

Message to Kuroshio Science

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First and foremost, I would like to convey my sincere congratulations to Dr. Ching Nen Nathan Chen, Department of Oceanography National Sun Yat-sen University, organizers of the 9th International Kuroshio Science Symposium. The sponsors; National Museum of Marine Biology and Aquarium, National Dong Hwa University and Graduate School of Kuroshio Science, Kochi University, and the participants from different countries interested in sharing thoughts, experiences and exchange of scientific information in the region.

To easiest way to understand Kuroshio Science is to attend the annual International Kuroshio Science Symposium sponsored consecutively by each member country-university. This year's symposium is the end of the third cycle of the conference series designed to establish a sustainable society in Kuroshio Region through research collaboration and information exchange. This annual event also fosters cooperation and friendship, and brings together experts that are committed to sustain the regions biological resources and explore new possibilities beyond borders.

For Bicol University Tabaco Campus (BUTC), the symposium is significantly important for several reasons. First, it is an avenue for scientific information exchange, linkage, new acquaintances that stimulates collaboration among member institutions. Second, it provides young and talented people the opportunity to contribute to the sustainable maintenance of biological resources in the region. I am deeply honored to note, that five Filipino students were paper presenters, of which two are from BUTC.

My attendance to this symposium was accidental. It should have been Prof. Mendoza, the principal author of "*Coral Reef Restoration using Nursery-reared Coral Fragments as a Community-LGU= ushered Coastal Restoration Strategy in Bicol Region*", who declined to come because of health reasons, making me a proxy presenter. But, you know, it's really an honor and opportunity to be part of this scientific conference.

More than just presenting the paper, I was very lucky to attend the Pacific Blue fin Tuna Conservation and visited to various research institutes including the National Museum of

Marine Biology & Aquarium. The most interesting part is how this tuna's are managed on a sustained basis and the production of yellow fin tuna seeds stock in hatchery system. This learning experience really matters and attendance worthy.

Finally, in behalf of Bicol University Tabaco Campus, I would like to sincerely thank Kochi University and National Sun Yat-sen University for invitation and support that made my attendance possible and the warm welcome and accommodation during the entire symposium. To the Kuroshio Science member institutions, many thanks for being our development partner, the friendship, cooperation and support. As we enter the 11th year of partnership and collaboration, I am very confident that in the future, there will be more successes, prosperity, peace and stability in the Kuroshio Region.