



Member’s report on activities related to ICRI

Reporting period July 2012 - October 2013

1. **General Information** (note that this information will be posted on the ICRI website in your member page: <http://www.icriforum.org/about-icri/members-networks>)

Are you an ICRI Member?	Yes
Member type (Country / Organization):	Country
Focal Point 1:	
Name:	Naoki AMAKO
Organization:	Ministry of the Environment (MoE), Japan
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Focal point 2:	
Name:	Kohei HIBINO
Organization:	Center for Regional Sustainability Initiatives (CRESI), Akita International University
Email:	k-hibino@aiu.ac.jp
Last meeting attended:	GM 27 (Cairns)
Related website(s)	http://www.env.go.jp/nature/biodic/coralreefs/ (in Japanese)

2. **Updates on your activities** (new initiatives/programs/projects of your government /organization which will be of interest to the ICRI Members). Examples include MPA declarations, World Heritage sites status, economic valuation of reefs, policy changes in relation to coral reefs etc.

[Insert text here]

Ministry of the Environment held an “International Conference on Climate Change and Coral Reef Conservation” on 29-30 June, 2013.

[\(http://www.env.go.jp/en/nature/npr/icccrc2013/\)](http://www.env.go.jp/en/nature/npr/icccrc2013/)

Ministry of the Environment enlarged a “Marine Park Zone” of Setonaikai National Park that covers seaweed beds and coral communities, including the biggest community of *Alveopora japonica* in Japan.

Ministry of the Environment is in a process of establishing a National Park on Kerama Islands in Okinawa Prefecture, which are currently designated as a Quasi-National Park and a Ramsar Site (no. 1546: Kerama-shoto Coral Reefs).

3. **Contribution to the ICRI GM**

Your responses to the following questions will assist the Secretariat in assessing contributions towards the major themes of the current ICRI action plan and objectives of the general meeting.

a. Community-based monitoring

Are you engaged in, or support community-based monitoring in your marine areas? If so, think about what works and what doesn’t with it to be prepared for workshop discussions on this topic. The discussions will revolve around:

- The benefit of community-based monitoring for management and reporting

- Way forward and how countries could support each other through a network of persons involved in monitoring and an online database.

The Ministry of the Environment implements coral monitoring under the “Monitoring Sites 1000” program, but it is not community-based. The fishery resources are monitored by local governments based on the data from local fisheries cooperatives.

Communities are usually not interested in monitoring what is not relevant to their livelihoods or what they cannot manage. If they see relevance in coral reefs, they may monitor the status of corals voluntarily, which can be low-cost and more frequent compared to the government-led monitoring.

On the other hand, it is up to the communities to submit the data, and the communities are not accountable for the results of monitoring if it were conducted voluntarily.

Transparency and standardization of monitoring methods would be desired from the viewpoint of governments and scientists, and this would require clear benefits for the communities (i.e., feedback from governments and scientists in the form of data analysis and prediction, advice on management, etc.).

b. Co-management

Do you have co-management arrangements in place for your marine reserves? If so, start thinking about what they are, and what works for you in preparation for workshop and field trip discussions on this topic. There will be some interactive exercises to help guide your thinking and possible way forward.

4. Is there any other topic you would like to raise during the meeting?

YES NO

If yes, please indicate which topic and the reason why you would like to raise it:

[Insert text here]

5. Please list relevant publications, reports you have been released since the last meeting.

Title (incl. author and date)	Type of publication (Paper, report etc.)
Ministry of the Environment. (2013). <i>Report of the work on implementation of the action plan to conserve coral reef ecosystems in Japan, with Ogasawara World Heritage site as a case.</i> (in Japanese only)	Government report
Ministry of the Environment (2013) <i>Report of the work on the promotion of the important coral reef networks in Asia-Oceania.</i> (in Japanese only)	Government report
Ministry of the Environment (2013) <i>Report of the work on identification of important marine areas.</i> (in Japanese only)	Government report

6. Please indicate upcoming coral reef-related meetings you or your organisation will attend

2nd Global Conference on Land - Ocean Connections (GLOC-2) October 2- 4 2013, Montego Bay, Jamaica

17th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SBSTTA-17), 14-18 October

2013 Montreal, Canada

2nd Global Marine World Heritage Site Managers Conference, 17-20 October 2013, Corsica, France

International Marine Protected Areas Congress, 21-27 October, Marseille, France

9th Pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, 2-6 December, Suva, Fiji