

Declaration of Farming Community for International Youth Exchange

～ Interact and Grow ～

The appearance of farmlands across Nagano Prefecture changes from season to season reflecting nature's bounty. They are a treasure of our nation.

We hereby declare that: We will actively accept young people for hands-on agricultural experiences in Nagano Prefecture. We will overcome linguistic and cultural differences, interact with each other and learn from each other while living a farming life together, and understand the importance of close interaction, food and nature. We will strive to create the world's greatest farming community for youth exchange where the youth, not from Japan alone, but from all of the countries and regions of the world can meet, preserving the rich nature and beautiful landscape of the farmlands.

-
- We will support “travel experience for close interaction” where the world's youth can meet people of various generations and have close interaction with them.
 - Farming communities, the tourism industry and administrations will be united to promote hosting domestic and international study tours, and interaction with schools from abroad.
 - We will seek to verify the healing effects of living in farming communities. We will also promote “New Tourism” to experience farming communities' healing properties, and also spread the attraction of farming communities around the world.
 - We will appeal for the importance of environmental preservation, while conserving our rich nature, landscape, customs and traditions, as well as promoting the creation of a beautiful farming community where we can feel genuine richness of life.
 - We will continue to live as the healthiest and longest living people in Japan and pass our healthy lifestyle down to the next generation.
 - We will promote the “Declaration of Farming Community for International Youth Exchange”, continuing to take action and creating friendship with supporting nations and regions.
-

October 8, 2011

阿部 守一 Governor

Supporting organizations



We provide genuine experiences and interactions that foster vitality.



Experience a Japanese Family Life!

Visit a farming family and get to know a genuine farm life.



Experience Nature!

Visit rivers and mountains, and learn the importance of nature.



Experience Farming!

Try farm work and interact with farmers.



School Exchange

Visit a school and make friends with Japanese students.

The Commissioner of the Japan Tourism Agency sent us a message.

“Declaration of Farming Community for International Youth Exchange”

I heartily support this landmark project by Nagano Prefecture.

It will create the world’s greatest farming community for youth exchange where the youth of all countries and regions can meet.

My name is Hiroshi Mizohata, Commissioner of the Japan Tourism Agency.

I would like to extend my hearty congratulations for the Declaration of Farming Community for International Youth Exchange which has just been officially announced by Nagano Prefecture. I can easily imagine how hard all of you must have worked to create the declaration, and I express my gratitude and respect for it.

Right now Japan faces an unprecedented crisis due to the great disasters. In order to revitalize Japan, each of us, especially the youth, must be revitalized. Each region will then be energized and the whole nation will be invigorated. In that respect, this declaration by Nagano Prefecture to unite the prefecture and municipalities and to actively accept young people into the farming community for hands-on experience is a timely, landmark effort. I believe this will be a model project for other

regions, and expect that such efforts in the agricultural arena involving study tour promotion and New Tourism development will lead to a future increase of tourists and revitalization of agriculture.

The year 2011 was declared the International Year of the Forest. The momentum is rising globally to recognize the importance of forests anew. I urge you to help many young people from all over the world understand the importance of close interaction, food and nature through exchange in hands-on agricultural experiences. May Nagano Prefecture bring forth many global citizens to lead the world!

I heartily support your zealous efforts.

溝畑 宏

Commissioner
Japan Tourism Agency

