

To the Leaders and People of G7 Member States:
Proposals for Pursuit of Genuine Prosperity through River Basin Thinking

We the undersigned are members of citizens' groups in the Tokai area, host to the Ise-Shima Summit. Despite our various standpoints, we have united to advocate for the "Ise Bay Initiative," aiming to realize a sustainable and productive future based on river basin (bio-regional) thinking. Presenting the following experience and good practices, we propose to the leaders and the people of G7 member states to share the idea of Ise Bay Initiative and work together for a better future.

"River basin thinking" means viewing the entire area of rivers flowing into the Ise Bay as one bio-region, and addressing issues within that region not on a reactive piecemeal basis but with the vision of integrated local development to enrichen the ecological value of the entire river basin area.

Ise Bay basin communities have kept ideal relationship with nature and maintained their livelihood by utilizing the natural resources in co-existence with abundant forests, large and fertile plains, and rich and clear rivers like Kiso, Nagara, and Ibi rivers.

However, as seen in the example of Yokkaichi Air Pollution which occurred after the post-war high economic growth period, air and water pollution that contaminated air and waters in the area severely affected human health and damaged fishery resources and as the result threatened people's livelihoods. The pollution caused by Yokkaichi Petrochemical Complex built in northwest coast of Ise Bay deprived many people of their right to a healthy and safe living environment. In 1972, after years of campaigning to relevant authorities with the support of various groups, the victims won in the Yokkaichi Air Pollution Lawsuit, and achieving a large stride to overcome the pollution problem.

It is essential to hand down the history and experiences of Yokkaichi Air Pollution to the next generation, to work on the future environmental improvement, and to create cities where environmental preservation and industrial development are entirely compatible. In order to actualize those, the Tokai area has a heavy responsibility to introduce the information and technologies both nationwide and worldwide on the bases of 'no more environmental destruction' spirit gained from its experience.

Many current issues are related to the degradation of the river basin environment: population decrease and rapidly aging society, urbanization caused by excessive development, population concentration in urban areas, depopulation in mountainous regions, and development of artificial tideland along coasts, weakened relationship between nature and human livelihoods

and abandoned/deteriorated natural resources.

Another problem is floating debris washed ashore on the coasts of Ise Bay. Apparently 12,000 tons of floating debris per year flows into rivers in the basin. Half of it is washed ashore on the coasts in Toba city, one of top fishing spots symbolizing the prosperous Ise Bay basin, and a quarter on Nasanohama beach in Toshi Island. The debris badly affects the fishing places.

Since around 2000, a large-scale cleanup project and other activities mainly led by NPOs have been carried out with administrative organs, corporations, and citizens along upper, mid, and lower streams in the Ise Bay basin areas. These activities are needed to continue and spread wider.

In 2012, 'The 22nd Century Nasanohama Project' was advocated by environmental groups in Mie prefecture in cooperation with the citizens and other environmental groups in Ise Bay basin areas in Gifu and Aichi prefectures to retrieve the rich Ise Bay by protecting environment and natural resources. The environmental preservation groups of forest maintenance, community development, rivers and seashores, as well as citizens, corporations, students, youths, children, administrative organs, and so on, enthusiastically participate in the activities regardless of their positions.

The debris problem cannot be solved simply by 'picking up trash'. For its solution, the efforts by civic society are indispensable to re-establish an ideal relationship between the nature and human livings and the lifestyle enjoying 'genuine wealth' accumulated by utilizing natural resources and blessings from nature, as we used to have in the past.

These projects are applicable as the methods to achieve many of SDGs, Sustainable Development Goals. Therefore, we introduce them to international societies as 'Ise Bay Initiative' and make proposals for specific activities.

Ten Proposals for Implementing the Principles of the Ise Bay Initiative

1. Recognizing that under global environmental issues there lie the present problems such as scrambles for natural resources and separation or thinned relationship between nature and human living caused by respective region's social/economic background, each G7 member nation should try to take the initiative to improve conditions for sharing knowledge.
2. Each G7 member nation must establish ways to utilize natural resources without degrading them, based on the bio-region unit beyond administrative boundaries, with appreciation for each natural environment, cultural diversity based on each natural environment, and using the unique traditional wisdom of citizens in each local community.
3. While the bio-region is generally determined by natural environment in each region/country, a river basin is a typical unit of bioregion in Japan. It is important for each nation to fully understand its national land and regional climates so that it can grasp how bioregions are determined. The G7 member states should initiate understanding and researches as to their own bioregions.
4. Under the developments in 'bioregions' all over the world, economic development was given the highest priority and human rights and dignity of life were neglected, as seen in the example of Yokkaichi Air Pollution. In order to prevent recurrence of such a history in the countries in process of economic development, working out a policy about regional development is required. The G7 member states should try to appeal to the world so that drafting and decision process of the policy are made through the conversation with civic societies and other stakeholders in the bioregions.

5. In the Ise Bay bio-region, representatives from the upper, mid, and lower stream subregions and with neighbouring basin areas have actively exchanged ideas to create sustainable local communities. Also, '22nd Century Nasanohama Project' was introduced as an excellent example at UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development held in Nagoya city, Aichi prefecture, in 2014. The G7 member states should put effort on collecting, sharing, and visualizing these kinds of examples for promotion of the SDGs adopted by United Nations.
6. Tokai area, where Ise-Shima Summit is held, had 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP10) in 2010 and adopted 'Aichi Target' and 'Nagoya Protocol.' The G7 member states should make their best political efforts for actualization of the target and protocol and for their farther development by reconfirming the meanings of them.
7. The Tokai area, where Ise-Shima Summit is held, cross-prefecturally promotes environmental preservation activities using the concept of the bioregion which shares Ise and Mikawa Bays. The G7 member states should share the results of those activities and put efforts in spreading similar kind of activities in each nation.
8. To raise youths who succeed forming of sustainable regional communities is the most important theme in achievement of SDGs. For the actualization of 'Aichi-Nagoya Declaration,' the outcome document of the UNESCO World Conference on ESD held in 2014, the G7 member states should mind, understand, and make economic support for the ESD activities and international youth exchanges regardless of the level of development.
9. The G7 member states should make efforts to play each supplemental role to support local environmental protection activities by reconfirming the principle that the citizens, who are familiar to natural environment in each local region, are the subject to solve the environmental problems as a regional group in the global society.
10. We request the G7 member states to promptly deal with the man-made problems above all environmental issues in regional areas.

Natural resources are demolished and plundered in local areas all over the world, and the societies in those areas suffer a loss from the serious situation. The G7 member states should diligently establish and propose the new methodology for effective utilization and preservation of regional natural resources, regardless of the level of development, to prevent the deterioration of the situation.

■ respectfully

- Clear Water Project (General Incorporated Association)
- 22nd Century Nasanohama Project Committee
- IPG (Industrial Waste Professional Group)
- Save Our Sea Campaign Headquarters
- Akabane Initiative
- Society for the Protection of Inabe's Satoyama
- Inabe City Civic Action Center
- Ibi NPO Liaison Council
- Weekend Farming Initiative
- Kasugai Partnership Conference for Ecological City Planning
- Students for Free Tibet Japan Mie chapter

- Mimatsurishu Nagoya
- Biodiversity Information Box
- Wind and Earth Volunteer Association
- Lillio Environmental Forum
- Ise and Mikawa Bay Basin Network
- Ise Bay Restoration Conference
- Reliable Inheritance Support Center (General Incorporated Association)
- Koshi Province Natural Energy Promotion Council
- Innovative Design Cue, Inc.
- Planning by Dialogue for Dialogue Co.
- Environmental Volunteer Circle Baby Turtle Corps
- Next Step Study Group for Environmental Education
- Toyama Eco Plaza Network for Environmental Education
- Gifu University Education for Sustainable Development Qualia
- Mount Kinkazan Supporters
- Asian Health Institute
- Konan Fireflies Association
- Mountain Forestry Research Institute
- Yokkaichi Regeneration 'Pollution Class for Citizens'
- Shonai River Adapt Clover
- Shonai River Navigation and Walking Association
- Association for Restoring the Shinkawa River
- Seino Environmental NPO Network
- Dachibokubora Nature Society
- Chubu Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development /RCE Chubu
- Nagara River Culture Forum
- Nagara River Basin Children's Council
- Committee for Forests around the Source of the Toki and Shonai Rivers
- Toki River and Shonai River Basin Network
- Clean Up Campaign in FUJIMAE
- Wa Community (NPO)
- Ibigawa Mizumizu Eco Station (NPO)
- Ibigawa Softball Association (NPO)
- NS-Net (NPO)
- Gifu NPO Center (NPO)
- Gifu Ibi Fun Living School (NPO)
- Gifu Tree and Forest School (NPO)
- Circle Asuka (NPO)
- Smile Association for the Spread of Asking Questions (NPO)
- Hometown Tanigumi (NPO)
- Voluntary Neighbors (NPO)
- Maamu (NPO)
- Community Development Network Ikeda (NPO)
- Community Building (NPO)
- Mie NPO Network Center (NPO)
- Universal Employment Center (NPO)
- Association to Promote Friendship and Goodwill with Russia (NPO)
- Association of Old Men in Kaizu (NPO)

- Gifu Fun Homebuilding Study Group (NPO)
- Sochikukai (NPO)
- Association for Cleaning Up the Kanare River (NPO)
- Ibi, the Home of Edible Wild Plants (NPO)
- Yokkaichi NPO Association
- Civic Society Research Institute (NPO)
- Society for the Study of Coexistence with Nature (NPO)
- Forests and Information Technology (NPO)
- Technical Research Institute of the Forest & Waterside (NPO)
- Forest Life Design Research Institute (NPO)
- Sento Tarui (NPO)
- Ogaki City Recreation Association (NPO)
- Regional Future Support Center (NPO)
- Yamatagaike Society (NPO)
- Ibi Natural Environment Rangers (NPO)
- Satoyama Association (NPO)
- Green Wind (NPO)
- Africa Japan Forum
- Fujimae Ramsar Society
- Omotehama Network (NPO)
- Horikawa Machi Net (NPO)
- Japan Xeriscape Design Association(NPO)
- Network for the Renunciation of War
- Moegisha
- Kiso Sansen Forum
- People's Community (NPO)
- Tree Culture Research Lab
- HUTAN Group
- Umigame Network
- NPO Ai-Chikyu Platform
- NPO Yokkaichi Umigame Hozonkai
- Tadasunomori Research Institution of Environmental Education
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