

WWD 2007 in Japan Akkeshi Symposium "Nature and Town Planning in Akkeshi"

Akkeshi symposium "Nature and Town Planning in Akkeshi" was held for WWD 2007 at Akkeshi Information Center from 13:30 on February 3, 2007 by Akkeshi Symposium Executive Committee with support of NHK Kushiro Broadcast Station, The Hokkaido Newspaper Kushiro Office, Kushiro Newspaper and Akkeshi-cho Board of Education.

The aim of this symposium was offering the chance for stakeholders to discuss in public in order to balance between use and conservation of waters. Regarding on the theme "Fish for Tomorrow?" for the WWD 2007 on February 2, the celebration events for WWD 2007 in worldwide and communication activities of Ramsar Convention on the matter were introduced in the symposium.

Coordinator: Mr. Hiroshi Mukai, Professor of Hokkaido University

Panelists: Mr. Satoshi Kobayashi, Professor of Kushiro Public University of
Economics

Mr. Mitsutaku Makino, NRIFS (National Research Institute of
Fisheries Science, Fisheries Research
Agency)

Mr. Kazuyoshi Kawasaki, President of Akkeshi Fisheries Cooperative
Association

Mr. Yoshiji Miyakawa, President of Akkeshi Tourist Association

Mr. Yashushi Wakasa, Mayor of Akkeshi-cho

Contents

[Local Fishing Industry]

In Lake Akkeshi and Gulf Akkeshi variety of fisheries are carried out and their environment has changed e.g. shifting from natural breeding oyster reef to farmed short-neck clam reef. The challenges are 1) how to utilize the Lake Akkeshi and Gulf Akkeshi depending as basis of activities for fishery and 2) to establish a comprehensive sanitary management system in the market on the premises of offering safe marine products. For the sustainable fishery in the future, it is indispensable to conserve the marine environment and resources for our children with conservation for the stable productivity, efforts and fishery environment, our trying to match with nature.

[From Local Government Authority]

Through the development of comfortable environment matched with nature and activated industry especially on fishery industry, conservation of nature environment and product of safe food as well as popular tourism are taskforces.

The concrete items to accomplish this goal are as follows:

Development of comfortable environment matched with nature

- * Conservation measures regarding chain of nature from mountain forests to lake and gulf
- * Active management of environment management system in Akkeshi-cho
- * Green circulation concept (preservation of water quality in gulf and lakes by forest maintenance)
- * Expansion of sewerage area for conservation of water quality

Development of active industry - Fishery Industry

- * Support to projects by fisheries cooperative association
- * Development and maintenance of fisheries
- * Water quality assessment and information sharing regarding gulf and lakes
- * Promotion of products with Akkeshi brand name
(e.g. Kakiemon (endemic oyster), Oguro Sanma (endemic saury))

Tourism

- * Organizing events appealing landscape and food products in Akkeshi
(reconstruction of management system and development of facility for Cherry blossom fest, Ayame (German Iris) Fest, Oyster fest)
- * Designation of Akkeshi prefectural nature park as a quasi-national park by promoting further efforts for understanding among stakeholders

WWD 2007 in Japan Kushiro-shitsugen Ramsar Site

To celebrate WWD on February 3, 2007, an event titled WWD Program “Eco-tour in Winter” for local residents was held by Kushiro International Wetland Center.

The participants were heading for Lake Toro by SL (Steam Locomotive), which runs on east side of Kushiro-shitsugen for a limited time, and enjoyed the views of winding Kushiro River and wetland in winter from the window. On the lake side 23 participants were tracing for wildlife by observing the plants in high moor of sphagnum in winter and colonies of grey heron around lake forests.

And they visited on the lake and watched the “Omiwatari”, an ice road crossing the lake side by side as if god were walking across the lake, created by extreme temperatures and spring water flowing into the Lake Toro. They also enjoyed eating of fried pond smelt fished from the lake and observing of ice by instruction of Lake Toro Eco Museum Center.

By using five senses with experience of hearing sound and feeling cold in nature, and tasting fish which grew in this water environment, as well as observation of spring waters flowing into the lake from lake forests and ice, participants were considering about theme of WWD 2007 “Fish for tomorrow?”.

WWD 2007 in Japan Biwa-ko Waterbird Bird Walk Events

To celebrate the WWD, 2 February, “Biwa-ko Waterbird Census” events are held in 8 places annually in Shiga Prefecture altogether supported by Biwa-ko Ramsar Convention Liaison Council. WWD 2007, “Biwa-ko Waterbird Census Event” was held on February 4, 2007 by Biwa-ko Ramsar Convention Council.

World Wetland Day 2007– at Nakaumi Ramsar Site in Japan

On February 4, 2007 from 13:00 to 16:00, an event titled “Quiz: You are the real Dr. on Nakaumi” was held at an observatory of nature center in Yonago Waterbirds Sanctuary to celebrate World Wetland Day by Nakaumi Waterbirds International Exchange Foundation and Chukai Cable Television. Nakaumi is a lagoon located on the boarder of Tottori and Shimane Prefecture, designated as Ramsar Sites in November 2005. There were three programs as follows:

1) Quiz: You are the real Dr. on Nakaumi! 13:00 – 14:30

9 teams consists of 3 students of elementary school per team competed how well they know about Ramsar Convention and Nakaumi site by answering the quiz. The winning team was gifted book coupons.

2) Quiz on Number of Tundra Swan: 14:30 – 14:40

Quiz on the number of Tundra Swan present in Nakaumi at 13:00 on February 4, 2007. Nakaumi is located at the southernmost wintering ground of Tundra Swan breeding in the Tundra. From public the forecasted numbers have been openly collected since late January 2007 and the winner applicant who forecasted the most approximate number towards 71 won a round trip ticket to Korea by Ashiana Airlines.

3) Spiral Art Paintings: 14:40 – 16:00

Painting wetlands by writing words that thank to gift from wetlands in the spiral and colored letters.

27 students of elementary school joined program 1) and more than 100 applicants were participated program 2).



Quizmasters indicating quiz – fill in blanks



Quiz panelist groups at “You are the real Dr. on Nakaumi!”



Quiz panelist groups at “You are the real Dr. on Nakaumi”



Winners of quiz panelist groups with gift coupons standing between the announcers of Chukai Cable Television



Working at spiral art painting



A participant with spiral art paintings



Participants with spiral art paintings

WWD 2007 in Japan Manko Ramsar Site

From January 27 to 28, 2007, an event titled WWD Program “KODOMO (Children) Ramsar Kyushu and Okinawa block wetland cultural exchange” was held by Ramsar Center with support of Manko Waterbird Wetland Center Management Conference. In this event students who are participating in the activities in each Ramsar Site in Kyushu and Okinawa area (6 Ramsar Sites), reported the situation of conservation and environment in each wetland.