

## FOREWORD

The Kagoshima University Research Center for the South Pacific has been organizing several series of research projects called "Scientific Survey of the South Pacific" since 1981, funded by the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture of Japan. Since 1994, the new series of projects focusing on Micronesia was begun, utilizing the training ship, the Keiten-maru, of the Faculty of Fisheries of Kagoshima University. In 1995, the second year of this series, the field survey for this research project was carried out in the Republic of Palau. This was our second time to carry out a survey on Palau Islands, the first being in 1986. Therefore, we found the 1995 survey all the more significant, because we now had a chance to observe recent changes in the state and condition of the islands from the viewpoints of the various disciplines.

The field survey for this research project was successfully conducted in cooperation with personnel of the Palau Mariculture Demonstration Center and many other staff of the Government and research institutes. The research project was designed to look into the ecological, bioproductive and sociocultural features of natural and human environments of Palau Islands. While we stayed there for fifteen days, we carried out research activities in such islands as Koror, Babeldaob, Peleliu and Kayangel. Each survey was performed with the close cooperation of scientists and people of the relevant offices and institutes in Palau. Consequently, even though our stay was only for two weeks, we could obtain remarkable results with their help and coordination. I should like express my sincere gratitude to all the persons and organizations concerned in the Republic of Palau.

The Japanese research party consisted of four survey teams in accordance with their fields of specialization as follows:

- 1) Appropriate agricultural development in relation to the terrestrial environment.
- 2) Development of marine biological resources and conservation of the marine environment.
- 3) Development of the system of administration and its relationship to cultural autonomy.
- 4) Some biological aspects of oceanography.

This volume brings out the first reports of field surveys and prompt analyses after our return from Palau. More detailed reports will follow in the near future. We hope that the survey results in this report will contribute, directly and indirectly, to the development of agriculture, fisheries, and the actual daily lives of the people of the Republic of Palau.

We deeply appreciate the utmost kindness of Mr. Marcelino Melairei, Minister of Resources and Development, and his staff, and Mr. Andres Uherbelau, Minister of State, and his staff. We are also deeply thankful to Mr. John C. Gibbons, Executive Administrator of Koror State, and Mr. Jackson R. Ngiraingas, Governor of Peleliu State.

The survey party owes its success particularly to Mr. Demei O. Otobed, Director of Bureau of Natural Resources and Development, and his staff, and Ms. Faustina K. Rehuher, Director of Belau National Museum, and her staff.

We do not know how we can adequately thank the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture of Japan which financially supported us. We also wish to express our deepest gratitude to Dr. Shozo Hayasaka, President of Kagoshima University, for his encouragement of our project, and to the staff of the Faculty of Fisheries and the administrative staff of Kagoshima University for their tireless efforts.

Finally, we deeply regret that we could not obtain a foreword to this publication from our Palauan counterpart despite our sincere wish to do so.

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