



The Wakayama Declaration by Youth on Disaster Reduction

(Wakayama Declaration)

We, the youth representatives of countries participating in the Asian Youth Summit on Disaster Reduction held in Wakayama, Japan, organized by the Organizing Committee for the Asian Youth Forum for Disaster Reduction Education, the Wakayama Prefectural Board of Education, the Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU) and the *Inamura-no-Hi* Council, on this second day of November 2006, hereby declare the following:

1. Disasters continue to occur unpredictably, yet their impact can be reduced through cooperation and preparation.
2. Freedom from disasters is a basic human right.
3. We are all responsible for disaster reduction.
4. Awareness and effective preparation before disasters strike is essential.
5. Collecting information about disasters from our past experience, traditional knowledge and research, and sharing this knowledge with the whole world is important.
6. Conservation of our environment is important to prevent and reduce the impact of disasters all over the world.
7. Disaster reduction education is important to reduce the loss of human lives, lessen the damage to property and environment and also to help those affected.
8. Disaster reduction education must be an important part of our education systems and accessible for all the children both in and out of school.
9. Everyone should be empowered in disaster reduction, especially children, the elderly and persons with disabilities.
10. Emergency response to disasters should be available and accessible to all those who are affected.
11. Recovery and reconstruction are essential for getting affected people's lives back to normal, and for rebuilding their communities to be better prepared.
12. Protective infrastructure such as embankments, tsunami early warning systems and evacuation shelters should be provided by our authorities to reduce the impact of disasters.
13. A peaceful and safer world is important for all the people.
14. We the youth of Asia call upon our governments, the United Nations, NGOs, communities and all the youth of the world to accept our declaration and cooperate to work hand in hand and act on our recommendations for preparedness and education for disaster reduction.