



World Conference on Disaster Reduction
18-22 January 2005, Kobe, Hyogo, Japan

Title	Kids "waiwai" Summit of earthquake, tsunami and "The fire of Inamura"
Organizations	The Kobe committee on prevention of earthquake and tsunami and "The Fire of Inamura"
Speakers	伊藤和明（元NHK解説委員）/小泉凡（県立島根女子短期大学助教授）/清水勲（和歌山県広川町中央公民館長）/津村建四朗（日本気象協会参与）/平野啓子（語り部・かたりすと・キャスト）
Report	<p>Welcoming more than 500 children and their families, the puppet play “ the Fire of Inamura (rice sheaves)” was staged. The story depicts what happened when an enormous tidal wave (tsunami) caused by the Nankai Earthquake attacked a little village on the Kii Peninsula in western Japan in 1854. The villagers were unaware of its coming, busy at home with the preparations for an upcoming festival. A village chief spotted the threat from his hilltop location, set fire to his rice sheaves, a year’s precious harvest, to attract his fellow villagers from their homes below in order to save them from the tsunami.</p> <p>The second part of the program following the puppet play, a participatory panel discussion was held. There several experts explained and told children about the mechanism of earthquakes and tsunami, their terror and importance of disaster prevention.</p> <p>This project, collaboration of sixteen puppet troupes as well as NGOs and corporate volunteers, has started since January 2004 and has been supported by a fund set up by the employee-managed volunteer organization of Sampo Japan Insurance in addition to donations from the public.</p> <p>Taking place less than one month after the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster, our endeavor was given much attention by the media. We believe that the event delivered many children the message of importance of being prepared for the future disaster reduction as well as the preciousness of life. (231 words)</p>
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