

Event report

Now, think current marine around Japan – toward new National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan



2012年5月22日
国際生物多様性の日
海洋生物多様性

The symposium was organized by Nature Conservation Society of Japan, WWF-Japan, Wild Bird Society of Japan and Network for Biodiversity Conservation Legislation and got fruitful input from Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Agency of Fisheries, NGOs and scientists. It was precious opportunity to discuss about marine biodiversity with over 150 participants.



Key note speaker, Dr. Yoshihisa Shiroyama, Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC) emphasized the high marine biodiversity of Japan and its rich environmental condition as well as big impact from human activities.

Session II : Panel discussion had three theme and contain speech and discussions.

Part 1 : Tohoku, coastal biodiversity affected by Tsunami and its restorations



During one year after earthquake and Tsunami, the main focus of infrastructure went to quick rehabilitation of livelihood. But panel discussion pointed out and repeated the importance of the needs of consensus building with local residents to better rehabilitation and to resolve environmental issues caused by rehabilitation activities. Panel discussion also pointed out the importance of information sharing with not only group in Tohoku but also group which work for Tohoku from other regions and importance of public awareness of nature and biodiversity in local area.

Part 2 : marine species, depletion of pelagic fish and fishery resources management



The speakers introduce the critical situation of marine fisheries situation around Japan and around global oceans from their point of views. The stock of eels and Tunas are critically impacted. Panel discussion show the effectiveness of combination mechanism using MSC certification, public control and voluntary control. Panelist agreed to importance of mind change by social and consumer side.

Part 3 : Spatial Planning 8.3% Marine Protected Areas, what means?



The meaning of “MPA” and future challenge are the main topic of part 3.

Integrated management is relatively new issues. Panelist pointed out to note the history and uniqueness of marine and coastal management in Japan and to consider to make the various type of MPA effective for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.



Session III : Toward new NBSAP



There are many issues why conservation of marine biodiversity are not well progress, compared to land conservation but most key challenge is the complexity of stakeholder and related legislations. W confirmed that all stake holder including local resident, academia, NGOs and local and national government should take one board and face the challenge in collaborative manners.

Dr. Shiroyama said that marine issues used to be minority issues and personally it was highly surprised that we are able to have these kind of big event and marine issues highly focused. This comment shows how success the celebration of Marine IDB and show the good steps for marine conservation.

The organizer would like to continue to have opportunity to make good input towards new NBSAPs.



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