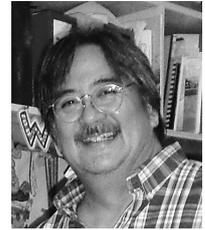


## Message to the Kuroshio Science Consortium

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I wish to thank Dr. Akira Tominaga of Kochi University and Dr. Ching Nen Nathan Chen of the National Sun Yat-sen University for inviting me to present a paper at the 9<sup>th</sup> Kuroshio Science Symposium held at Kaoshiung City, Taiwan in November 2015.

The first venue in this collaborative program was the Joint Kuroshio Workshop held at the Graduate School of Kuroshio Science at the Asakura Campus of Kochi University in November 2007, where I was invited to present an overview on “*Recent advances in the management of marine protected areas in the Philippines*”. Eight years after (2015), I was again invited to provide an update on the same subject, so I presented our study on “*Considerations in establishing networks of marine protected areas in Central Philippines*”, which discussed how networking is currently being implemented to enhance the impact of protective management from individual efforts as the usual practice in the past, to coordinated ones covering much larger and ecologically connected areas in more recent years.

The Symposium itself provides a venue for presenting not only studies from its participating institutions, initially from Taiwan, Japan and the Philippines, but also of collaborations between institutions from various countries as well. This year, several foreign PhD students in Japanese universities presented aspects of their work, along with the participation of many more scientists coming from other institutions, including the University of Guam located “further upstream” of the Kuroshio. Indeed, this program has grown in the direction it initially set nine years ago, not only involving more individuals, but more collaborations as well.

I hope that the rich mix of participants and wide range of topics in the last symposium spawn even more collaborations between students and scientists with different affiliations. It would be good to see the work not only of Filipino graduate students in Japan or Taiwan, but of Japanese, Taiwanese and other foreign students as well working in the Philippines. It is through such diversity of shared knowledge that we can better understand the environment, people and culture of the Kuroshio. I hope the Consortium continues to grow along this path in the coming years.