

Youth Environmental Summit 2025 in the Northeast Asian Region

The meeting of “**Youth Environmental Summit 2025 in the Northeast Asian Region**” was held for young people (primarily high school students) in Northeast Asia. The objective of the meeting was to foster them to be more active on environmental conservation in the region through international exchange. The participants had an opportunity to attend lectures, present their activities and exchange ideas on potential environmental activities for a sustainable society from a global perspective. They also deepened mutual understanding and friendship.

- 1 Date and time: August 6 (Wednesday) 2025 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm
August 7 (Thursday) 2025 from 1:00pm to 4:30pm
- 2 Format: Online meeting by Zoom
- 3 Organizer : Toyama Prefectural Government (Japan)
Coordinator : Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center (NPEC)
- 4 Participants : 24 students of junior high and high schools in 5 municipalities of 3 countries
 Japan : 2 (Toyama Prefecture)
 China : 6 (Liaoning Province)
 Russia : 16 (4 from Altai Territory, 6 from Khabarovsk Territory, and 6 from Tomsk Region)
- 5 Theme: Creating a Sustainable Future with Environmental Conservation
- 6 Program: ※ [Handouts](#)
 ※ Meeting Digest (video): [Day 1](#), [Day2](#)

- (1) Opening remarks (video message)
NAKAJIMA Hiroshige, Deputy Director-General of the Civic Affairs, Environment and Culture Department, Toyama Prefectural Government



(2) Presentation on cultural thing/attractions

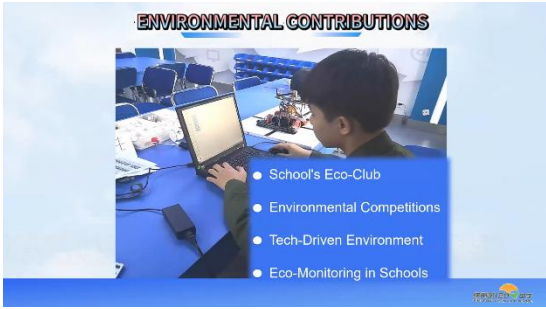
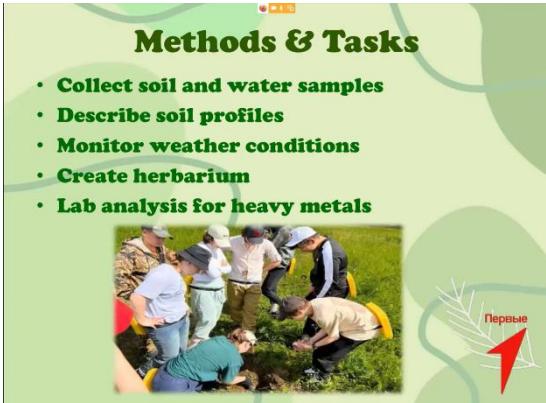
The students from two municipalities presented their hometowns' cultures and climates, which helped the participants get to know the presenters' regions better.

Municipality	Culture and Climate of Hometown
Liaoning Province, China	 Introduced the capital, Shenyang, as a hub for transportation and industries where history, culture, and rich nature are harmonized. The city is also committed to environmental protection well.
Altai Territory, Russia	 Introduced their hometown, known as the “Siberian Switzerland” for its rich forests, diverse wildlife and beautiful scenery.

(3) Presentation on environmental activities

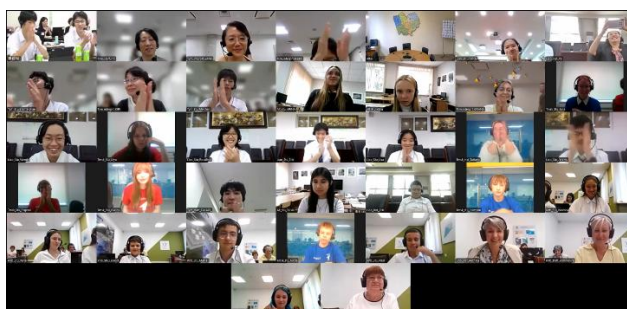
The students from four municipalities presented the environmental conservation activities in which they participate. After each presentation, all the participants exchanged their opinions for better understanding of the activities.

Municipality	Environmental Activity
Toyama Prefecture, Japan	 Introduced environmental conservation activities at their school such as sports uniform recycling, cleaning in the neighborhood, and volunteer work in disaster-affected areas, while mentioning Toyama's rich natural environment and food culture.

Liaoning Province, China	  Introduced various environmental protection activities held on the lush green campus of Shenyang No.120 High School, eco-themed lectures and class meetings, and garbage sorting.
Khabarovsk Territory, Russia	  Introduced environmental education and conservation activities such as tree and flower planting to make the city greener, upcycling initiatives, and cleanup activities at rivers, lakes and seas.
Tomsk Region, Russia	  Introduced the results of the soil and water quality analyses, which were obtained through scientific and environmental field surveys conducted by young people for the 'Boundless Expeditions' project.

(4) Session of Environment Quiz

The participants enjoyed answering environmental quizzes, and learned about environmental conservation more deeply and interacted with others at the same time.



(5) Session of Free communication

Divided into small groups, all the participants had time to mingle: they introduced themselves in a game-like style, asked questions and exchanged opinions regarding the entire program, and talked about whatever they liked.

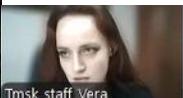
Two Truths and a Lie

- ◆ Preparation: Make three sentences about yourself. Two of them are true, and another is a lie
- ◆ How to play:
 1. Tell the three sentences twice.
<Example> "Hi. I'm (nickname or real name).
No.1: I love spicy food. No.2: I play the piano. No.3: My favorite movie is Harry Potter."
 - 2-1. Choose one person to guess which one is a false info. about you.
"Which one is a lie ? XXX, what do you think?"
OR 2-2. Ask every member to guess which one is a false info. about you, and show the answer with fingers.
"Now, everybody, which is a lie about me? Show me your answer with fingers."
3. Tell the answer, give one point to the person who found the correct answer, and choose the next person.
"The lie is No. 2. I can't play the piano. XXX, you've got one point! Now, YYY, it's your turn."
4. After everyone took their turns, count how many points they've got to find the winner.



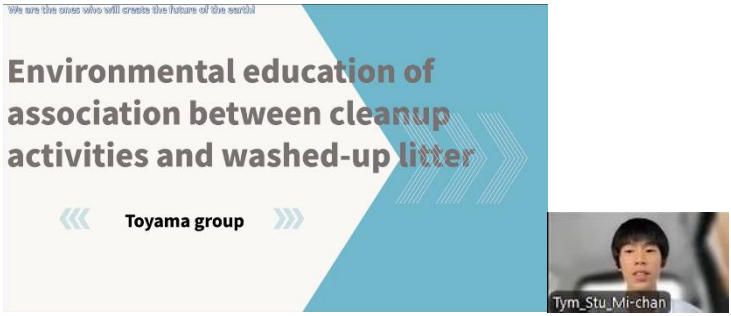
(6) Introduction of municipal initiatives

The representatives from two local governments shared their unique environmental education initiatives including waste sorting, measures against global warming, and nature conservation activities. After each presentation, the participants exchanged opinions.

Municipality	Initiative
Toyama Prefecture, Japan	Toyama volunteer club for reduction of washed-up litter • We established “Toyama volunteer club for reduction of washed-up litter” with companies, volunteer groups, and so on in July 2022. • Members of this club cleaning along the coast, in the town, and in the neighborhood, as well as efforts to spread awareness about washed-up litter among people close to us. • Toyama prefecture promotes their activities and transmits information.   Introduced initiatives such as the matching website for waste producers and recyclers, the Toyama Eco Store system to promote the transition to a circular economy, as well as cleanup and awareness activities with volunteers to reduce washed-up litter. The Environmental Subcommittee of NEAR ◆ To promote environmental conservation, Discuss on current situation and issues in environmental protection and future improvement plan. Individual Projects (From April 2025 to March 2026) 1 Youth environmental summit in the Northeast Asian region 2 Survey and educational activity to reduce washed-up litter at source 3 Environmental poster exhibition in Northeast Asia 4 Survey of coastal organisms 5 Contest of Photos “Eco-selfie – selfie with utility” 6 Biological seasonal survey in Northeast Asia Introduced the environmental conservation projects by the NEAR Environmental Subcommittee, in which municipalities of Japan, China, South Korea, Mongolia, and Russia participate. These projects include the Youth Environmental Summit, Survey and an educational activity to reduce washed-up litter, Environmental poster exhibition, Survey of coastal organisms, Photo Contest, and Biological seasonal survey.
Tomsk Region, Russia	COLLEGE STUDENTS ENGAGE IN ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES IN ‘LARINSKIY RESERVE’   Introduced its initiatives to raise environmental awareness among younger generations. These initiatives include protecting natural heritage through patrols and installation of signs in protected areas, offering nature experiences, and holding environmental education activities such as art and theater-play competitions.

(7) Workshop – Proposal for environmental conservation activities

Reviewing what they had done in the meeting, the students discussed within their groups potential strategies to conserve the natural environment in the Northeast Asian Region and then presented their proposals.

Municipality	Proposal
Toyama Prefecture, Japan	 “Environmental education of association between cleanup activities and washed-up litter” They suggested two approaches to tackle washed-up litter. The first one is organizing cleanup activities at the source, coastal and urban areas in each country, to protect the shared natural environment of Northeast Asia. The second one is utilizing visual education tools such as posters, photos, and social media to help citizens recognize the importance of environmental conservation and take action.
Liaoning Province, China	 “Act Now: Youth Initiative Against Global Warming” It was suggested that high school students take action both in their schools and communities to tackle the problems of extreme weather and ecosystem deterioration caused by global warming. On campus, they will organize poster and/or photo contests and workshops. Off campus, they will conduct tree-planting activities and field trips to nature reserves. These initiatives aim to raise environmental awareness and reduce carbon emissions, indicating that even small, simple steps can collectively create significant changes and contribute to a sustainable society.

Altai Territory, Russia	 “Waste into the eco-action!” It was suggested that children and students organize educational campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of wise consumption and waste recycling. They will hold educational events on recycling, such as workshops, games, video productions, and exhibitions, in order to form a culture of reducing household waste.
Khabarovsk Territory, Russia	 "Green Cities" The students suggested an urban greening project to combat issues such as urban concrete jungles, air pollution, and noise. All residents including teachers, students and parents will take part in a seasonal tree/flower planting project in home gardens, schoolyards and parks. The project will improve living environment, conserve biodiversity, and create a sustainable urban environment.
Tomsk Region, Russia	 "Family Eco-Tourist Hiking" This group suggested nature-based hiking as a family-oriented ecotourism initiative. Through scenic trail walks, survival skill training, ecology workshops, and games/contests, families will increase their knowledge on safety and raise environmental awareness. Through additional cleanup activities during the hikes, they can learn and have fun while experiencing the importance of nature conservation and sustainable actions.

【List of Proposals】

Municipality	Title	Problem/Target	Purpose/Aim	Activity	Outcome and Feature
Toyama Prefecture, Japan	Environmental education of association between cleanup activities and washed-up litter	Washed-up litter	To promote cleanup activities and raise awareness through environmental education	- Coastal and urban cleanup activities - Visual education through posters, photos, and social media	A practical hands-on environmental education model to raise environmental awareness among people in local communities and each country through fun learning
Liaoning Province, China	Act Now: Youth Initiative Against Global Warming	Extreme weather and ecosystem deterioration by global warming	To organize environmental events for high school students to take action	- On campus: poster contests, environmental workshops and class meetings - Off campus: tree planting, and field trips to nature reserves	Contribution to a sustainable society by creating significant changes through collective small efforts of individuals
Altai Territory, Russia	Waste into the eco-action!	Waste	To promote recycling awareness and action	- Child-parent cleanups, child-led workshops, games, and awareness campaign via social media and videos - Creation/exhibition of upcycled artworks	Development of sustainable habits to reduce household waste
Khabarovsk Territory, Russia	Green Cities	Urban concrete jungles, air pollution, and noise	To improve the living environment through urban greening	- Seasonal planting and maintenance of trees, shrubs, and flowers in gardens, schoolyards, and parks	Air purification, soil protection, biodiversity conservation, landscape enhancement, and improved quality of life
Tomsk Region, Russia	Family Eco-Tourist Hiking	(Few chances to feel nature with the whole family)	To enhance environmental awareness and navigation skills through nature experiences	- Trail walks, survival training, ecology workshops, games and cleanup activities	Development of safety knowledge and environmental awareness, provision of fun experiences for families

(8) Summary

Representatives of the participants (the students from Toyama Prefecture) presented the following “Summary” based on the contents of the Youth Environmental Summit and the submitted proposals from the workshop.

Summary of Youth Environmental Summit 2025 in the Northeast Asian Region

As representatives of five municipalities from three countries, Japan, China and Russia, we participated in the Youth Environmental Summit 2025 in the Northeast Asian Region.

With this year’s theme, “Creating a Sustainable Future with Environmental Conservation,” we shared information on current activities in our countries related to waste sorting and material collection, measures against global warming, and nature conservation activities, and so on. Furthermore, we exchanged opinions on building a sustainable future.

Additionally, through Environmental Quiz and Free communication sessions, we deepened our bonds as partners in conserving the natural environment of the Northeast Asian Region.

We have learned that individual’s actions can have a significant impact on realization of a sustainable future. We are also convinced that cooperation and exchange among us without barriers of national and cultural differences will be the driving force for change in the future.

To tackle existing environmental issues, we exchanged our opinions beyond national and regional boundaries. As a result, we concluded that each of us must implement the following environmental conservation activities.

- ◆The impact of plastic on marine ecosystems is a serious concern and a common challenge in the Northeast Asian Region. To reduce plastic leakage into the ocean, each country needs to implement appropriate measures according to their social systems, for reducing plastic waste generation, collecting and recycling plastic, and conducting cleanup activities.
- ◆Climate change is an urgent global issue that requires active participation of everyone. To advance our efforts, it is vital to promote environmental education and public awareness in cooperation with local communities and schools, and it is beneficial to use digital technologies to create awareness-raising tools and programs on issues common to the Northeast Asian Region.
- ◆To protect precious natural environments, each country needs to take appropriate measures according to their social systems. For this to happen, it is necessary to actively disseminate the value of protected areas and the importance of natural environment. It is beneficial for countries in the Northeast Asian Region to share useful actions that foster learning through interaction with nature. These actions include showcasing the beauty of protected areas with posters and photographs, as well as implementing greening and eco-tourism projects that leverage each local area’s unique characteristics.

Environmental issues cannot be resolved unless we take action now. Let's all continue to actively participate in environmental conservation activities and bring about changes in our communities and around the world.

Dated August 7, 2025

The Participants in the Youth Environmental Summit 2025 in the Northeast Asian Region

(9) Closing remarks (video message)

YANAGIDA Takahiro, Executive Director of Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center (NPEC)

