

2015/2/20

## Pre-event for the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction “International Grassroots Women’s Academy in Tohoku”

The International Grassroots Women’s Academy Planning Committee, in cooperation with the Huairou Commission, will be holding the International Grassroots Women’s Academy in Minamisanriku Town on the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 12<sup>th</sup> of March, 2015, as a two-day pre-event for the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

### About the Academy

In order to create more disaster-resilient and flexible community structures, the Academy brings together women engaged in post-disaster reconstruction and disaster-prevention activities to share their experiences and expertise, as well as develop proposals for future action in line with the post-Hyogo Framework for Action.

The event focuses on the next generation of young women leaders, with 30 participants from Asia, Africa, and South America supported by the Huairou Commission, and 40 participants from the 3 prefectures affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake. For community leaders from overseas, it will provide the opportunity to visit disaster-afflicted coastal areas and learn from their experiences; for young female leaders in these areas, it offers both a global perspective and the chance to acquire leadership skills relevant to ongoing reconstruction and recovery efforts.

### Open Forum

At the end of the final day, an open forum will be held with residents of the town. During this forum, we will present the results of the Academy, after which a session will be held called ‘I Commit’, in which all participants are invited to make a written declaration of their commitment to protecting their families, their communities, and themselves. These individual declarations will be displayed in the venue of the WCDRR.

### Goals

Through both the Academy and the Open Forum, as well as their interactions with community leaders from all over the world, we aim to encourage local women to take on greater leadership roles and become engines of post-disaster recovery along the Tohoku coast.

*The Huairou Commission is an American nonprofit organization based in New York City. In order to promote community development, it provides support at the global level for local women’s groups. Its budget for 2013 was approximately 200,000,000 yen. It hosts Grassroots Academies during UN and World Bank international conferences.*

### ■Date and Place

Grassroots Academy	March 10th (Wed) 9:00-17:30, 2015	Plaza, Minamisanriku
	March 12th (Fri) 9:00-15:30, 2015	Plaza, Minamisanriku
Open Forum	March 12 <sup>th</sup> (Fri) 16:00-18:00, 2015	Culture Hall (Bunka Koryu Hall), Minamisanriku

Hosting: Huairou Commission, Japan Planning Committee for International Grassroots Women’s Academy in Tohoku (Secretariat: NPO Women’s Eye), with cooperation from HAKUHODO Inc., DAHA Planning Work

Supported by: Minamisanriku Town Council, Minamisanriku Town Board of Education, Minamisanriku Town Tourism Association, Japan Civil Network (JCN), Sendai Miyagi NPO Center, NPO IWATE Fukko Collaboration Center, Japan CSO Coalition for 2015 WCDRR (JCC2015), Miyagi Regional Bureau of Reconstruction, Reconstruction Agency, The Japan National Committee for UN Women, The Sendai Gender Equal Opportunity Foundation, Miyagi Prefectural Government, Japanese Women’s Leadership Initiative (JWLI)

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Japan Planning Committee for International Grassroots Women’s Academy in Tohoku

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