuation drills) with all residents in the community.

ii. Awareness and preparedness for disasters

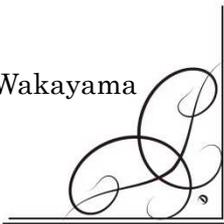
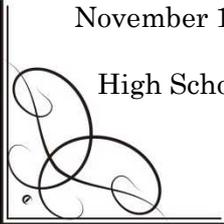
- We thought disasters have something to do with different geographical aspects in different areas.
- We shared ideas to raise public awareness of the importance of preparedness for disasters by listening to disaster survivors.
- We decided to make efforts to learn about tools (e.g. HOPE information) and have signs with universal design to help people during actual evacuations.

iii. Survival from disasters

- We thought it is important to plan ahead for recovery and reconstruction after disasters.
- We shared the importance of helping others before, during and after disasters.
- We decided to inform people about risks of natural disasters with hazard maps or lectures from elders or professionals, and have clear rules and plans to reduce panic.

In order to further raise the awareness about disaster risk reduction among people all over the world, we hereby declare our determination that we, the young generation, will carry forward the spirit learned from our great forerunners including Hamaguchi Goryo to the future and implement what we should do based on what we have learned through the Summit to “save lives of people from natural disasters” in each country.

November 1, 2018



High School Students Summit on “World Tsunami Awareness Day” 2018 in Wakayama