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Cover Photo: Cutting *Alocasia* sp. for Food in Chuuk State, Federated States of Micronesia, in 2011.

(By Sota YAMAMOTO)

KAGOSHIMA UNIVERSITY AND KAGOSHIMA: LEARNING CURVES

Wadan Lal NARSEY

Visiting Professor, Research Center for the Pacific Islands
Kagoshima University, Japan (May 2011 - November 2011)

In May of 2011, I came to the Kagoshima University located on the southern tip of Japan, for my sabbatical from The University of the South Pacific where I was a Professor in Economics.

It was just two months after the March 11 earthquake off the coast of Japan, the seventh largest recorded in history. The resulting thirty foot high tsunami created a massive disaster in coastal north-east Japan, including the virtual melt-down of the Fukushima nuclear power plants.

Night after night, the television channels portrayed accounts of the devastation to people's homes and livelihoods, the economic costs, the radiation leakage affecting people, crops, farm animals, and the environment.

The bad news still continue about the extent to which the radiation spread to the massive land areas and soil and vegetable matter, and the terrible hard political decisions that need to be made between increasing taxes on current generations and higher borrowings to be paid by future generations.

But shining through all these problems, was the indomitable, calm and stoic spirit of the Japanese people who said they would overcome these tribulations just as they did after WWII, while they rise to the few joyous events that have uplifted the nation.

On a weekly basis, I personally kept discovering something innovative or attractive in Japanese everyday lives, some of which Fiji could do with. I present a selection, in no particular order of importance (Section A).

There were also some areas where I was puzzled to find that Kagoshima University and Kagoshima were not taking advantage of global opportunities to strengthen their own economy and society into the future, especially given that the next few decades will pose severe economic problems for Japan.

These include the lack of any basic English-speaking environment which could facilitate larger numbers of English-speaking students and tourists, and the lack of any significant labor-market initiatives to address their long-term labour problems of looking after the very large numbers of elderly which now comprise one of the highest proportions in the world (Section B). The Pacific Island Countries, of course, are in a very good position to provide aged care human resources.

The west is quite aware of the Japanese game shows with the players engaged in all kinds of silly or dangerous activities. What they are not aware of are the numerous television programs that were absolutely informative and developmental, and would be in great demand internationally with adequate subtitling in English, French or German. Certainly, many of the programs would be of great use in the Pacific countries in assisting their development efforts. I will mention just a few- education of children on the value of domestic foods and food preparation.

Section A: The delightful experiences

“Nadeshiko” Japan

In the midst of the gloom of the disasters, something miraculous happened: “Nadeshiko” Japan won the FIFA Women’s World Cup. “Nadeshiko” is a pretty Japanese flower as well as a term for “womanly virtues” (some consider to have a bit of a male bias).

The Nadeshiko team, short and petite, were always seen as the “under-dogs”, compared to the rugged tall amazonians from United States, Germany, Brazil and Australia. But they played with great heart, with a strategic short and low passing game, that neutralized the height of their opponents. They kept winning, eventually drawing with United States in the Cup Final, and then winning the penalty shoot-out.

A rainbow appeared over the length and breadth of Japan, bringing joy to young and old. Night after night the suddenly glamorous soccer heroines appeared on virtually every television program, giving dignified and often humorous interviews, humbly accepting the deluge of praise and adulation, acknowledging their occasional errors and weaknesses, and praising their opponents.

Japan united over their Nadeshikos, forgetting their sorrow over the recent disasters, and their anger over politicians daily dithering over the massive clean-up and reconstruction required (with three prime ministers being appointed in just two years). The Nadeshiko fairy tale continues with them also now qualifying for the London Olympics.

Other Japanese sports stars and coaches behaved similarly on TV: with humility, dignity, and respect for colleagues and opponents alike. There was no evidence on national television of the kinds of political infighting that one sees so frequently in Fiji sports. Why do we in sports-mad Fiji continue to miss the opportunities for using our rugby, soccer and netball as nation-building tools?

The “bow”

Before I came to Japan, a friend who more than thirty years ago had spent several months here, warned me to get used to the “bowing and scraping”. Initially, it did seem odd and awkward to have people bowing to you all the time.

Until it struck me how wonderful the “bow” was, as a human acknowledgement of someone else’s presence or act of consideration. With the bow, no words need to be spoken, eyes meet only briefly, in the lift or the corridor or the street. The little bow says “I acknowledge your presence”. A little human contact has been made. A car stops for you in the street. A little bow, as you walk or cycle by, makes the proper acknowledgement. You pass the little old lady impassively sweeping the street in the morning outside her house. A little bow, and she breaks into a beaming smile and calls out a greeting.

Of course, in Fiji, we also have the “bula”. But not used by everyone, and in some cultures, there is no verbal communications whatsoever, especially with females. I wonder if Fiji might improve if we all started bowing to each other.

The cycling

Large parts of Kagoshima are flat and ideal for bicycles, of which there are tens of thousands, including the one I use. But the cyclists ride largely on the foot-paths, all of which have little ramps every where they intersect with the street. Every intersection has lights or foot crossings, which all drivers, cyclists and pedestrians obey with utmost correctness. When cyclists go on the roads, the drivers have total respect for them. I have yet to see a bicycle in Kagoshima with a rear-vision mirror. And the cyclists have total respect for the pedestrians.

Similarly, large parts of Suva, and the coastal areas connecting up to Nasinu, could also have either dedicated bike paths, or foot-paths for cyclists and pedestrians, saving transport costs and making people healthier. But I cannot imagine Fiji’s car and truck drivers respecting cyclists, or cyclists respecting pedestrians. One realizes the enormous gulf that exists between societies like Japan which are disciplined and respect the rights of all others, and those where there is little respect for the rights of others.

The Recycling

Japan is notorious for using packaging materials for virtually everything. Every super-market sells large quantities of ready-packed “lunch-boxes” with the separate compartments for rice, noodles, meat, fish, pickles, tofu, vegetables. All the foodstuffs- meats, fish, vegetables, fruit, pickles etc are all individually and very attractively packaged for consumers. Large packets of biscuits will have smaller packages inside- so that one does not have to consume the whole packet once the larger packet is opened.

While one might decry the negative environment impact of all the packaging materials, Japan reduces the waste by very meticulous recycling. Every household and firm separates out the paper and card-board cartons, the plastics, the bottles, the cans, and the organic waste. All are collected separately and recycled where possible.

On special weekends, families collect all the paper and card-boards at special parks, while the children play. Can one imagine this happening in Fiji, where it is difficult to get people to even have one proper container for household rubbish?

Tidy road digging and house construction

One morning, I came across a construction team digging a deep ditch along the side of a narrow street. Of course, that happens in Fiji every day, with FEA, Telecom or PWD teams digging ditches after a road has been tar-sealed, belatedly putting down electric or telecommunication wires or water pipes, with the open drains and piles of dirt hanging around for weeks, to be filled in weeks later, and tar-sealed yet more months later. But here there was not a single pile of dirt in sight. All the dirt dug up, had been placed immediately and directly on the back of a truck. The wires and pipes or whatever, were laid that very same day, the soil put back in, and the ditch tar-sealed over before sun-down.

This similar tidiness and neatness prevails everywhere, with householders or shop-owners cleaning up the street and gutters in front of their premises. I have been astonished at how neatly and tidily a house construction has gone on, on my way to the University. No rubbish, or building materials or tools, lying anywhere on the site.

An empty block, one day had neat foundation ditches, then iron reinforcement, then concrete poured, a week allowed for maturation, covered by some shading material. I went away to a conference on another small island (Tokunoshima), and came back three days later to find the entire two-story house already in place- walls, wooden floors, ceilings and roof. Soon after they put in all the doors and windows and other fittings in. What a sharp contrast to the typical disorderly Fiji building sites, several of which I have personally suffered over the last ten years. Is there a lesson here for Fiji's mahogany value adding industry in prefabrication of quality timber houses built on solid concrete foundations, for tourism or anyone?

Smoking Sakurajima

There are not too many cities in the world where right on the doorstep sits a tall and active volcano: the Sakurajima volcano periodically spits out clouds of smoke and ash, which comes raining down on Kagoshima City if the wind is in the wrong direction.

Many a morning, one wakes up to find a fine or sometimes a thick covering of grey dust cloaking the whole city- roads, rooftops, cars, gardens and trees- like dirty snow. Now and then it rains ash in the middle of the day, covering your head, clogging up your nostrils and putting grit between your teeth. But Kagoshima residents stoically put up with it day after day. After every heavy ash-fall, city council trucks go racing around trying to sweep all the dust up on the main roads.

Households and shops gather up all the ash not only in their compounds, but also in the foot-paths outside, and even in the gutters, all packed up neatly in special yellow plastic bags, to be collected on specified days. The ash collected is used to build up an island in the Kagoshima Bay. What a wonderful a transformation: the ash from a volcano, thrown up into the atmosphere, deposited over a city, collected and transformed into an island over which the volcano broods, like a mother over its child. Associated no doubt with the volcano are hot water springs everywhere, around which are built little inns and bathhouses, a very successful tourism activity- one of the highlights of Kagoshima.

Fiji also has hot water springs here and there, but most well known in Savusavu. But there are no bath-houses there to extract revenue from tourists. The nearby villagers merely boil eggs and cook some Fijian foods, for the occasional television camera. What an opportunity going begging.

The safety

There is an incredible feeling of total safety and security in Kagoshima, at all hours of the day and day and night, with no fear of violence to person or property.

Girls and women may be seen walking or cycling around late at night in any of the main streets or back-streets. Of course, Kagoshima is a small town, and the situation would be different in Tokyo or Osaka.

But Japan is currently dismayed at the murder of the Japanese female tourist in Fiji, who very unwisely went to a beach party in Nadi. We all know of the reports of females (tourists and locals) being sexually assaulted all over Fiji, children being abused, and random violence perpetrated on citizens. We know of the generalised violence and crime that took place in Fiji in 1987 and 2000. None of that occurs in Japan.

I envy the Japanese society their great sense of physical security and well-being. Japanese social scientists are instead concerned that young Japanese are so much in their “comfort zones” that most do not want to travel abroad!

The elderly

One of the fascinating early-morning experiences in Kagoshima is the pervasive presence of the elderly in the urban “parks” of Kagoshima.

I have put quotation marks around the word parks, because the usual expectation is of parks with grass. These Japanese parks only have rough sand. Initially surprising, I soon realized the great advantage of having only sand- despite the frequent rainfall there is no mud. There are drains around the whole park covered by metal grills, and all rainfall overflows into these drains. There is surely a good lesson for parks in rainy Pacific Island Countries like Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Incidentally, Kiribati, with its lack of soil,

also ends up with having play-grounds like Kagoshima- mostly coral sand drawn from the beach.

Early in the morning in Kagoshima, the elderly, mostly men but also with a scattering of females, would congregate at these parks, with their flasks of green tea, snacks and whatever else they might need for the day. Their first task would be to completely clean up the park of any rubbish that may have been left behind by the previous day's users (usually very little in any case). They would then rake the ground smooth, and set up their Gateball games. By mid-morning they would be gone, and replaced by mothers with young children.

The Gateball game is an interesting version of croquet. Small goal-posts are set up around the park and balls are hit with a mallet to pass through the goal posts, by competing teams. Points are scored for going through the goal and for hitting the central post in the goal. The players walk all around the park- as fast or as slow as they wish. All in the fresh open air, and of course, with frequent breaks for tea.

One interesting feature of these urban parks is that they are found in every suburb so that the elderly do not have to go far to access them. Fiji's capital, Suva City, recently set up a special garden for the elderly in the Botanical Gardens near Albert Part. While the idea was good, it is however quite inaccessible for the elderly who live in all the concentrations of population quite far from the Botanical Gardens. Almost certainly, this garden for the elderly will be a failure, especially for the poorest elderly who have no private means of transport, and with the total absence of any activities which the elderly could be engaged in.

Japan, with its extremely high life expectancy, has one of the highest proportions of the elderly in the world. I would often be surprised to see people aged seventy or over (who in the Pacific would be the elderly needing care), wheeling around those aged ninety or over. However, Japan is already facing serious constraints on the supply of workers who will be available to look after the elderly.

In contrast, most of the Pacific countries have very high proportions of working age people who are able to obtain gainful employment. Is there a "win-win" situation where trained careers from the Pacific countries can be imported by Japan to look after their elderly.

Fascinating television programs which can be exported

During my stay in Japan, I did not travel very much but I did not have to. Just watching the television programs every night gave me a wonderful idea of what Japan was like in urban and rural areas.

Of course, there were the usual popular programs appealing to the young Japanese- like the game shows and the numerous music programs featuring singing competitions. But there also were numerous documentary type programs covering an extremely diverse range of

issues Japanese economy and society.

One dominating theme was food preparation. I was quite puzzled by what I thought was an extreme preoccupation with food preparation of all kinds of dishes, great variety of cooking ingredients, great variety of cooks and chefs, and nearly always a panel to judge the taste of the food being prepared.

There would be tremendous camera work, focusing closing on the colour and texture of the foods being presented, invariably in picturesque fashion- clearly for the Japanese, an aesthetic appearance was just as important as the taste (in contrast to the Pacific where food can be piled higgledy-piggledy on the plates, usually in massive quantities. Invariably, the panel of judges, upon tasting, would roll their eyes and pronounce “oishii” or “umai”. Not once did a judge screw up their face and say anything negative or even neutral.

There were also numerous programs which detailed how many complex food items were prepared commercially from ordinary Japanese crops, with value adding making items more desirable for consumers. Kagoshima in particular produces many food items from the humble sweet potato or kumala. There were not only the kumala chips or sticks, but many complex and tasty desserts, very attractively made and packaged. There were also programs which took urban school children into the rural areas to personally be involved in the planting of root crops or rice and its harvesting, so that they could identify with the rural producers and work that led to food on their tables.

One unusual documentary took a family (a couple and two children- a boy and a girl) out to sea with a fishing boat where they helped with the catching of a wide variety of marine products such as fish, squid and shrimps. The family would there and then on the boat eat the fresh shashimi. Back on the wharf they would immediately cook a number of products, with the whole family involved.

This family also did the same with many other farm products as well. So many good messages were sent out by this particular series: identifying their daily food items with the people who produced them, the work involved, the preparation of the food with the involvement not just of the mother and the daughter but also the father and the son giving viewers a strong lesson on the importance of gender equality in the sharing of cooking responsibilities. The impression I have is that Japanese men tend not to share cooking responsibilities with the women.

The Pacific people who are now consuming less and less of their own root crops (such as taro, cassava, kumala and yams) and marine foods (such as fresh fish, shell fish etc) would do well to emulate these value-adding activities which maintain consumers' demand.

There of course were all the documentaries dealing with the impact of the March tsunami and Fukushima nuclear disaster. There were so many issues raised by the tsunami: why were people so unprepared, why were the warnings not given earlier, why did the so

many buildings crumble so readily, why were some areas so much more vulnerable to the surging tsunami, and why did the physical defenses not work. There would so many sad documentaries revealing the personal tragedies that took place, the heroic sacrifices which were made, the numerous poignant reminders to families of what they had lost, such as old photographs or precious belongings being recovered by strangers and restored to their original owners.

Night after night there were also new revelations of the studies that had been given to the nuclear power generating companies warning of the likely risks of exactly the kind of earthquake that occurred (and no action taken), of the much greater extent that the radiation had spread, the huge amounts of soil that had been contaminated and had to be removed, the huge disagreements between the national government and the prefectures about where the contaminated soil would be kept, with Fukushima adamant that other prefectures must, in equity, also share in the burdens posed by the nuclear disaster, the complaints of rice and beef farmers whose products could not be sold because of the risks of contamination. All these documentaries will be of immense and continuing interest to other low-lying parts of the world which are vulnerable to tsunamis and earthquakes.

In my last few months in Kagoshima, the nightly news also came to be dominated by Japan joining the talks on the Trans Pacific Partnership free trade accord, which most studies showed would be extremely beneficial to Japan in the long run, with the benefits far outweighing the costs. However, with one likely outcome being the lowering of tariffs on a wide range of farm products such as rice and beef, the media showed huge emotional opposition from the million or so small rice and beef farmers who would in likelihood go out of business, severely undermining the stability of the Noda government. Similar issues are posed to small farmers all over the world whose countries join free trade areas or become subject to WTO decisions reducing protective tariffs.

The case of the Japanese rice farmers was interesting from many aspects which suggest that the problem was a manageable one and need not lead to a national political crisis. The rice grown in Japan was especially preferred by Japanese consumers (and even myself) compared to the other long-grain rice which had a drier texture and was seen as less tasty by Japanese consumers. One would have thought that even with imports being freed up, many Japanese would still stick to their own varieties (although it was thought that the American rice industry had produced a rice variety similar to the Japanese one). Second, the bulk of the Japanese rice farmers were quite old and might be expected to retire within a couple of decades. They could of course be given early retirement options subsidized by the state. Some rice farmers could be given assistance to either go onto alternative crops in demand in Japan, or alternative occupations in an economy with serious constraints on the supply of labour.

I found it unusual that in the national debate the government side did not seem to offer these kinds of constructive solutions which would enable Japan to enter into the free trade agreements without political crises, and allay the fears of the opposition that the farmers would be discarded in the interests of those who would gain.

I must mention one poignant documentary which inadvertently linked the Fukushima tsunami and nuclear disaster with the rice farming industry, and the economically active elderly. An elderly lady rice farmer in the tsunami hit area with nuclear radiation, was not allowed to grow rice in the current season, creating a deep sense of loss at being forced to become economically inactive. She was however corresponding with an elderly farmer on the other side of the island who had also been hit by an earthquake with many rice fields decimated. He also had been discouraged from planting rice, but chose to go ahead anyway, in order to provide seed for many other farmers who did not have any rice seed. When harvest time came for this farmer he writes and invites the old lady from the other side of the island to come and help him with the harvest, which she does, with deep happiness at being able to help another farmer, but with sadness that she was not able to do the same on her own farm.

It was a wonderful story, told so beautifully with sensitivity and emotion, and very appropriate footage. Hollywood would have made this into a beautiful love story for sixty and seventy year olds.

Why no English subtitles?

I have little doubt that most of these Japanese documentaries that I have discussed here would be fascinating for the West and English-speaking and viewing peoples. I did not need subtitles to understand the plots of most of them, but they would gain enormously with English sub-titles or with dubbing in English (not my favourite).

Here is a great commercial opportunity for someone to provide subtitles and/or dubbing into English, French, Hindustani etc, as an export industry for Japan. There would be ready markets everywhere in the world. I suggest below three areas where Kagoshima University and Kagoshima Prefecture could mount major initiatives without too much effort or resources, to improve their economic well-being over the next decade.

Section B: Missing big opportunities

Japan faces a major economic crisis following the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear power station disasters. Policy makers have to make the extremely difficult economic and political decision on the appropriate mix of increasing current personal and corporation taxes, or increasing the public debt for future generations to pay.

The choice is harder because Japanese economic growth for the last decade has been

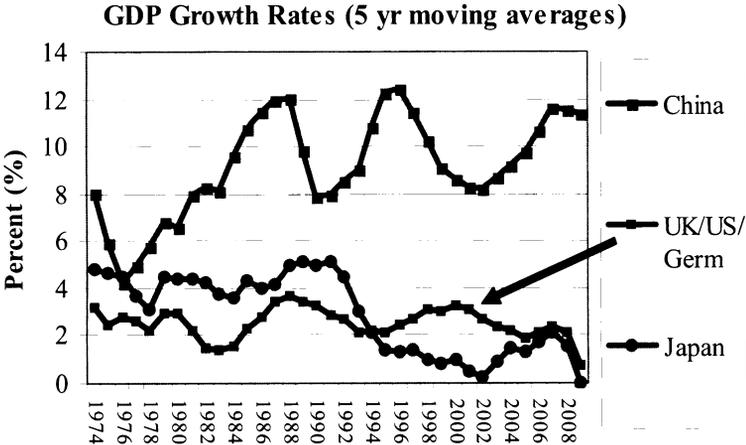
relatively poor and this situation may worsen and there is indeed a fear that Japan may go the same way as the European countries facing major debt crises. With the yen rising in value against the major trading partners, Japanese corporations are investing abroad, while Japanese consumers are buying the relatively cheaper imported goods.

It is surprising therefore to find that Japan has failed to take advantage of the full potential of the tourism industry, which could have contributed significantly to the Japanese economy over the last decade. In contrast, other similarly positioned countries, like China have benefited enormously.

Japan could still take advantage of global tourism which will probably grow again in the future once the global economy recovers. One important strategy would be to make Japan more comfortable for English speaking people, using some very simple measures that introduce English into the every-day life of Japanese people.

Poor economic performance

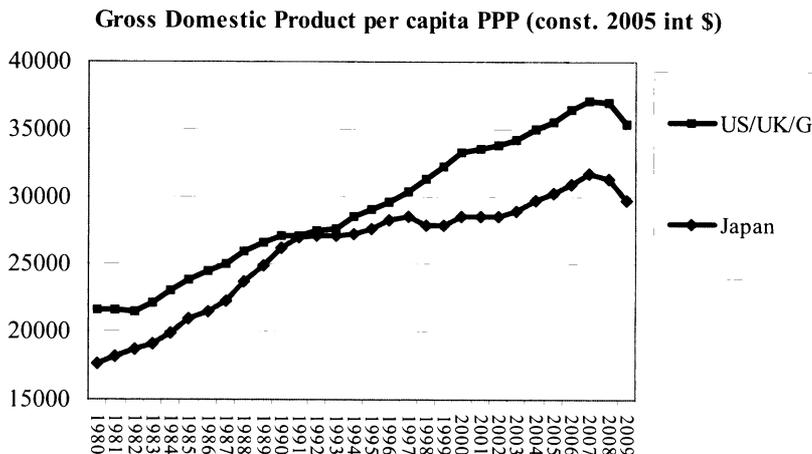
Graph 1 gives a clear indication of Japan’s poorer economic performance over the last decade. China has been averaging around 10 percent for more than twenty five years. The simple average of US, UK and Germany growth rates has been up and down between 2% and 4%.



Graph 1. GDP growth rates: Japan and other developed countries.

Japan from a high tier of around 4% during the seventies and eighties, dropped right down to a lower tier of below 2%, down to zero average growth for the last five years, and may be negative growth this year.

Standards of living in Japan, as indicated by GDP per capita, have not improved as much as it could have. Graph 2 indicates that while the average Gross Domestic Product per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) (international 2005 Constant US\$) for United States, UK and Germany has been steadily rising, that for Japan has leveled off in the nineties and this decade. The downward trend for Japan will now be worse following the tsunami and nuclear disaster.



Graph 2. Gross domestic product per capita (constant 2005 International dollars): Japan and US/UK/Germany average.

Japan already has one of the highest Central Government Debt to GDP ratio – of over 150%, compared to around 50% or less for the other developed countries such as US, Germany, and UK. This will severely curtail Japan’s ability to borrow more, although it may be able to finance some borrowing by running down their large holdings of US debt.

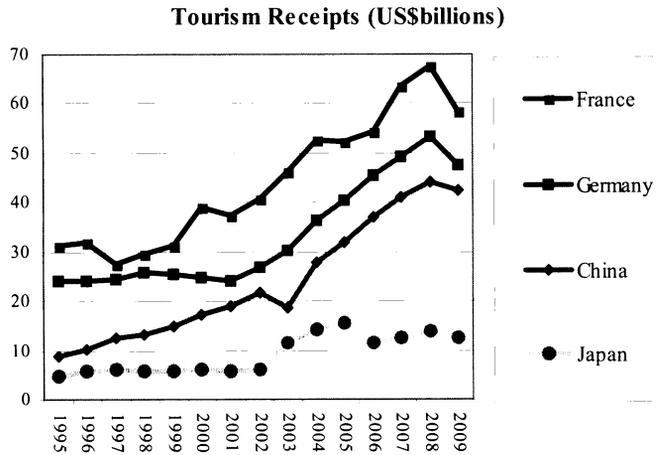
If Japan tries to increase taxes to pay for the reconstruction, that may discourage Japanese investment further. While the long-term pressure of looking after the rising proportion of elderly Japanese will further strain the economy. Japan must therefore find needs new sources of economic growth, and tourism can be one such source.

Poor tourism performance

Understandably, Japanese tourism has suffered since the nuclear disaster because of tourists’ fears of radiation. However, Japanese tourism was suffering long before that.

Graph 3 indicates clearly that from 1995, while China, Germany and France saw all saw large increases in tourism receipts, Japan saw stagnation for ten years from 1995 to

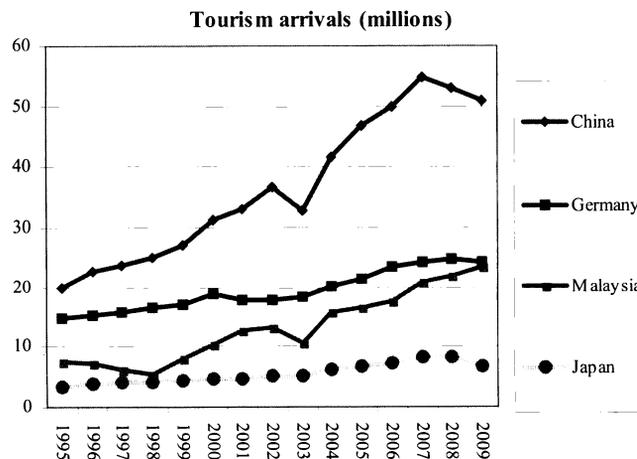
2005, a large increase for the first part of this decade and then another decline set in, which will have worsened this year.



Graph 3. Gross tourism receipts (US\$ billions): Japan and other developed countries.

Very roughly, Japan could have been earning some US\$30 billions more in tourism receipts in the last few years, had its tourism grown at the rate of Malaysia’s or China’s.

Graph 4 indicates the significant difference between the numbers of tourists visiting Japan and the other comparable countries. Japan is clearly the “odd one out”.



Graph 4. Tourism arrivals (millions): Japan and others.

China, who the world associates with industrial development, has gone from only 20 million in 1995 to more than 50 million now, and the numbers are still rapidly growing. Tourism has become an important part of China's economy, and will keep increasing, as a valuable support to its industrial economy. Malaysia has also seen very large increases to enable it reach Germany's levels by 2009.

So why has Japan's tourism industry not grown along with others?

A recent Japanese Report of the Research Committee on "Industry Measures to Enhance the Competitiveness of Japanese Tourism Industry" (Global Industrial and Social Progress Research Institute) tried to explain why. The Report addressed the usual tourism factors everywhere in the world: branding, marketing, infrastructure, what kind of culture to sell, eco-tourism, theme parks, the need for all industries to become tourism oriented, etc.

Oddly, there was no mention of the need to make the Japanese environment friendly for English speakers, who comprise a large part of international tourists, even from non-English speaking countries like Germany and France.

The Kagoshima example

Kagoshima may be out of the way of the usual tourist flows into Japan, yet it is potentially an extremely rich tourism location.

There is a spectacular active Sakurajima volcano close to the city, spewing smoke and occasionally ashes into the atmosphere; hot water springs and baths with supposed medical value; temples and cultural tours; a giant aquarium full of exotic sea creatures; beautiful under-utilised golf courses (such as the undulating hill-top Nagoku Country Club with magnificent views of Kagoshima Bay and Sakurajima); and a mild clement weather.

While Kagoshima seems to attract some Chinese and Korean tourists, there are few English-speaking tourists around. Part of the problem may be that the environment is extremely difficult for English-speaking persons. Most people do not understand English; there are few public signs in English; restaurants do not give menus in English; very few products in super-markets have descriptions in English; basic equipment which need to be used every day (rice cookers, washing machines, tv, etc) do not have instructions in English (and trial and error may take a frustrating week before things work smoothly).

I found it quite traumatic trying to get an over-the-counter medicine from a pharmacist who had no medicines with English descriptions on the packaging, who did not even have a list of all his medicines in English, and who was not able to understand that you are allergic to some compounds and may be in serious trouble if you ingest the wrong combination of drugs. English-speaking tourists falling ill without access to a doctor can be indeed in deep trouble.

Japanese television programs, many extremely interesting visually, never have subtitles

in English. Where a program's original dialogue may have been in English, the Japanese dubbing removes the conversation in English, and only Japanese conversation comes across.

There are English-teaching television programs (usually on at extremely odd hours such as 6 in the morning) where English lessons are given. It would be interesting to find out how many Japanese do use these programs to learn English.

If these programs have been around for several years, then the very fact that few people speak English would suggest that their impact is not significant.

It is also quite likely that major tourism destinations and the major (like Tokyo and Osaka) cities probably do have higher proportions of English understanding people. But even in a popular tourist city like Kyoto, it was extremely difficult to communicate with hotel operators on simple matters. The hotel would not be able to provide even a simple English map of the surrounding areas and facilities available to tourists.

However, the challenge is to encourage tourism growth in parts of Japan which have not been enjoying economic growth over the last two decades- such as Kagoshima.

Not maximizing education services

Quite related to tourism is the international students industry.

It is odd that while there were some 140 thousand foreign students studying in Japan, the majority are from China (61%) and Korea (14%) with the remainder divided up amongst the rest of the world.

As a recipient of US foreign students, Japan lags at 11th place behind even tiny Costa Rica, while Australia (with a total population of only 20 million or so) has twice as many US students as Japan (with a total population exceeding 100 million).

Yet selling tertiary education has become a phenomenal growth industry globally which has been taken advantage of by countries like US (more than 500 thousand), UK (more than 250 thousand) and even small countries like Australia (more than 250 thousand).

For UK and Australia, foreign students have not only become major export earners earning billions, but their marginal full cost foreign fee revenues enhance the quality of their tertiary institutions (which would struggle otherwise both in quality of students, staff and facilities) AND retain significant proportions of the graduates for their own growing economies.

Japan could do with all these benefits. With its declining population, Japan moreover faces an uphill battle to fill university places in many parts of Japan away from the centres, where the local economies are also struggling.

Kagoshima University is one example where the management is keen to "internationalise" their university, but seem to lack any innovative approach.

Yet there are other universities in Japan (such as Waseda University) which have

realised all the benefits not just of attracting foreign students, but also getting their own students to become proficient in English- to assist themselves become globalised professionals and assist Japanese corporations to become more successful globally.

It is also odd that only 17% of foreign students are enrolled in science (1.4%) and engineering (16%) courses, which one would expect Japanese universities to offer the most to foreign students, especially those from the other English speaking countries. On the other hand, Arts had 24%, Social Science had 39% and even Home Economics had 2% of foreign students.

Some suggestions

Probably the easiest way for ordinary people to slowly absorb some knowledge of “working English” is to introduce it into their everyday lives, in small bits.

With the mobile phone revolution, the Japanese-English dictionaries on phones need to be made user friendly and practical: not just with all the essentials but also the mode of translation. Japanese words need to be not just in Kanji script but also in English letters.

The Kagoshima University and Kagoshima City could be good places to start such an experiment.

All public signs in the University and the City could have both English and Japanese.

All restaurants on the University campus and the city could have alternative menus in both English and Japanese.

Bus and train stations, and bus-stops need to have timetables in English. And all this information should be on the web, in English.

All common products in super-markets could have labeling in English. This would apply not just to the hundreds of manufactured items like cheese, sauces, canned stuff, pickles, etc., but also to fresh produce like meats, marine foods, vegetables etc.

Essential products such as medicines must have parallel English descriptions, or at least every pharmacist must have full lists in English (with their Japanese counterparts of course) which can be referred to by English-speaking persons.

Restaurants which do make the effort can get proper “accreditation” so they attract more people.

Bars and restaurants could be accredited as English-speaking and with English menus, especially those around the University, thereby boosting their revenues.

Tourism tours around Kagoshima and popular sports venues such as golf-courses or tennis courts or swimming pools could be encouraged to become English-friendly.

Tourist brochures (in print and on the web) could highlight the features in English.

Where TV programs are running dialogue in English, there could be Japanese sub-titles, with the English voices allowed to run along-side.

There could be more Japanese programs which are dubbed in English. Currently there are only brief half hours of national news which are dubbed (quite well, I must add).

Japanese words which are based on English words, could be spoken exactly as the English would speak them, not in the Japanese version (which are not really genuine parts of ancient Japanese language and culture).

Need to use English experts

It is critical that the English language to be used anywhere in Japan is written by an English expert.

There are many signs in English in Kagoshima, where the meaning is clear to me, but the English used is inappropriate.

“Please close the door when you open it” seems funny to English speakers, although the meaning is clear: “Please, keep this door closed”.

One can find numerous such examples: “launch menu”; “orange source”; “cheap price”; etc.

The structure of English can be quite perplexing to non-English speakers. So it is important that when Japanese people are exposed to English, the syntax and grammar must be correct so that wrong syntax and words are not learnt, making it very difficult to “unlearn” afterwards.

I suspect that if there is a national effort to make Japan more “English-friendly”, one of the biggest beneficiaries would be Japanese tourism.

Of course, the high yen is a problem for tourism. But the high yen also encourages consumption of imported goods, and export of Japanese capital, while discouraging domestic investment.

A lower yen, would not only be better for Japanese tourism and the international student market, but also for the whole Japanese economy.

A greater awareness of English speaking could have many widespread benefits. This need not mean the undermining of Japanese culture and tradition, although no doubt Japanese culture, like most cultures world-wide, will acquire elements of the global culture that is developing throughout the world.

Fiji people, with their many languages and cultures, have been able to acquire a working knowledge of English at all levels of the society, without losing their traditions and cultures.

So much more

There are so many other facets of the Japanese experience I could write about: the many efficiency gizmos around the house, innovative space utilisation, the concern for the

elderly, the special care for the handicapped, the disciplined farming, strict observance of rules and regulations, the processing, presentation and packaging of foods, the contrast between the demeanor of the elderly and the young, strict political accountability with government ministers resigning over a minor careless remark, and of course, the golf courses.

Of course there are disconcerting experiences also (in addition to those I mention above) such as the backwardness of their mobile networks, the inflexibility in departing from set rules or menus, the national obsession with food and food preparation, and, in a time great international and domestic economic uncertainty, the continuing instability of Japanese political leadership which led even American journalists during a recent visit to USA by the Japanese Prime Minister to talk of the “revolving door for Japanese Prime Ministers”.

But these are minor matters in the overall experience of a wonderful, civilized country and polite, disciplined, hard-working rule-abiding people, with a long and enviable ancient history and culture. Japan offers so much to Pacific Islanders to absorb and learn from. I would have liked to stay longer, but my personal priorities required otherwise.

Instantly, I knew that this would give me an opportunity to get some insight into the coastal resource management systems in Japan. I was particularly interested in the role of cooperatives in fisheries management as being one of the oldest examples of formal co-management system that is based on traditional cultural practices. While the type of fisheries, scale of operations, environment and governance structures are in contrast to those found in the Pacific, I, nevertheless wanted to see if there are lessons to be learnt from the Japanese experience. In addition, I wanted to use the time and space to write on a project that I had already undertaken on Gender and Tuna.



Professor Wadan L. NARSEY (right) and his wife (left)

International Symposium

23 June 2011

Kusnoto building (LIPI) at Jalan Ir H.Juanda 18 Bogor, Indonesia

Small Islands -Ecology, Taxonomy and Ethnobiology-

The insular regions of Southeast Asia and Oceania have a common cultural background and now face the common crisis of the collapse of traditional society and subsistence activities under globalization and climate change. Low lying small islands and atolls in Southeast Asia and Oceania are especially affected by large scales because of their size and delicate ecology. For example, the sea rise damages costal ecology and many species are in danger now. Low lying land is particularly vulnerable to a rise in sea level and it is very difficult for people there to cultivate crops. There are, however, few studies surveying or comparing the two regions, Southeast Asia and Oceania.

The Research Center for the Pacific Islands, Kagoshima University, is a research institute which aims to promote interdisciplinary studies on islands and island-zones in Oceania and its surrounding regions. The results of the studies accumulated for more than 30 years are combined to promote comprehensive understanding of islands and islands zones and to further the welfare of people in Oceania and its surroundings. Lembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia (LIPI) also launched ecological and taxonomical survey especially on small islands in Indonesia several years ago.

The aim of this conference is to bring together the accumulation of area studies from different disciplines in the insular regions of Southeast Asia and Oceania, to discover common problems at present in the two regions, and to create networks of researchers among these regions.

This international symposium is supported by Research Center for the Pacific Islands, Kagoshima University, Joint Research and Publication: “Glocal Society: Collaborating and Building Bridges between the Insular Regions of Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands”, International Program of Collaborative Research, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University, and Research Center for Biology –LIPI.

09.00 - 09.15 Dr. Siti Nuramaliati Prijono (Head of Research Center for Biology –LIPI)

09.15 - 09.30 Dr. Shinichi Noda (Director, Research Center for the Pacific Islands, Kagoshima University)

09.30 - 09.50 Dr. Sota Yamamoto (Research Center for the Pacific Islands, Kagoshima

- University): “Ethnobotanical research on *Capsicum* in Micronesia”
- 09.50 - 10.10 Dr. Rugayah: “Plant diversity and its ethnobotanical potential in Wowonii Island, Southeast Sulawesi”
- 10.10 - 10.30 Dr. Edi Mirmanto: “Small island biodiversity: case study on plant diversity and vegetation types of Raja Ampat Island, West Papua”
- 10.30 - 10.50 Prof. Dr. Mulyadi: “Studies on the family Pontellidae (Copepoda, Calanoida) in Indonesian waters, with notes on its species groups”
- 10.50 - 11.10 Dr. Jeremy Miller: “Integrating and sharing biodiversity data online: museum science and international collaboration in the age of cybertaxonomy”
- 11.10 - 12.00 Discussion
- 12.00 - 13.00 Lunch time
- 13.00 - 13.20 Dra.Renny Kurnia Hadiati: “The freshwater fish diversity of the small islands in Indonesia”
- 13.20 - 13.40 Dr. Kei Kawai (Research Center for the Pacific Islands, Kagoshima University): “Integrate-disciplinary evaluation of ecology-economy interacting system in marine resources”
- 13.40 - 14.00 Dr. Evy Ayu Arida: “The small islands of Wallacea: taxonomic and conservation perspectives from the Monitor lizards (Reptilia: Varanidae)”
- 14.00 - 14.20 Dr. Arjan Boonman: “Rapid assessments using bat-detectors”
- 14.20 - 15.00 Discussion
- 15.00 Closing by Dr. Joeni Setijo Rahajoe (Head of Botany Division, Research Center for Biology –LIPI)

International Workshop

24th August 2011

The University of the South Pacific

**Interaction between Nature and People in the Coastal Areas of Fiji:
A Case Study of an Important Industrial Species**

The traditional social system usually entails a more balanced relationship between human activity and the ecosystem, resulting in sustainable natural resource use. However, various environmental changes, such as globalization and global warming, have been thought of as important factors that affect local communities and natural environments worldwide. Coastal villages in Fiji still maintain traditional communal and land use systems,

however, Fijian villages are also affected by such changes. Therefore, they present an excellent opportunity to study the changes from traditional to modernized human activity in a positive relationship with the surrounding ecosystem. To study the interaction between nature and people in the coastal areas of Fiji, we focused on the bivalve KAIKOSO (*Anadara* spp.) which is an important industrial species and we adopted the integrated disciplinary approach using STRUCTURAL EQUATION MODELING.

Here, we will propose a case study the ecological functions and human uses of KAIKOSO that allow for a sustainable and balanced environmental relationship.

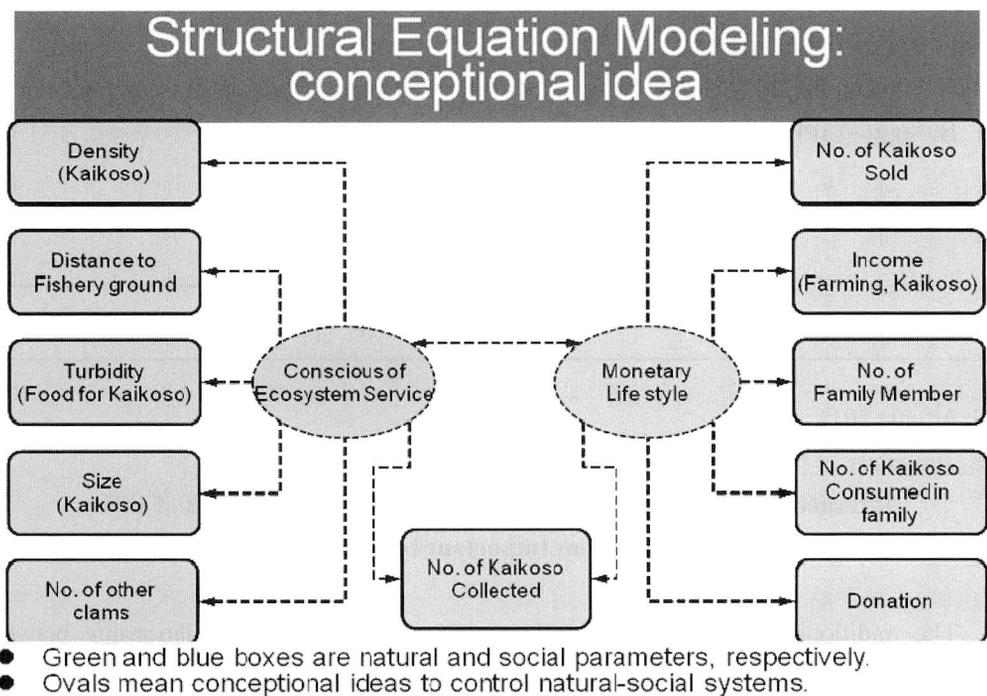
10:00-10:10: Purpose of the project (Kei KAWAI)

10:10-10:30: Socio-economic research on the well-being of villagers in Fiji: resource management and health (Satoru NISHIMURA)

10:30-10:50: Functional roles of mud clam “Kaikoso” in mangrove-coral ecosystems (Toru KOBARI, Yusuf BOHADI, Kei KAWAI)

10:50-11:10: Integrated disciplinary research in an ecological and economical interacting system (Kei KAWAI, Satoru NISHIMURA, Toru KOBARI, Takashi TORII)

11:10-11:40: General discussion



The hypothesis in the model

Fijian local people have “conscious of ecosystem service” and “monetary life style” and both concept affect both environmental condition in Kaikoso and the life in the village people

No.112, 7 March 2011

“Where the Japanese Pandanus from? Botanical topics of Pandanaceae”

Junko MIYAMOTO (Graduate School of Science and Engineering, Kagoshima University)

[ABSTRACT]

Pandanaceae is a family of the monocotyledons and distributes mainly in the tropics in Africa, Asia and Oceania. Four genera comprise this family. The genus *Pandanus* includes 600 - 700 species. The genus *Freicinetia* consists of approximately 200 species. Two small genera, *Sararanga* and *Martellidendron*, include two and seven species, respectively. Some species are found in the subtropical natural habitat in Japan. *Pandanus odoratissimus* L. fil (*P. tectorius* Sol. var. *liukuensis* Warb.) grows in the Ryukyu and Daito Islands. A population of this species in Kuchinoshima of the Tokara Islands in Kagoshima prefecture is a northern limit of the distribution of Pandanaceae. *Pandanus odoratissimus* is a widespread species in tropical Asia and *P. tectorius* is a species in the Pacific Islands. *Pandanus boninensis* Warb. is an endemic species in the Bonin (Ogasawara) Islands. *Freicinetia formosana* Hemsley is growing in Ishigakijima and Iriomotejima of the Ryukyu Islands, and Chichijima and Hahajima of the Bonin Islands. *Freicinetia williamsii* Merrill, grows in Iriomotejima. These two species of *Freicinetia* are found in Taiwan and Philippines. A new species, *P. daitoensis* Susanti et J. Miyam. was described from Kitadaitojima in 2009. Recent topics of Taxonomy and Phylogeny of the Japanese *Pandanus* and its related species will be presented in this seminar.

No.113, 18 April 2011

“What can marine microbiology achieve for activation of the local government and regional community in inland?”

Hiroto MAEDA (Faculty of Fisheries, Kagoshima University)

[ABSTRACT]

The speaker was return to the Faculty of Fisheries, Kagoshima University from Mie University. From the experience of activity in Mie University during six years, some hints for activation of regional inland community will be presented.

A first topic is the introduction of activity of Owase deepsea water center, which was established by Owase city government in 2008. Owase is located in the southern end of Mie prefecture, and it was developing as a fisheries city like an isolated inland city. The center aims to promote the utilization of deep-sea water and to develop a new business using it.

Through the center, Mie University collaborated to Owase city government for enhancement of utilization deep-sea water mainly correlated with fisheries. The speaker introduces the above movement and points out the issue for future.

The second topic is the establishment and development of Iga Research Institute of Mie University. Mie University, Social Cooperation Research Center, works to deepen cooperation among industry, government, and university, utilize intellectual property of Mie University, and promote distinctive research and development. The center aims to contribute to research and education by Mie University and improve industries, culture, and welfare services of regional communities. As a branch of the center, a new institute has recently been completed. The Iga Research Institute of Mie University was established in April 2009 for the purpose of activating the collaboration with local industry and regional authority, Iga city. The city is famous for Ninja and characterized as very exclusive city from old time. The speaker presents the story of establishment of the institute from the viewpoint of the university, and introduces the biomass town project as an example of collaboration.

Finally, some possibilities of contribution to develop the local government and regional community will be discussed from the standpoint of the applied science like as marine microbiology.

No.114, 23 May 2011

“An aspect of the issues on processes for autonomisation in the Pacific: through case studies on Cook Islands / Niue in the review by New Zealand Governmental Committee, and on Rapanui activities for autonomisation against the response of Chile”

Noboru TAMAI (Department of Intercultural Studies, Oita Prefectural College of Arts and Culture)

[ABSTRACT]

While historically almost all the Islands in the Pacific had commonly been colonised, there are nowadays several political statuses such as independent states, self governing states in free association with other big powers, commonwealth, overseas territory or dependency. Among politically non-independent islands in the Pacific, almost islands have tried to pave the way to autonomisation and self reliance even though some of them self-determined the partly nonsovereign status. Such islands, however, have faced issues on the autonomisation processes.

In Rapanui, calls for autonomisation or even independence have been heightened among indigenous group, whereas Chile government has strengthened the response against them. On the other hand, Cook Islands and Niue are referred as failure cases in terms of autonomisation according to the governmental report of New Zealand on assistance to the

Pacific Islands. In order to study an aspect of the issues associated with the autonomisation processes in the Pacific, case studies on Rapanui, or Ester Island, Cook Islands and Niue are supposed to be analysed in this presentation.

No.115, 10 June 2011

“Poverty issues in Pacific Islands”

Wadan L. NARSEY (Research Center for the Pacific Islands, Kagoshima University)

[ABSTRACT]

The Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are in an unusual situation in the context of poverty analysis in the developing world. They cannot be classified amongst the poorest less developed countries (LDCs), neither can they be classified as the More Developed Countries (MDCs). As such, internationally used criteria such as the Basic Needs Poverty Line of US\$2 PPP per adult per day for poverty analysis, is not suitable for the PICs. Neither are the standards used in MDCs which are far too high for meaningful use.

This presentation will explain the current methods used by some multilateral organisations (such as ADB and World Bank) to analyse the incidence of poverty in select PICs (Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Tuvalu), some of the drawbacks, and the author’s own approaches.

Indicative estimates are given, while indirect approaches are also explained. The need for the poverty analysis to be useful for indicators for specific poverty alleviation policies will be emphasized and the results.

No.116, 4 July 2011

“Phylogenetic relationships and characteristics of local citrus grown in Amami Islands”

Masashi YAMAMOTO (Faculty of Agriculture, Kagoshima University)

[ABSTRACT]

Explorations of local citrus germplasms were undertaken on eight islands of the Amami archipelago. Results showed that *Citrus keraji* var. *kabuchii* was growing on almost all explored islands; *C. depressa*, *C. nobilis* and *C. rokugatsu* were also common on four to six islands; *C. oto*, *C. aurantium*, and *C. maxima* were growing on more than one island; and *C. keraji* and *C. tangerina* were observed respectively only in Kikaijima and Amami Oshima Islands. Based on the results of isozyme and DNA analyses, *C. depressa* and *C. nobilis* played a part in the origin of many local *Citrus* in this region. Content of polymethoxy flavones, one of the most important phytonutrient of citrus, in fruit of *C. keraji* was higher than that of other citrus. Thus, *C. keraji* is considered to be promising for source of supply of phytonutrient.

No.117, 13 September 2011

“Special status of Japan in international cooperation”

Yasuhisa KATO (Center for International Planning, Kagoshima University)

[ABSTRACT]

Despite a long history, more than 150 years, of international cooperation since Meiji restoration, Japan is now openly promoting “internationalization”. The word of “internationalization”, however, contains a meaning that we have not yet started an active international cooperation. It can be understood that Japan has actively introduced various technologies and services which were needed for our modernization process, but has not accepted others which were less important for our daily life. Japan has considered the necessity of international cooperation as “Dejima (treated as unusual in daily life)”. We may also consider that “Japan can manage the country without relying too much on the foreign countries.” which can be a base of consideration on “Closing door to outside because internal situation is relatively happy”.

No.118, 17 October 2011

“Kerama deer and children”

Akira ENDO (Faculty of Human Development, Minami-Kyushu University)

[ABSTRACT]

The Kerama deer (*Cervus nippon keramae*) is considered to be originated from several individuals of the Sika deer introduced from Kyushu island to one of Kerama Group islands about 400 years ago. They are now distributed in four islands of the Kerama Group: Aka-jima, Geruma-jima, Yakabi-jima and Fukachi-jima. In Geruma-jima, deer research activity has been putting in school as part of the curriculum over a decade. Successive 3rd-4th grade elementary students have been studying on Kerama deer at school during two years, and they have been making presentation of their findings from researches at annual meeting of The Biological Society of Okinawa. In the seminar, I'll show the ecology of Kerama deer firstly, and then, the research activity in class, and children's learning processes and achievements. Lastly, I'll stress the superiority of rural education in present education.

No.119, 14 November 2011

“Suffered from the disaster in Utopia -message from Harano Agricultural Museum-”

Kozo HARANO (Harano Agricultural Museum, Amami Culture Foundation)

[ABSTRACT]

On October 10, 2010, Harano Agricultural Museum was suffered from an avalanche of

earth and rocks caused by heavy rain and our exhibitions were severely damaged. The museum was opened in 1964 in Osaka, and it was moved to Amami Oshima in 1988 because there are “fresh air”, “clean water”, “deep forests” and “beautiful mountains”. We regarded the natural environment in Amami Oshima as the most important thing and we did not seek the traffic convenience or tourists. We have tried to conserve the nature in Amami Oshima. However, the museum has been forced into a tight corner due to the disaster. A landslide occurred nearby the museum seems to be “a man-made disaster” related to Amashin (Special Measure Law for Amami Islands Development) rather than “a natural disaster”.

No.120, 19 December 2011

“Fisheries in Bangladesh and its contribution to the national economy”

Zoarder Faruque AHMED (Research Center for the Pacific Islands, Kagoshima University)

[ABSTRACT]

Bangladesh is enriched with extensive and huge qualitative water resources distributed all over the country in the form of different types of ponds, beels, lakes, boropits, small and large rivers, estuaries and the marine water in the Bay of Bengal, covering an area of about 28 million hectares. There are three categories of major fisheries resources: these are 1) Inland freshwater 2) Brackish water and 3) Marine water. The Department of Fisheries estimates that annual production of fish was about 2701370 metric tons in 2008-2009, of which capture fisheries contributed 1175389 metric tons. Inland capture fisheries provided 1123925 and the marine was 514644 metric tons. Fish production has increased at a rate of about 3.6% per year over the period 1980-1981 through 2004-2006. However, the increase in fish production is mainly attributable to the rise in production from inland culture fisheries, particularly from shrimp farms, and catch from artisanal marine fisheries.

Fisheries sector has been playing a significant role since long past. Contribution of this sector to Bangladesh economy is very important and there is ample scope of exploring huge potential. The contribution of fisheries to the economy of Bangladesh is substantial particularly with reference to food, consumption, nutrition, employment and export. According to Fisheries 2003-2004 statistics, 4.91 of the GDP is contributed by the fisheries sector, which is highest among South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) member countries that accounts for about 20% of the total agricultural products. However, the above figures do not reflect fisheries-related activities such as processing, transportation and marketing. Fisheries sector contributes 5.7% to the country’s total export earning. Fish alone is supplementing about 63% of the animal protein of our daily national diet. Approximately 10% of the total population of Bangladesh are directly or indirectly dependent on fisheries and related activities for their livelihood.

The Department of Fisheries under Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock of the Government of Bangladesh is carrying out activities related to providing animal protein to the huge population of Bangladesh through conservation, proper management and planned development of fisheries resources, uplifting socio-economic condition of the fishermen, creating employment opportunity for the rural unemployed and landless people, and widening avenue for earning more foreign currency by exporting fish, shrimp and fisheries products.

No.121, 16 January 2012

“The plant life-types of coastal vegetation in Chuuk and Nansei Islands”

Motohiro KAWANISHI (Faculty of Education, Kagoshima University)

[ABSTRACT]

The coastal vegetation that established in boundary between sea and land is one of the characteristic elements of island landscape. In general, growth of many kinds of plants is restricted in coastal environment i.e. high salinity, poor soil, wind damage and ground instability. Therefore, species composition of coastal plant community often is very simple. On the other hand, species composition and structure of the coastal plant communities vary among the topographical or geographical condition. I will compare life type spectrum of the coastal plants in Chuuk islands and Nansei Islands, and discuss ecological commonality and the diversity of the coastal vegetation.

No.122, 9 February 2012

“Prehistoric development of domestication studied by isotope analysis of fossil bone from archaeological sites around the East China Sea”

Masao MINAGAWA (Faculty of Environmental Earth Science, Hokkaido University)

[ABSTRACT]

Radionuclides from nuclear power plants explosion remind us that our life is directly depended on natural products from land or ocean ecosystems. Generally it is not easy to recognize such relationship between human life and natural substances unless specific indicators like pollutants are occasionally available. Recently, stable isotope analysis has become more relevant to reveal biological origin and resources common in an ecosystem, because carbon and nitrogen stable isotopes can be ideal tracers reflecting initial states of the ecosystem and already applied for plant and animal ecology as well as ecological anthropology. In this lecture, a case study to study ancient human behavior related with domestication of animals and trading across the East China Sea will be presented. Isotopic

analyses of fossil bones from archaeological sites showed different dietary pattern of pig or boar depend on the sites and the age, suggesting that in China, Korean peninsular and Ryukyu islands had developed each unique feeding methods to use domesticated boar or pigs in each history. General advantages and disadvantages to apply isotopic analysis method for various subjects will be also summarized.

No.123, 20 February 2012

“Wonderful marine world for geology”

Kimihiko OHKI (the Kagoshima University Museum)

[ABSTRACT]

In the early 1970's, I collected a lot of bottom surface sediments of sea areas by the research vessel “Keiten-maru and Kagoshima-maru” owned by the Faculty of Fisheries, Kagoshima University. I clarified the sedimentary environments of Kagoshima Bay from sedimentological and paleoecological point of view and published the results in South Pacific Study in 1989. In the period from 1981 to 1993, marine ecological study on the habitat of *Nautilus pompilius*, the Monbuscho International Scientific Research Program were carried out in south Pacific and the results were published in five Occasional Papers, Kagoshima University Research Center for the south Pacific. I would like to speak about brief outline of these projects.

No.124, 29 February 2012

“Action, pedagogy, theory: a commentary on Pacific islander studies”

Keith L. CAMACHO (Department of Asian American Studies, University of California, Los Angeles)

[ABSTRACT]

This talk explores the making of Pacific Islander Studies in the continental United States, with an emphasis on California. As a burgeoning academic field, Pacific Islander Studies partly draws from Pacific Studies and Pacific Islands Studies, with its antecedents in the Cold War brands of anthropology and area studies. In these and related studies, Pacific Islanders are often understood as discrete, indigenous collectives, whose notions of place and power reside in the various atolls and archipelagoes of the region. Notwithstanding the contributions of diaspora and migration scholars, however, very little research has examined Pacific Islander communities beyond these locales, and especially in the continental U.S. This talk examines, then, the various intellectual, historical, and political formations of Pacific Islander Studies in California, an area where some of the most robust articulations

and contestations of this new field have taken place. A central aspect of these debates has been the methodological turn to ethnic studies and indigenous studies, and to the ways in which their analytical categories, institutional capacities, and political praxes advance (or not) Pacific Islander calls for decolonization and social justice.

No.125, 12 March 2012

“A retrospection – the Amami Access Centre and my research”

Makoto YAMADA (Faculty of Law, Economic and Humanities, Kagoshima University)

[ABSTRACT]

There was a dramatic change of the legislative framework for Japanese national universities in the early 2000's. After then, Kagoshima University increased its use of the Amami Islands, which are located between Kyusyu and Okinawa, as a basis for research and education. As one of the people involved in the process from the early stages, if I look back, I feel like I have witnessed a historic change in Japanese national universities and their surroundings and a mitigation of the nervous historical relationship between Kagoshima and Amami Islands.

The Amami Access Centre was established at the same time that I was involved in two research projects on Amami, one funded with a JSPS grant, the other an interfaculty research project of Kagoshima University. However these were both started for different reasons and developed quite separately. In spite of that, as one of the masterminded behind all three projects, I feel proud that as a result my contribution has been able to heighten our university's presence in the islands, which until then had not been so great for both historical reasons and also that other universities had already forged connections with the islands. From a personal perspective, my own Amami-based research had also been limited to just one sensational paper written long ago before that interfaculty project began. Since then I have had the opportunity to visit Amami on many occasions mostly for meetings or to give classes at the access centre, although the amount of times I have been able to conduct research there is however relatively few. In fact, as it turns out, the most I have been able to study about Amami has been from student's reports in class. In this way, the connection between my research and the access centre has grown, for which I am extremely grateful to my students.

Field Research

- 1) Interdisciplinary research in Takeshima island Kagoshima, from 9-11 May 2011.



Research members

- 2) Interdisciplinary research in Weno, Romanum and Piis islands, Chuuk state, Federated States of Micronesia, from July 25th to August 29th 2011.



Research members



Piis Islands, Chuuk Atoll



Collecting mosquitoes in Piis Island



Interviewing in Romanum



Interviewing in Weno



Vegetation survey in Piis Island



Pictures with People in Piis Island



Pictures with People in Romanum Island

Recent Publications

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Research Papers

CAMPBELL I.: Tongan Political Reform: The Odd-One-Out in Pacific Politics

HOSSAIN Md. S., HOSSAIN Md. A., MAMUN Md. A., ALI Md. Z., BULBUL M., KOSHIO S. and KADER Md. A.: Evaluation of Rice Bran and Wheat Bran as Supplemental Feed Compared to a Commercial Feed for Monoculture of GIFT Strain of Tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) in Bangladesh

KOBARI T., HIJYAMA K., MINOWA M. and KITAMURA M.: Depth Distribution, Biomass and Taxonomic Composition of Subtropical Microbial Community in Southwestern Japan

Notes

INOUE Y.: A Pilot Analysis of the Role of Learning Styles in Online Learning Environments: The Case of an American Pacific Island University

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Research Papers

YAMAMOTO M., NASRIL N., NINOMIYA T., KUBO T. and TOMINAGA S.: Fruit Characteristics, Chromosome and DNA Profiles of Four Mandarins (*Citrus reticulata* Blanco) Collected in West Sumatra, Indonesia

NAKANO K.: A Markedly Important Aspect of the Human Ecology of Swidden Cultivation: the Labour Requirements for Producing Staple Crops in Solomon Islands and North Thailand

Materials

NARSEY W. L.: Patterns of Marine Food Consumption in Fiji: Changes between 2002-03 and 2008-09

Occasional papers No. 51 (March 2011)

Interdisciplinary Research in the Small Islands, Subtropical Zone. (KUWAHARA S. and KAWAI K. eds.)

Occasional papers No. 52 (March 2011)

The Development Towards Affluent and Homeostatic KAGOSHIMA Islands. (TOMINAGA S. and NAGASHIMA S. eds.)

KAGOSHIMA UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTER
FOR THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

1-21-24, Korimoto, Kagoshima 890-8580, JAPAN ●

TEL: +81-99-285-7394

FAX: +81-99-285-6197

E-mail: shimaken@cpi.kagoshima-u.ac.jp

WWW Homepage URL: <http://cpi.kagoshima-u.ac.jp/index.html>

鹿児島大学国際島嶼教育研究センター
郵便番号 890-8580

鹿児島市郡元1丁目21番24号

電話 099-285-7394

ファクシミリ 099-285-6197