

Report on World Wetland Day (WWD) 2007 in Shimane Prefecture

In Shimane Prefecture, Shinji-ko and Nakaumi Ramsar sites enforce various measures such as the five- year plan which aims to maintain and restore the marine resources of both lakes, in order to achieve wise use. We heard reports about some of the events held on and around WWD on 'wetlands and fisheries' in Shimane Prefecture. We will make an effort to continuously widen the ring of such activities in the future.

At Shinjiko Nature Museum 'Gobius' near Shinji-ko, the exhibition 'Ramsar Convention and Wetlands in the World' was held from 16 December 2006-5 February 2007. About 14,400 people, up about 155% from the same period last year, saw the exhibition and they deepened their understanding about Ramsar Convention and WWD, through watching the panel which introduce the fishermen of Shinji-ko have always agreed with each other on the amount of corbicula clams taken and fishing time, making 'Do-it-yourself-Fish', and so on.

In addition, in Matsue City, capital of Shimane Prefecture, the international symposium on the 'Restoration and Sustainability of Estuaries and Coastal Lagoons-Towards the Wise Use of Lakes Shinji and Nakaumi', was held by the Research Center for Coastal Lagoon Environments of Shimane University, with the support of the organs concerned such as Shimane Prefecture, from 26-28 January 2007. In the symposium, the case study lectures of Chilika Lagoon in India by Mr. Ajit K. Pattnaik (Former Director of the Chilika Development Authority which won the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award in 2002), Songkla Lake Basin in Thailand by Mr. Chanchai Thanawood (Prince of Songkla University) and the restoration of a New Zealand estuary by Ms. Karyne M. Rogers (Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences Ltd.) were given. As well as this, many university researchers, NPO, the Nakaumi Fishery Cooperative and so on reported results of research and their activities. More than a total of 400 participants deepened their understanding about the restoration and sustainability of estuaries and coastal lagoons

Furthermore, in Matsue City on 3 February 2007, the symposium on 'The Possibility of Ecotourism at Shinji-ko and Nakaumi' was held by Shimane Prefecture, Gobius, and other interested parties. In the symposium, NPOs which work in the area of ecotourism and specialists gave lectures. Shimane Prefecture carried out monitor tours of ecotourism at Shinji-ko for people in the metropolitan area in December 2006, and will carry out tours for people in Hiroshima Prefecture in February and March 2007. Tour visitors would be able to enjoy seeing more than 3,000 White-fronted Geese, the largest figure in Western Japan, as well as sampling Miso soup with corbicula clams, which is one of the local specialties

< photograph 1. >

Mr. Ajit. K. Pattnaik at the international symposium in Matsue City. (photographed by Mr. Kaname Kamiya)



< photograph2. >

The symposium on 'The Possibility of Ecotourism at Shinji-ko and Nakaumi' in Matsue City.

