



Japan Member's report on activities to ICRI

Submitted by Japan

Reporting period: October 2006 – April 2007

1. General Information

Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	Japan
Focal Point 1:	Keisuke Takahashi
Focal point 2:	Kohei Hibino
Last meeting attended:	Cozumel, Oct 2006
How do you circulate ICRI information with your country and/or organization?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Report back to relevant Ministries ➤ Report the outline by press release ➤ Report at the Japanese Coral Reef Society (JCRS) Board meeting ➤ Report be available on the ICRI Japanese website
Budget allocated for coral reefs (please mention for year/period):	

For countries only:

National Action Plan / Initiative	
Do you have a National Coral Reef actions plan?	NO
Date of publication:	Under development
Do you have a National Coral Reef Initiative?	NO
Relevance to regional program / initiative:	-
How and where to obtain more information:	-
Monitoring	
Is there a national monitoring programme for your country?	Yes. National Coral Reef Monitoring Programme as a part of Monitoring Sites 1000 Project
Date of the last assessment?	Sept 2006-Feb 2007
How and where to obtain more information:	http://www.env.go.jp/ http://www.coremoc.go.jp/
Marine Protected Areas	
How many MPA(s) with coral reefs?	18 in coral reef area + 37 with coral communities
What is the percentage of coral reef MPA(s) to the (coastal zone / marine area)?	Coral reef MPAs: 6455.5ha MPAs with coral communities:7673.7ha
Number of sites (with coral reefs) under the World Heritage Convention?	0
Number of wetland sites (with coral reefs) under the Ramsar Convention?	3 (Kushimoto Coral Communities, Kerama-shoto Coral Reef and Manko-brackish lake)
Number of Biosphere Reserves (with coral reefs) under UNESCO's MAB Programme?	0

2. Report

A. Specific requests / questions for the next ICRI General Meeting

International Year of the Reef (IYOR) 2008

Do you have a committee/focal point for IYOR 2008?

If yes, contact information:

Committee: Due to be established in May 2007.

Focal point: Due to be decided at the Committee. Currently, tentative focal point is: Kohei Hibino <khibino@jwrc.or.jp>.

If available, brief description of what has been done so far:

- IYOR Briefing session was held in Tokyo, attended by over 50 participants from various sectors, such as National and local Government, Diving Industry, Business, NGO, Scientific Community, Media, and Aquarium (January 2007),
- National Website for IYOR2008 (<http://www.iyor.jp/>) was launched (February 2007)
- IYOR-Japan partner's mailing list was launched (February 2007)
- IYOR2008 Kick-off meeting was held in Tokyo, attended by over 50 participants from various sectors, such as National and local Government, Diving Industry, Business, NGO, Scientific Community, Media, and Aquarium. General outline of the promotion scheme, including establishment of National Promotion Committee, was agreed (March 2007)
- Public Symposium, "Partnership for Coral Reef Conservation towards the International Year of the Reef" was held in Tokyo to introduce about IYOR to wider public (April 2007)

If available, brief description of near future plans:

- To establish National Promotion Committee (May 2007)
- To formulate National Action Plan, including communication strategy (September 2007)
- To hold a Symposium on Coral Reef Conservation (First-quarter 2008)
- To hold a regional/international Meeting on Coral Reef MPA Network (Final-quarter 2008)

Relevance to mangrove ecosystems - Please give details of activities pertaining to mangroves, particularly where mangroves are associated with coral reefs.

- Forestry Agency designated Mangrove forests at the estuaries of Urauchi River and Nakama River in Iriomote Island as Forest Ecosystem Reserve in 1991 to conserve wilderness condition.
- Agreement on Conservation and Use of Nakama River has been established under the Okinawa Prefecture in 2004 to prevent falling of mangroves by tourist boat.
- Ministry of the Environment has developed a rapid monitoring method on mangroves in 2006.
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has conducted four projects on Mangrove conservation:
 - A. Project of Mangrove Information Centre in Indonesia (2001),
 - B. Project of Coastal Wetland Conservation in Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico (2003-2008),
 - C. Project of Participatory Integrated Management of Mangrove in Myanmar (2006-2011),
 - D. Project of Mangrove Information Centre in Oman (2006-2008).

Summary of activities and pertinent points

1. Brief summary of major coral reef activities/projects:

Activity / Project Title	Location	Amount (\$1.00=¥120)	duration	major activities	for more info (web site / email)
1. Sekisei Lagoon Nature Restoration Project (by MoE)	Sekisei Lagoon, Okinawa Prefecture	JPY657,000,000 (\$5,475,000) (2002-2007)	2002-	1: Stakeholder meeting, 2: research, 3: coral restoration	http://shizensaisei.com/ (in Japanese)
2. Tatsukushi Bay Nature Restoration Project (by MoE)	Tatsukushi Bay, Kochi Prefecture	JPY742,000,000 (\$6,183,333) (2003-2007)	2003-	1.Stakeholder meeting 2: research, 3. Removal of sedimentation	http://www.tatsukushi-saisei.com/top.html (in Japanese)
3. Coral culture technology development in Okinotorishima-Island (by Fishery Agency)	Okinotorishima Island, Tokyo Prefecture	JPY542,358,000 (\$4,519,650) (2006-2007)	2006-2008	Development of coral culture technology to be applied to the sea area of Okinotorishima	
4.Takegashima Marine Park Nature Restoration Project (by Tokushima Prefectural Government)	Takegashima Marine Park Zone, Tokushima Prefecture	JPY35,150,000 (\$4,218,000) (2003-2007)	2003-	1.Stakeholder meeting 2: research, 3. Coral Plantation	
5.The Crown-of-Thorns Starfish control program (by Okinawa Prefectural Government)	Kerama Islands, Okinawa Island, Sakishima archipelago, Okinawa Prefecture	JPY213,214,000 (\$1,776,783) (2002-2007)	2002-Mar. 2007	1.Stakeholder meeting 2. Removal of COTS in target areas	
6. National Coral Reef Monitoring as a part of Monitoring Site 1000 Project (by MoE)	From Chiba to Okinawa Pref.	JPY24,000,000 (\$200,000) (2006-2007)	2006-	Coral reef monitoring using spot-check method	

2. Please list:

- **Key activities of the member since last report relating to coral reefs and associated ecosystems**
 - Launch of the CD of “Coral Reef MPAs of East Asia and Micronesia”
- **Identify points of relevance to other ICRI members, or the secretariat (eg points of particular concern; questions to ask of ICRI; information requested; assistance sought; lessons learned**
- **Identify forthcoming activities that might be of interest to other members in terms of funding; partnership; uptake.**
 - 21st Pacific Science Congress, 13-17 June 2007, Okinawa (<http://www.coremoc.go.jp/>)
 - Annual Meeting of JCRS, November 2007, Okinawa