

March 12, 2025

The World Bosai Forum (WBF) 2025 Report

1. Event Overview

Date: March 7 (Fri) – 9 (Sun), 2025
Venue: Sendai International Centre & Sendai Ryokusaikan
Organizers: WBF Domestic Executive Committee & WBF International Executive Committee
Co-Organizer: Tohoku University
Sponsors: Cabinet Office; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism; Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology; Reconstruction Agency; Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST); Aomori Prefecture; Fukushima Prefecture; Iwate Prefecture.

2. Preliminary data on attendance

Pre-registration (Main Conference): 1,197 persons from 34 countries
Total number of participants over the three days (including EXPO and side events): 5,434
(Note: 2023WBF pre-registration: 1,335 persons from 39 countries / Total number of participants including EXPO and others: 5,412)

3. Sessions

The following sessions were held, including 13 sessions on WBF2025 theme “What to do about KIKO-HEN” or climate change. 3 sessions were organised by UN agencies and 5 sessions were organised by virtually.

In-person sessions: 46

Poster sessions: 41

Mini-Presentations: 19

Workshops: 2

World Bosai EXPO (booth exhibition): 85 (by 46 organisations)

World Bosai Forum Online (Pre-recorded video presentations): 34

Film Screenings: 4 (“Ikiru”, “I’m back home Tsunakan”, “The Drifting Post” and “Blue Carbon”)
“Inclusive Disaster Prevention” Festival (Hat fashion show; stage performance; fair)

4. Poster Session Award Winners

(P22) Mr Kenichi Matsuura / National Institution for Youth Education – “Disaster prevention leadership development for junior high and high school students to enhance local resilience through the use of youth education facilities”.

(P28) Mr Boret Sebastien / Tohoku University – Disaster Educational Programs for Children with Special Needs 20 Years After the 2004 Tsunami: An Interdisciplinary Study of a Special Support School in Banda Aceh in Indonesia.

(P35) Mr Yang Zih-Jing / National Taiwan University of Science and Technology – User Interface Design for Volunteered Disaster Image Collection Application on Smart Devices (Presenter: Shih Hsien Yang / Taiwan Tech)

5. The 2nd World Disaster Reduction Award

Japan

The late Mr Soushin / Souma Yamana

Ms Atsuko Hasegawa & Ms Naoko Kikuchi (Mr Nagayama’s grandchildren) received the award on behalf of the late Mr Nagayama.

When the Meiji Sanriku Tsunami happened 116 years ago, Mr Nagayama walked the length of the coastline of Iwate Prefecture (700 km in total) to survey all the villages affected by the tsunami.

Overseas

The late Mr Roman L Kintanar

Mr Nathaniel T Servando, Director General, the Philippines Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), received the award on behalf of the late Ms Kintanar.

In 1958, Mr Kintanar became the Director General of PAGASA at the age of 29, and became the President of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1978, contributing significantly to the world’s meteorology.

6. Media coverage

22 newspapers and broadcasting companies requested interviews. WBF2025 was widely

reported on TV and in print.

7. Contact for further inquiries

World Bosai Forum Foundation

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