

Mangrove Planting Project in Kiribati



With students from War Memorial Elementary School, Tarawa

The Republic of Kiribati is an island nation in the South Pacific consisting of 32 atolls and one raised coral island. Many of the islands are facing the threat of sea-level rise with coastal erosion being observed. With an attempt to minimize the affect of coastal erosion, ISME has been planting mangrove in Tarawa since 2004 in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development (MELAD) of Kiribati and local environmental youth communities, with financial support from the Cosmo Oil Company Ltd., Japan.

Rhizophora stylosa is one of the major species grown in the country. The Executive Director of ISME, Prof. Shigeyuki Baba visits Kiribati at least twice every year to monitor the planted mangroves and to plant new areas. He has developed a unique group-planting technique where three propagules are planted together to promote a better survival rate. The technique is now applied in the main island, Tarawa, and three other islands, Abemama, Marakei and Abaiang by MELAD. The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon planted propagules in Tarawa using the group-planting technique during his visit in 2011. For details, please see ISME/GLOMIS EJ, 7(5), 2009 and 9(4), 2011.

From 3 to 10 Oct. 2013, Prof. Baba, five Japanese volunteers and ISME staff visited Tarawa and

Abemama. On the day of arrival, a courtesy visit was made to President Anote Tong of Kiribati who has been very supportive of ISME activity. Another courtesy visit was made to Ms. Teue Baikarawa, senior assistant secretary of MELAD. The group, led by Prof. Baba, visited the beautiful island of Abemama for the first time, with a warm welcome by the mayor of Abemama and chiefs of three local villages. Some 1500 propagules of *R. stylosa* were planted at Tabontebike village together with the villagers, representatives of Tanimainiku and Baretos villages, and Mr. Arawaia Moiwa and Mr. Kiritian Batoromaio of MELAD.

Along the causeway of Tarawa Island, some 5000 propagules were planted together with nearly 100 sixth grade students from War Memorial Elementary School, their teachers, staff from MELAD and people from JOCV (Japan Oversea Cooperation Volunteer). Some of the planted mangroves, over 5 m tall, have started to flower and produce propagules. These planted stands are therefore capable of self-regeneration and sediment accumulation.

ISME thanks the Cosmo Oil Company Ltd. for their 10 years of continued financial support since 2004. ISME is appreciative to MELAD for their untiring and dedicated support, and to Mr. Minoru Abe, a Japanese resident in Tarawa who has been assisting ISME as a liaison officer/local coordinator since the beginning of the project.



President Anote Tong of Kiribati (left) receiving publications of ISME from Prof. Baba (right). Photo in the right shows *Rhizophora stylosa* planted in 2005.



ISME & NIES signed Agreements on Research Cooperation



Dr Sumi of NIES (right) and Prof. Baba (left)



Dr Takamura of NIES (right) and Prof. Baba (left)

The National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) is a national organization located in Tsukuba, Japan, whose mission is to conduct research that fosters and protects a healthy environment. Along with ISME, the NIES Center for Environmental Biology and Ecosystem Studies (CEBES) recognizes the importance of developing accurate geographic information on mangroves and their surrounding ecosystems, including seagrasses and coral reefs. Information can serve as a guide to future biodiversity conservation activities.

On 12 November 2013, a basic agreement on research cooperation was signed between Dr. Akimasa Sumi, the President of NIES, and Prof. Shigeyuki Baba, the Executive Director of ISME at NIES, Tsukuba, Japan. The main research cooperation includes efforts to update and share mangrove geographic information, which was published in the 2010 World Atlas of Mangroves, together with seagrass and coral reef information developed by NIES to aid in conservation of coastal ecosystems.

The ceremony was followed by another signing of the Data License Agreement for sharing the 2010 Atlas dataset by Dr. Noriko Takamura, Head of NIES-CEBES and Prof. Baba. Other attendees of the ceremony from NIES were Dr. Hideo Harasawa, Vice President, Dr. Tomomi Inoue, and Ms. Kiyono Katsumata, and Dr. Mami Kainuma of ISME. Later in the day, a discussion was held with Dr. Hiroya Yamano, Head of the Biodiversity Conservation Planning Section.

In December 2013, to review precise species distribution, another data licensing agreement was signed between NIES and ISME to share species range maps published in the 2010 Atlas. A new website will be created soon for public access.



Workshop on Mangrove Studies in the Can Gio Biosphere Reserve

A Workshop on Mangrove Studies in the Can Gio Biosphere Reserve, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam was held at the Department of Regional Design, Tohoku Gakuin University, Sendai, Japan from 4 to 6 November 2013. Participants from Viet Nam were Doan Van Son, Le Van Sinh, Huynh Duc Hoan, Cao Huy Binh, Pham Van Quy and Assoc. Prof. Vien Ngoc Nam. Prof. T. Miyagi, M. Otomo, A. Saito and Le Hong Luong from the Department of Human Informatics, Tohoku Gakuin University attended the workshop. Present were T. Asano from Action for Mangrove Restoration (ACTMANG), and Prof. S. Baba, Dr. H.T. Chan, Dr. M. Kainuma and Ms. M. Kezuka from ISME. Papers were presented followed by discussion on publication of the research work done as a Technical Report of ISME. The workshop was accompanied by a field visit to the tsunami-damaged Sendai Plains.



Workshop participants, gathering at Sendai Station

Activities of ISME in Iriomote

In 2006, Prof. Shigeyuki Baba (then the Executive Secretary of ISME) took up his position as Director of the Iriomote Station of the Tropical Biosphere Research Center (TBRC), University of the Ryukyus. This required him to be there most of the time. It was his dual responsibilities, which set up stronger and closer link between Iriomote and ISME in Okinawa. Through his efforts, ISME was able to expand its activities on the island.

From 1995, ISME conducted an annual training course on "Conservation and sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems." From 2005, a second training course on "Environmental education for sustainable development—Conservation of coastal ecosystems for the livelihood of local communities" was implemented. Iriomote was a major venue for both courses as trainees were able to get

hands-on experience in conducting their fieldwork in the mangroves and associated coastal ecosystems. The Iriomote Station of TBRC had been supportive in providing the facilities for lecturers and trainees. Funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the two courses ended in 2012. Some 117 trainees from 38 countries participated in the mangrove training course and 84 trainees from 28 countries attended the environmental education course.

Since 2009, ISME has been organising ecotours in Iriomote each year for children from elementary schools in Japan who have won prizes for their essays on environment. The Asahi Shimbun Company and Tokio Marine Nichido and Fire Insurance Co. Ltd. fund the events, and the children would learn about the importance of nature and conservation of the environment. Among the activities are enjoying boat touring and canoeing through mangrove forests, learning fabric dyeing using mangrove bark, and snorkelling to see the underwater world.

This short note is a tribute to Prof. Baba, the Executive Director of ISME. It has been a year since his retirement from University of the Ryukyus in March 2013, and he continues working for ISME with unwavering dedication. He is proud to be a resident of Iriomote. Being a keen fisherman, his favourite quotation is “No mangroves along the coast – no fish in the sea.” When a typhoon is coming, he would park his beloved boat in the mangroves and not in the marina.

ISME Secretariat

ISME in 2013: Some Major Events

March: Launching Ceremony & Seminar of ISME Mangrove Educational Books, Sandakan, Sabah ■ Publication of ISME Mangrove Ecosystems Occasional Papers No. 4. **July:** International Workshop on Mangrove Conservation & ISME Executive Committee Meeting, Gujarat, India. **September:** Visit of officials from the Sabah Forestry Department (SFD) to Okinawa, Japan ■ Sixth PSC Meeting of the SFD & ISME Project on Mangrove Rehabilitation ■ SFD, ISME & TBRC Seminar on Mangrove Management in Sabah & Biodiversity in Ryukyus ■ Meeting of SFD & TBRC Exchange Program and Joint Research Project ■ Courtesy call on Prof. Hajime Oshiro, the President of University of the Ryukyus. **November:** Workshop on Can Gio Mangroves, Tohoku Gakuin University, Sendai, Japan ■ Signing of Research MOU with the National Institute of Environmental Studies (NIES), Tsukuba, Japan



Participants of the Sixth PSC Meeting of the SFD & ISME Project on Mangrove Rehabilitation in Sabah

New Members

ALBANIA

- Papajani, Jonida
Regional Development Agency

EGYPT

- Regal, Adel Amer Mohamed Ahmed
National Inst. of Oceanography and Fisheries

INDONESIA

- Sinaga, Rita Savitri Christina
Mangrove Management Center
- Wulan, Retno
Mangrove Management Center

JAPAN

- Kanzaki, Mamoru
Kyoto University

MEXICO

- Gomez Hernandez, Yadira
National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP)

MYANMAR

- Aung Min Thu
Forest Resource Environ. Develop. & Conservation Assoc. (FREDA)
- Kyaw Kyaw Tun
Forest Resource Environ. Develop. & Conservation Assoc. (FREDA)

- Kyaw Nyein
Forest Resource Environ. Develop. & Conservation Assoc. (FREDA)
- Win Thun Naing
Forest Resource Environ. Develop. & Conservation Assoc. (FREDA)

- Aung Ko Naing
Min. of Environ. Conservation & Forestry

- Myo Naing
Min. of Environ. Conservation & Forestry

- Pyae Phyo Aung
Min. of Environ. Conservation & Forestry

OMAN

- Al Rezaqi, Mohammed Juma Said
Min. of Environ. & Climate Affairs
- Al-Jabri, Aida Khalif
Min. of Environ. & Climate Affairs

PALAU

- Kazuyuki McVey
Aimeliik State Government, Koror

SRI LANKA

- Nameswara Mudaligo, U. Kumudinie
Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources



ISME/GLOMIS Electronic Journal

Volume 11, No.1 (October 2013)

Mangrove deforestation in the Dominican Republic, 1969 to 2012

by Meyer-Arendt, K. J., Byrd, S. & Hamilton, S.

Volume 11, No.2 (November 2013)

Sonneratia griffithii Kurz: Status and distribution in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

by Ragavan, P., Ravichandran, K., Mohan, P.M. & Saxena, A.

Volume 11, No.3 (December 2013)

A note on the agonistic behaviour of proboscis monkeys at Labuk Bay, Sandakan, Sabah

by Tangah, J.

Volume 12, No.1 (January 2014)

A note on the sexual behaviour of proboscis monkeys at Labuk Bay, Sandakan, Sabah

by Tangah, J.

To view the articles, please visit GLOMIS at
<http://www.glomis.com>.

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If you have any news from your country or your work concerning mangrove ecosystems that you wish to publish in the ISME Newsletter, please forward a brief write-up to ISME Secretariat.

Send articles/publications on mangrove to ISME Secretariat

ISME is organizing GLOMIS. Please send articles/publications concerning mangroves and mangrove ecosystems to ISME Secretariat.

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ISME Secretariat: c/o Faculty of Agric., Univ. of the Ryukyus, Nishihara, Okinawa 903-0129 Japan
<http://www.mangrove.or.jp>

<http://www.glomis.com>

E-mail: isme@mangrove.or.jp

Executive Director: Prof. S. Baba

Manuscript preparation, layout & typesetting:

Dr. H.T. Chan, Dr. M. Kainuma, Ms. M. Kezuka,

Ms. N. Oshiro and Ms. R. Miyagawa

ISME Secretariat

c/o Faculty of Agriculture, University of the Ryukyus
Nishihara, Okinawa 903-0129
Japan