



From  
the People of Japan

# **PRESS RELEASE**

**Press Release No: 31/2018**

**Date: 24 October 2018**

## **Japan Invites Students From Island Countries Across the World to the "High School Students Summit on World Tsunami Awareness Day 2018 in Wakayama"**

300 high school students from 48 countries have been invited by the Government of Japan as "Youth Ambassadors for World Tsunami Awareness Day". Accompanied by their teachers, the Youth Ambassadors will join 187 Japanese students at the "High School Students Summit on World Tsunami Awareness Day 2018 in Wakayama" on 31 October and 1 November 2018.

In the presence of Ms. Alison Burchell, Permanent Secretary for Education, Heritage and Arts and H.E. Mr. Temate Melitiana, High Commissioner of Tuvalu, as well as other government officials, H.E. Mr. Masahiro Omura, Ambassador of Japan, will send off the 10 Youth Ambassadors from Fiji and Tuvalu at a reception to be held at his official residence (337 Princes Road), at **5:30PM on Thursday, 25 October 2018**.

We welcome your attendance at the reception. For further queries, please contact Mr. Peni Saurara on email address: [peni.saurara@fj.mofa.go.jp](mailto:peni.saurara@fj.mofa.go.jp) or [eojeconomics@fj.mofa.go.jp](mailto:eojeconomics@fj.mofa.go.jp) and phone number: 3304633.

### **1. Background of the "High School Students Summit on World Tsunami Awareness Day"**

The resolution to establish the World Tsunami Awareness Day (November 5th) was adopted by consensus at the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in December 2015. This resolution was jointly proposed by 142 countries, as a follow up to the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) held in Sendai, Japan and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This resolution aims at protecting the precious lives of the people around the world by raising awareness on precautionary measures against tsunamis.

On 31 October and 1 November 2018, Japan will host the "High School Students Summit on World Tsunami Awareness Day" in Wakayama, the home of Mr. Hamaguchi Goryo, whose efforts to warn others about an impending tsunami led to the establishment of "World Tsunami Awareness Day". A total of 300 high school students from countries around the world will attend the Summit together with 187 Japanese students to learn and share their knowledge and experiences. The students participating have been bestowed with the title, "Youth Ambassadors for World Tsunami Awareness Day".

The "High School Students Summit on World Tsunami Awareness Day" will be held for the purpose of training future leaders who will undertake in-country resilience measures towards protecting people's lives, bodies and properties from earthquakes and tsunamis, thus minimising the damage to livelihoods and economies. To this end, the Youth Ambassadors will be given the opportunity to acquire knowledge on disaster risk reduction and understand the threat of earthquakes and tsunamis. They will also learn how to save people's lives and properties from tsunamis through the comprehensive and systematic implementation of national policies on disaster mitigation and risk

# **PRESS RELEASE**

reduction, rapid rehabilitation and reconstruction as well as international cooperation.

## **2. The Schools that will attend the Send-Off Reception**

- Fiji : Koro High School
- Tuvalu : Motufoua Secondary School

**END.**