

The Students and Schools Partnership Declaration

Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas

EMECS 8

October 30, 2008

This student declaration is the combined effort of many students from the various countries of China, Japan, Thailand, and the United States. We are very proud to have had the opportunity to participate in EMECS-8.

We wish to expand on the theme of the previous EMECS-7 conference, "Our shared responsibility." Responsibility to us is a state of mind, but it is not enough to address the needs of the environment. We want to go a step further to "Our shared action." Thoughtful action must be taken if we are going to make any difference in our coastal areas and oceans.

Scientists, you must take action to involve the community in your research. Your research will have much more of an impact if you include others. This will also have the effect of causing others to learn about the surrounding environment and the care about what impact they have on it.

Students, we must also take action, utilizing youth power, the talents and energy that this generation has in order to have an effect. We must share the knowledge and ideas we have with others, teaching what we know about enclosed coastal seas in order to demonstrate to others how we can save our world and our seas by our hands.

Teachers, you can take action by being the bridge between students and scientists. You should tell students what the benefit of research on the sea is. Also, you need to educate students what to do and how to do it, as well as what consequences their actions will have on the environment. Because so many people live near the sea, there is a great opportunity to educate children on how their actions affect the sea, as well as how it affects them.

It is easy to feel powerless about how one can make a difference in the environment. Governments, who make the final decisions about the environment, often seem out of reach and unwilling to listen to our concerns. However, if we take action and involve community members in the work that we are so passionate about, we believe they will slowly begin to listen. Like a drop of water falling into a lake, the affect is small at first but soon grows into large ripples. In the same way, we believe involving members of the community will be the small change that will soon grow much larger as they educate their families and others about what they have learned.

We all have a 'green mind,' but in order to make a difference we must take action and share this mindset with others. In this way, we believe we can all create a truly sustainable future for our coastal seas, as well as change the world.