

Introduction of Participants and Symposium Overview

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First of all, on behalf of Kochi University, I would like to express my thanks to all of the participants. We are really glad to see you in Kochi.

First, I would like to tell the history of Kuroshio Science. In 2003, former Kochi University and Kochi Medical School were integrated to the current Kochi University, and in 2004, our Kuroshio Science was established as a graduate school for Ph.D course. Then, in 2008, it was reorganized into two organizations; one is for education, Kuroshio Science Program in Graduate School of Integrated Arts and Sciences. The other is as teacher's association, Kuroshio Science Unit in Multidisciplinary Sciences Cluster. These two organizations are almost overlapping each other in research and educational activities, and our prime target is always to contribute to realizing sustainable society, in particular, in Kuroshio Region, with Interdisciplinary Education and Research approach.

In order to facilitate international collaboration for education and research, we started international symposium from 2007 with partner universities. 1st, 4th and 8th were in Kochi University, 2nd, 5th and 9th were in National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan, 3rd, 6th and 10th were in Bicol University, Philippines and 7th was in Tanjungpura University, Indonesia. The main theme of the 1st symposium was "Recent Changes on the Seeweed Ecosystem along the Kuroshio Current: Towards Collaborative Rehabilitation of the 'Cradle of Fishes'" and the theme of the 4th was "Addressing Coastal Resources Conservation and Food Security through Science-based Solutions and Innovations". I think these themes are somewhat research specific and the main purpose was maybe launching research projects through international collaboration. Then, the theme in the 8th was "Kuroshio University League Network Formation toward the establishment of a sustainable society in the Kuroshio Region through Cross-

Border Education". Regarding to "Cross-Border Education", Prof. Hin-Kiu Mok, National Sun Yat-sen University and Prof. Akira Tominaga, Kochi University started the cross-border education as a part of the 9th symposium in Taiwan with the purpose that students from different countries discuss together one topic such as the perspectives of sustainable society to raise their capacity with the knowledge and understanding on interdisciplinary research and education and its significance. On the other hand, in 2014, JST, Japan Science and Technology agency launched Sakura Science Program. Since 2014, we have been applying to this budget and fortunately, our application has been approved every year. So, our Kuroshio Science invites 10 young students and researchers from the Philippines and Taiwan every year, its means we invited 30 young peoples, in total, already. And this year 10 more is here. Furthermore, in 2014, our application for a special PhD program was approved by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. We have 14 students from Philippines, Vietnam, China and Japan in this special program. On this September, we will send out three 1st graduates.

As such, for this 11th symposium, we make the theme, "Future Perspective on Cross-Border Network for Research and Education of "Kuroshio Science"". Because 13 years have passed since the start of the graduate school of Kuroshio Science, some of the earlier staff has already retired and some will retire soon. Meanwhile, new staffs have joined to Kuroshio Science. So, I think this symposium is good opportunity for us to re-understand the international collaboration in Kuroshio Region and consider how to make the Network for Research & Education more strong. I wish this symposium will provide very fruitful results for each of you and us to make collaboration with all countries of Kuroshio Region for research and education activities. Thus, we include Cross-Border Education, Sakura Science Program, and dissertation presentation at once into Symposium. For each section, our students serve as a chairman with the support of teachers. This is a part of our education to raise their capacity. Because it is the first experience for many of them, we would appreciate your understanding. Please enjoy our Symposium in Kochi. Thank you very much.