

Photo Exhibition

"Hanshin Earthquake 10th Anniversary Commemorative Project"

Natural Disaster Youth Summit 2005 in Hyogo

International Conference March 25 - 28, 2005 Report

May 29 (Sun) - June 4 (Sat)

Host : JEARN Committee of the NDYS 2005

Special Cooperation : Japan International Cooperation Agency [JICA] Hyogo

The conference was sponsored by JEARN, the Japanese branch of the International Education and Resource Network (iEARN). With 20,000 schools in 110 countries, iEARN is the largest educational network in the world. It organizes a variety of online programs for students, including a collaboration on disaster prevention for schools in 15 countries, which got underway in September 2004 and culminated in the summit.

About 60 students from Japan and 30 students from 11 countries, including two who lost family members in the Indian Ocean tsunami, gathered in Hyogo Prefecture to consider ways of minimizing damage from earthquakes and other catastrophes at the Natural Disaster Youth Summit (NDYS) from March 25 to 28.



Declaration : "Try to feel, try to learn, try to share" (March 28, 2005)

During the four days of the NDYS2005 SUMMIT, students shared accommodations and were able to get to know each other and learn more about each other's cultures.

On March 27. The students then attended a forum at JICA Hyogo and heard about the experiences of Japan International Cooperation Agency team members who provided medical assistance in areas hit by the Sumatra earthquake and Indian Ocean tsunami in December 2004. After the talks, they split up into small groups and held discussions aimed at drawing up a written declaration for the SUMMIT.

On the final day, the students gathered at the Awaji Yumebutai International Conference Center to give a poster presentation. Using words and colorful pictures, they expressed their own feelings on what they could do to reduce damage from natural disasters. They announced the SUMMIT Declaration. Regarding today, we will continue working on the study with the words, "Try to feel, try to learn, try to share" in our mind. They exchanged e-mail addresses and assured each other that this conference was just the start of an exchange that will continue even after their return home.

NDYS URL: <http://ndys.jearn.jp/>

May 29, 2005