

*Center for Asian Conservation Ecology and
the GCOE program, Kyushu University*

with

AP BON S-9-5 Project

International Symposium including Field Workshops

Biodiversity in changing coastal waters of tropical and subtropical Asia

**30 November – 4 December 2012,
in Reihoku-Amakusa, Japan**



Supporting organizations : Japanese Coral Reef Society
Ichthyological Society of Japan
Japanese Association of Benthology
Ecological Society of Japan
Town of Reihoku (Reihoku-cho)

**Conference secretariat: Prof M Tokeshi & Dr S Arakaki
(Amakusa Marine Biological Laboratory– Kyushu University)
Check the latest information at <http://www.ambl-ku.jp/>**

Biodiversity in changing coastal waters of tropical and subtropical Asia

Delegates from Japan and other countries are cordially invited to participate in this special symposium on the biodiversity of coastal waters in tropical/subtropical Asia, focusing in particular on western Pacific and adjacent waters. This is a major conference on this theme held for the first time in a picturesque fishing town of Reihoku on the Amakusa-Shimoshima island, the seat of the Amakusa Marine Biological Laboratory of the Kyushu University. Located in western Kyushu at the entrance of Ariake Sea, the largest estuarine water in Japan, Reihoku boasts its varied subtropical coastal environments with sand spits, beaches, stony and rocky shores, including some subtidal platforms dotted with coral assemblages. The coasts around the Amakusa Shimoshima island have been a major centre of research activity in shallow-water marine ecology and this area is among the best known taxonomically in East Asia. With the ongoing trend of global warming, the environmental changes appear to manifest in a subtle but appreciable manner in the shore assemblages of this island, making Reihoku an ideal venue for this symposium.

The symposium is designed to look into the state of biodiversity-related research that has been conducted in subtropical and tropical waters of Asia by offering a congenial meeting point for researchers who have been or are involved in ecological and taxonomic works in this region. Different types of assemblages/taxonomic groups will be covered, including fishes and invertebrates in estuaries and coral reef systems in particular. We intend to designate a maximum number of active researchers as symposium speakers, such that issues of importance are identified and exchange of ideas is facilitated through diverse fields. A session is also planned for non-designated, mainly early-career, speakers and poster presentations. Based on the symposium works, a special volume of *Hydrobiologia* (2010, IF=1.96) is planned for publication, with the baseline quality of contributions being controlled by the editorship of Prof M. Tokeshi.

A major feature of this symposium is the “field workshops” which are planned to include, among various possibilities, sandy/muddy estuaries of Hondo/Yokaku Bay, rocky shores, dredge sampling in the Tomioka Bay and the reef assemblages of Ushibuka (conditions permitting, water temp < 20 °C), with the aim of forging new networks of researchers combining taxonomy and ecology. With the superb quality of sea food that Reihoku can offer in late autumn, delegates will have nothing to lose and much to gain by spending time and money to attend this special symposium – all are welcome.

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Symposium schedule *

30 November 2012	Delegates arrive; registration.
1 December	Symposium session
2 December	Symposium session
3 December	Field workshop/session
4 December	Field workshop/session

The symposium itself will be held in a modern, architecturally-attractive and well-equipped conference hall of the Reihoku Town. (*subject to changes).

Important (check at <http://ambl-ku.jp/>)

As the combination of symposium with workshops + publications will require complex planning and preparation, it is essential that prospective delegates **send their 'expression of interest' at an earliest date possible (within three months of the release of this first circular) to the secretariat, using the form provided.** This does not oblige the person to participate, but he/she will be given priority to do so in case the number exceeds the maximum that could be accommodated in the meeting. This will also guarantee receipt of the second circular. As we anticipate a high level of interest, an early response is recommended.

Accommodation information

A range of accommodation will be made available locally with full support of the Reihoku Town, the details of which will be announced later. For those in need, the dormitory of the Amakusa Marine Biological Laboratory will also be made available at a minimum cost up to its capacity. The Reihoku Town, in collaboration with the AMBL, guarantees that free transport will be provided between the accommodation and the venue.

Travelling tips

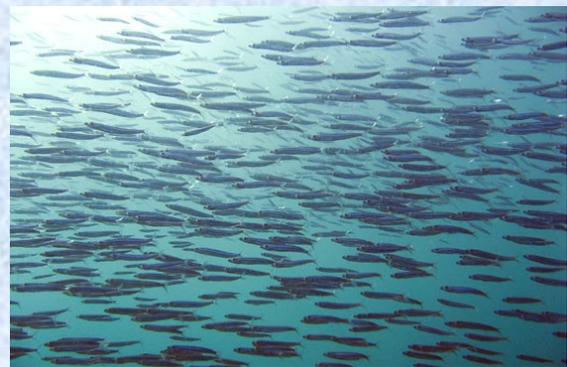
- Amakusa Airline from Fukuoka is the most time-saving way to reach Hondo (35min); an early discount is offered by the airline.
- Express bus service from Fukuoka to Hondo is time-consuming (c. 5hrs) but most economical (¥3500 one-way).
- From Kumamoto airport, express bus service takes c. 3hrs to reach Hondo at c.¥2600.
- Fast boat (not car-ferry) connects Mogi (Nagasaki) and Tomioka (Reihoku) in 50min.
- Rent-a-car will give you the maximum mobility for accessing different sites around the island, including local spas (hot spring baths).



Reihoku Conference Hall



Reihoku Town Spa has a commanding view of Tomioka Bay, while no effort is spared in the preparation of Reihoku cuisine.



Waters around Reihoku are teemed with organisms. Swim with *Spratelloides gracilis* ! (photos by M Tokeshi, Dec 2011).

Conference secretariat :

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