



**The 1st International Water Forum in the Lake Prefecture, Shiga
by High School Students in the World**

JOINT DECLARATION

February 21, 2010

Water is life. Its circulation supports all living things. Fresh water is a limited resource and its shortage will only intensify. Water issues are diverse; shortage of water, water pollution, floods, rising sea levels due to the global warming and desertification are getting more severe. Heavy exportation of water destroys local environments. Alien species change the balance of ecosystems. Water problems are a concern of all human beings. We want to preserve a rich water environment for all living things. We aspire to protect water resources of our world.

The first International Water Forum brought together students from twenty high schools from eight different countries. We discussed and shared research on water issues from three points of view: "Water and Science," "Water and Biodiversity," and "Water and Life." This is our attempt to take the first step to solve international water issues.

In "Water and Science," we studied how technology can be used for practical solutions. We researched how sewage can be purified by chemical processes for developing countries. Water decontamination by photocatalytic solid silica gel, hydroelectric power harnessed using nature, technology of rooftop landscape to save water and energy, and *Biorock* technology in conservation of coral reef were introduced. We will continue our investigation of water quality using global interconnections.

In "Water and Biodiversity," we explored how heavy metals and chemicals have harmful effects on habitats. We also examined how climate change and alien species are threatening indigenous species and changing the water environment. In addition, we researched methods on the conservation of natural environments and sustainability of biodiversity.

In "Water and Life," we discussed the natural environment of rivers in three countries: Japan, China, and South Korea. We recognize the vital importance of our relationships with water and realize all life on earth relies on water to live.

Thus, we sought solutions while trying to understand these issues, developing respectful attitudes, and applying practical science.

We propose three action plans as the next steps toward solving water issues.

1. We pledge to share and transmit our knowledge and information we learned from this water forum and enlarge our community.
2. We will send our perspectives on water issues to international communities.
3. We hope the community we organized at this water forum continues and will hold a future water forum.

Let's raise our voice to stand up against water problems.

Save Water, Save Lives.

This Joint Declaration was adopted by representative students from nineteen high schools from eight countries at the Joint Declaration meeting of the International Water Forum on February 20th, 2010 in Moriyama-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan.

Representative students include:

Mikage Aoki	Kojo High School, Japan
Maria Elena Bendana	St. John's School, Guam, USA
Sarah Brown	Camborne Science & Community College, UK
Justin Chan	Fort Richmond Collegiate, Canada
Mao Fujimoto	Mikikita High School, Japan
Michael Gleeson	Illinois Mathematics & Science Academy, USA
Darren Goh	National University of Singapore High School of Math & Science, Singapore
Aiko Hayashi	Ritsumeikan Moriyama High School, Japan
Yuka Ishida	Ritsumeikan High School, Japan
Shi Jia	No. 2 Secondary School attached to Tongji University, China
Zhang Jingyao	Tianjin No. 2 High School, China
Satoru Kishi	Ritsumeikan Uji High School, Japan
Takuya Kobayashi	Zeze High School, Japan
Ga Eun Lee	Guhyun High School, South Korea
Hisato Oki	Hachiman Technical High School, Japan
Yumiko Ono	Ritsumeikan Moriyama High School, Japan
Paul Polis	Jakarta International School, Indonesia
Fuka Tanimura	Shizuoka-Kita High School, Japan
Theodore Wishowski	Lewiston-Porter High School, USA
Lin Yuan	No. 34 Middle School, Qiqihar, China