

Closing Remarks

11th International Kuroshio Science Symposium at Kochi University: Synthesis and Manifesto

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I'm very happy that we were able to hold this International Kuroshio Science Symposium for the fourth time here in Kochi. Through this symposium, we exchanged many kinds of scientific information and ideas, by having each of us bring topics of research. And I could also say that we had achieved a fruitful discussion over the border towards the future.

Together, we shared the eight concurrent sessions: Marine and Coastal Ecosystem, Fisheries and Marine Resource Management, Coral Science, Terrestrial and Freshwater Ecosystems, Health and Food Science, Socio-Economics and Other. (And please remember the doctoral dissertation presentation by the five students.) And of course, we have also several information picked-up from the posters of our researchers. Through these researches, we are reminded again of the exquisite mechanism of nature and learned the difficulty of controlling our complicated society.

Before the concurrent sessions, three presenters gave us keynote lecture. First one is "Education for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Fisheries" by Dr. Hiroyuki Matsuda from Yokohama National University. Second is "Managing Community-based MPAs: Role of Catalysts" by Dr. Victor S. Soliman from Bicol University. And third is "Education on ICOM (Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management) for undergraduate students-Background, Needs, and Prospects -" by Dr. Kimio Fukami from Kochi University. Through these lectures, we confirmed the importance and difficulty of sustainable utilization of terrestrial, coastal and ocean resources and necessity of integrated management, education and research as the means of realizing it. We recognized the problems, and knew what many people do to tackle them. Then researchers, teachers, public servants and local residents as a direct users of the natural resources have to cooperate/collaborate for resolving them each other under the proper structure based on the scientific knowledge and people's experimental perception, I think.

Our Kochi University has engaged an Academic Cooperation with the University of the Philippines, Bicol University and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Region 02 (BFAR02) in the Philippines, National Sun Yat-sen University and National Dong Hwa University of Taiwan, Tanjungpura University of Indonesia. From the beginning, these countries have provided us the attractive and important

research fields. Today we are very glad to have the guests from these universities/institution. And this time, these universities also sent young researchers for our JST Sakura Science Plan.

Aside from these, we are gradually expanding cooperative relationships to the surrounding universities, especially in the Bicol Region of the Philippines, e.g., Partido State University and Catanduanes State University. And today here in this symposium, we have the six university presidents from the Bicol Region: Sorsogon state college, Catanduanes State University, Camarines Sur Polytechnic Colleges, Bicol State College of Applied Science and Technology, Partido State University and Dr. Emilio B. Espinosa Sr. Memorial State College of Agriculture and Technology. (I sincerely appreciate their kind intentions and efforts, of course, the help of PASUC Bicol, Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges - Bicol Chapter and the Philippines Government.)

In the address of our president and vice president, they mentioned "Glocal" as the word (Global+Local)/2 although this is Japanese English. It has also been trumpeted in Japan, and popular mind found the importance of linking beyond the borders between and among the regions. By collaborating with universities which have footholds on rural areas, I expect that synergistic effects can be demonstrated and various meaningful works can be done. In the past symposium, we have proposed and established the concept of the Kuroshio University League Network, which is gradually connected with not only the universities with MOU but also other collaborative universities, under the concept of the Kuroshio Science. I hope to be able to develop close collaborations with all of the universities that participate in this symposium today in the near future.

For this purpose, let's develop and practicalize the Kuroshio University League Network concept and use this effectively. I guess, although there is the aspect that we have mainly worked based on personal connection at the past time, it is also necessary to grow a systematic, organized connection in the future. Let's make efforts to know each other and think the following points more deeply and broadly:

What kind of educational service can we prepare mutually to our students?

What kind of research can we do together?

--What kind of resource for research do we have?

How can we exchange?

-- What kind of cooperation form can we take?

From the perspective of the future, I hope this symposium could mark the milestone for opening up new cooperative relationships among the universities and institutions in the Kuroshio Region. With this manifesto, I would like to this my closing remark of the symposium. In the tail of this speech, On behalf of Kochi University, I express my sincere gratitude again to all participants of this symposium. Thank you very much.