

High School Students Summit on “World Tsunami Awareness Day” in Kuroshio  
【Essential details regarding the event】

Concept

Japan, along with 141 countries, proposed the resolution to designate November 5th as “World Tsunami Awareness Day”, with the aim of raising international awareness of the threat of tsunamis and the precautionary measures against them. This was adopted by consensus at the UN General Assembly in December 2015.

In Japan, November 5th was already designated as “Tsunami Disaster Prevention Day”. This originated from an anecdote known as “Inamura-no-hi” (the burning of harvested rice sheaves). On November 5th in 1854, when the Ansei Nankai Earthquake occurred, Goryo Hamaguchi, a farmer in Hirogawa Town, Wakayama Prefecture, set fire to his precious rice sheaves in the fields, and guided his fellow villagers to higher ground, saving them from the tsunami.

This time, as an educational event of “World Tsunami Awareness Day”, we will be holding the High School Students Summit on “World Tsunami Awareness Day” in Kuroshio; an international meeting for young people.

In the event of the Nankai Earthquake, Kuroshio is currently predicted to be most damaged by a tsunami with waves as high as 34 meters. With the philosophy that not a single person should be lost in an earthquake or tsunami, Kuroshio has launched a variety of initiatives, including the maintenance of the infrastructure for disaster risk reduction, disaster risk reduction education, and generating the industries for disaster risk reduction.

Earthquakes and tsunamis are issues faced by many countries, taking many people’s lives, and causing devastating damage.

This time we are holding the High School Students Summit with the purpose of offering expertise on disaster risk reduction and explaining about the threat of earthquakes and tsunamis in order to train future leaders who can protect civilian’s lives and property from these disasters, and minimize the impact of natural disasters on civilian’s everyday lives and economic situations. This can be done through executing comprehensive and systematic measures that contribute to disaster risk reduction, rapid recovery and reconstruction, and international cooperation.

1. Organizers            Kochi Prefecture, Kochi Prefectural Board of Education, Kuroshio Town, Kuroshio Town Board of Education
2. Co-organizers        United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) Japan Office
3. In co-operation with National Resilience Promotion Office, Cabinet Office (Head of Disaster Prevention), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
4. Date                    November 25th (Friday) ~ 26th (Saturday) 2016
5. Location               Kochi Prefecture, Tosa Seinan Great Park, Gymnasium  
Address: 388 Irino, Kuroshio-cho, Hata-gun, Kochi-ken  
Contact Number: 0880-43-0166

6. Participants      Invited from abroad      Around 290 people  
                         Domestic participants      Around 160 people  
                         (In total around 450 people)

7. Schedule              Refer to the attachment

8. Workshop theme

(1) Overall theme

“What we, who are responsible for the next generation, can do to survive natural disasters ~ from the perspectives of self help, mutual assistance, and public assistance ~”

(2) Workshop's fields

- ① Understanding of the risks of natural disasters (For example, proper awareness of tsunami, dissemination of World Tsunami Awareness Day, handing down lessons learned from disasters, and disaster risk reduction education)
- ② Preparations for natural disasters (For example, the proposal of actions that can be undertaken by schools, regions and households to reduce the impact of disasters)
- ③ Recovery and reconstruction from the damages by natural disasters (The roles of students such as conducting sustainable volunteer activities)