

Development of Youth Leaders for Environmental Activities in Northeast Asia 2024

The meeting of “**Development of Youth Leaders for Environmental Activities in Northeast Asia 2024**” was held for young people in Northeast Asia. The objectives of the meeting were to give them an opportunity to discuss environmental problems, promote mutual understanding and friendship, and help train them to be able to deal with environmental protection from a global perspective

1 Date and time

From 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm on August 8 and 9, 2024

2 Meeting format

Online meeting by Zoom

3 Organizers

- Organizer : Tomsk(Russia), Toyama Prefecture
- Coordinator : Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center

4 Participants

26 students of junior high and high schools in Northeast Asia (5 municipalities of 3 countries)

Japan : 5 (Toyama)
China : 5 (Liaoning)
Russia : 16 (4 from Altai, 6 from Khabarovsk, 6 from Tomsk)

5 Meeting Theme :

Save the Earth: Working Together for a Green Future

6 Meeting Recap

- ※ [Handouts → Here](#)
- ※ [Video → Here](#)


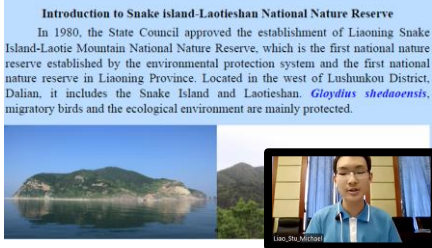
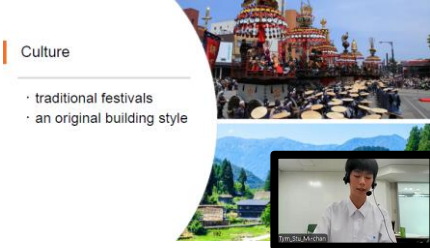

(1) Opening remarks







The opening remarks were given by Stukanov Alexey, head of Department for International and Regional Relations of Tomsk Region Administration.



(2) Introduction of hometowns, cultures, and environmental activities

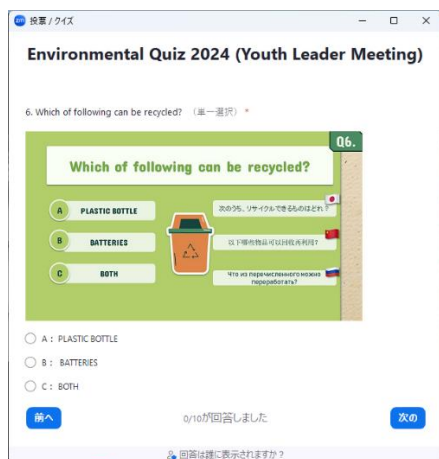
Students introduced their hometowns and cultures, and the environmental activities in which they participate. After each presentation they exchanged opinions for a better understanding.

Municipality	Culture and characteristics	Environmnetal activities
Liaoning, China	 <p>Introduced the history, geography, scenic places (Binhai Road and Donggang), and food culture of Dalian, Liaoning. Also introduced the Dalian No.1 Middle School.</p>	 <p>Introduced a workshop conducted together with local people to protect snakes and migratory birds in the Snake Island-Laotie Mountain Nature Reserve, and spoke about collecting drifted marine litter.</p>
Toyama pref. Japan	 <p>By Toyama Daiichi Highschool</p> <p>Introduced Toyama's rich nature (Tateyama mountain range, Toyama Bay), culture (festivals, Gokayama), and industries (rice farming, fishery and pharmaceutical)</p>	 <p>By Fushiki Highschool</p> <p>Introduced measures against global warming and marine pollution, or for promoting recycling (more LED use, beach cleaning and garbage separation)</p>

<p>Altai, Russia</p>	 <p>Introduced its history, industrial characteristics, and various events of Altai, which is one of Russia's foremost areas for agriculture, industry and tourism.</p>	 <p>Introduced measures to reduce the amount of waste, which has been a serious problem in Altai (environmental education and separated collection of waste).</p>
<p>Khabarovsk, Russia</p>	 <p>Introduced the natural environment, such as the region's rich vegetation and creatures, and groups that carry out environmental protection activities.</p>	 <p>Introduced an activity of collecting PET bottles in the agricultural region. Also talked about awareness-raising activities conducted by the group named "Sunflower."</p>
<p>Tomsk, Russia</p>	 <p>Introduced their town with its unique environment and rich history as well as Seversky Nature Park which is the center of their environmental activities.</p>	 <p>Introduced youths' conservation activities conducted by the "Movement of the First," such as cleaning rivers and one-day expeditions to the nature reserve.</p>

(3) Session of Environmental Quizzes

We had a fun time with the environmental quizzes. We learned about environmental protection and interacted with others in the session.



(4) Free conversation

All participants were divided into several groups. In each group they asked questions, gave their opinions, raised ideas during this meeting, and talked about anything they were interested in.




(5) Hands-on activity

We had a hands-on activity time with the theme of “Trash to Treasure. “

Each municipality created something useful or attractive from wasted things. After making something, they explained what it was made from and why they made it.

* To recycle : to utilize used-things as resources

* To upcycle : to utilize used-things to make something more valuable than the original one

Municipality	What they made and their intention
Liaoning, China	<div></div> <p>Piano, swing and bird feeder made of ice cream sticks</p> <p>These represent our home town of Dalian. The piano gives us the beautiful sound of sea waves from the ocean in Dalian. The swing is a symbol of Dalien’s peoples’ outdoor leisure time. The bird feeder expresses respect for the nature and our earth.</p> <p>The reason to use ice cream sticks is to appeal to people not to litter waste but to recycle.</p>

Toyama Pref.
Japan



Coasters and book jackets made of old cloths stored deep in drawers at home

Synthetic fiber, which is a dominant material in the market, has hardly decomposed. There are concerns that this material has a bad effect on the environment. This is the reason to recycle old cloths for something useful. The things we made are to be used at home.

Altai, Russia



The Signboard for the Ecological Center, made from various kinds of bottle caps.

On the board we drew a house with children at its center to express “Feel at home.” The tree on the roof is a symbol of protection of the nature and environment. This signboard would be displayed in the facility and at various events for people to take pictures of it.

Khabarovsk,
Russia



Beautiful flowers, Saranka, made of PET bottles and straws

Saranka (*Lilium martagon*) is a flower in our region. This is a symbol of the region but it is listed as an endangered species of flower. Our product expresses the future of biology.

Tomsk, Russia



“Cheburashka” made of trash from our daily lives

Cheburashka is a character which symbolize kindness, openness, and friendship beloved by generations, cultures and nationalities. We utilized “trash” to create a true work of art, which became a symbol of creativity and the possibility of giving a second life to old things.

(6) Environmental Declaration

As representatives of all participants, students from Liaoning, made an “Environmental Declaration.”

As representatives of 5 organizations from 3 countries, Japan, China and Russia, we participated in the “Development Project of Youth Leaders for Environmental Activities in Northeast Asia 2024”.

With the theme this year of “Save the Earth: Working Together for a Green Future,” we discussed environmental issues such as eco-friendly smart consumption, environmental conservation, and waste recycling. Furthermore, we exchanged information on what we have done to conserve the environment in our own communities.

By making artworks based on a theme of “Trash to Treasure,” we learned that the efficient and cyclical use of resources can reduce the consumption of natural resources and the amount of waste, and realized the importance of waste recycling

As various environmental issues such as climate change, environmental pollution, and depletion of natural resources become more serious, we have been aware that the preservation of the global environment is extremely important and that the younger generations have significant roles in achieving this.

In order for us to tackle these environmental issues, we need to work together beyond national and regional boundaries

We now declare that we will keep actively joining in social and environmental activities to save our Earth and communicating the importance of environmental preservation to people living in our communities and even wider areas in Northeast Asia.

To everyone, let's work together for a green future and our friendship.

Dated August 9, 2024

The participants in the Development Project of Youth Leaders for Environmental Activities in
Northeast Asia 2024

(7) Closing remarks (by video)

Closing remarks were delivered by Mr. NAKAJIMA Hiroshige, Deputy Director-General of the Toyama Prefecture, Civic Affairs, Environment and Culture Department.

