

Memorandum of Understanding on the Promotion of Youth Exchanges for Disaster Preparedness Against Earthquakes and Tsunamis Between Wakayama Prefectural Government and The Turkish-Japanese Foundation

On September 16, 1890, the Ottoman Empire's frigate Ertuğrul was shipwrecked and sank off the coast of Kashinozaki in Kushimoto Town, due to strong winds and high waves caused by a typhoon. The tragic shipwreck claimed the lives of 587 crew members, but thanks to the desperate rescue efforts of local residents, 69 survivors were saved.

Years later, in 1985, during the Iran-Iraq War, Turkish Airlines dispatched passenger planes to evacuate Japanese nationals stranded in Tehran, the capital of Iran, despite the dangerous circumstances, resulting in the safe rescue of 215 people.

Today, the visit of Ertuğrul to Japan, its subsequent tragic shipwreck, and the evacuation of Japanese nationals from Tehran by Turkish Airlines are regarded as the foundation and symbol of the friendship between Japan and Türkiye.

The Turkish-Japanese Foundation, an organization established to further strengthen the friendship, to enhance bilateral relations in social, cultural, educational, technical and other related areas between Türkiye and Japan, undertakes various initiatives, such as supporting earthquake victims and organizing seminars on disaster preparedness. Meanwhile, Wakayama Prefectural Government is implementing various initiatives, including disaster prevention education, to prepare for the anticipated Nankai Trough Earthquake and subsequent tsunamis.

The year 2025 marks 135 years since the tragic shipwreck of Ertuğrul and 40 years since the rescue of Japanese nationals from Tehran. On this occasion, considering the shared threat of earthquakes faced by both countries, Wakayama Prefectural Government and the Turkish-Japanese Foundation have agreed on the following matters based on the spirit of cooperation that contributes to friendship and mutual benefit in order to facilitate mutual exchanges to learn about disaster preparedness and mitigation efforts related to earthquakes and to encourage the young generation to reaffirm the importance of life.

1. Objective

Both parties agree to develop and promote youth exchanges, aiming to enhance disaster preparedness education and cultural exchange for the next generation through five years of cooperation.

2. Agreement

Both parties will strengthen their cooperative relationship in accordance with the laws of both Japan and Türkiye, within the scope of their respective functions and authorities, in a manner that serves mutual interests.

Within a comprehensive framework between both countries, the parties will establish a friendly and cooperative relationship and discuss programs for youth exchanges focusing on disaster preparedness and mitigation related to earthquakes and tsunamis to achieve their shared objectives.

3. Main Areas of Cooperation

The main area of cooperation is the promotion of human resource development and cultural exchange in the field of disaster prevention, such as earthquake and tsunami countermeasures, through youth exchanges in Wakayama Prefecture and Turkiye.

4. Executing Organizations

To fulfill the provisions of this memorandum, both parties shall appoint the following as coordinating and responsible organizations.

Japanese side: International Affairs Division, Planning Department, Wakayama Prefectural Government

Turkish side: The Turkish-Japanese Foundation

5. Amendments and Revisions

If either party has a proposal regarding the wording of this memorandum, efforts shall be made to resolve the matter through discussions based on mutual trust and the spirit of shared prosperity. Furthermore, both parties shall strive to overcome differences and challenging circumstances together.

6. Validity

This memorandum shall remain valid for five years from the date of signing.

If neither party notifies the other in writing of its intention to terminate the memorandum within three months prior to the expiration date, the memorandum shall automatically be renewed for an additional five -year period.

Even if this memorandum is terminated, any other cooperation agreements reached prior to the termination in accordance with the provisions of this memorandum shall remain unaffected.

This memorandum was signed in duplicate in English in Ankara on August 4, 2025, with each copy considered an equally authentic original.



Governor
Wakayama Prefecture



Chairman
The Turkish-Japanese Foundation