

Statement by Ambassador Ishikawa Hiroshi at
High School Students Summit on “World Tsunami Awareness Day” 2025
Send-off session

22 October 2025

Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening. I am delighted to welcome all of you to the Send-off Session for the participants of the High School Students Summit on World Tsunami Awareness Day.

The designation of the 5th of November as World Tsunami Awareness Day was proposed by the Government of Japan at the United Nations General Assembly in 2015. The aim was to deepen understanding of the threat of tsunamis, and to raise interest in countermeasures. The proposal was jointly submitted by 142 countries and unanimously adopted.

Since the following year, the High School Students Summit has been held as a forum for high school students from across the globe to learn about the threat of tsunamis and possible countermeasures.

This year, the Summit will take place in Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture. The discussions will focus on minimising damage caused by natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis. It is expected that the Summit will nurture future leaders who will be responsible for enhancing the resilience of their countries, and to facilitate exchanges among these future leaders from countries around the world.

I would like to thank last year’s participants in the Summit, everyone from the disaster prevention sector, and those of you connected to Tohoku region for joining us today. We are also fortunate to have the opportunity to hear online from Mr Murakami Kiyoshi, Chief Executive Officer of Rikuzentakata Agency, about the on-the-ground reconstruction efforts and disaster prevention initiatives. Rikuzentakata, heavily affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake, has maintained an ongoing exchange with Singapore after receiving much support from Singaporean friends. I have also had the opportunity to visit Rikuzentakata two years ago and visited

the City Hall. The contraction of this City Hall was made possible by donations from the People of the Republic of Singapore. There is a Merlion statue in front of the City Hall. You see, Mr Murakami and I Stood at the side of Merlion Statue. Mr Murakami has also frequently visited Singapore, and I just met with him here last week.

I hope that the students participating in this year's Summit will gain valuable learning and inspiration from today's session, have a meaningful experience in Sendai, and enjoy fruitful exchanges with fellow youth.

Bon voyage, and thank you very much.