



Japan Member's report on activities to ICRI

Presented by Ministry of the Environment, Japan

Reporting period: April 2007 – January 2008

Please note that the purpose of this report is to help you share information about your activities within the ICRI community to allow discussion at the next ICRI General Meeting. The report will be made available on the ICRIForum prior to the meeting, and a question and answer session will be held at the meeting. The ICRI Secretariat is well aware of your busy schedule, therefore please complete the report to the best of your ability.

1. General Information

Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	Country
Focal Point 1:	NAKASHIMA Keiji
Focal point 2:	Kohei Hibino
Last meeting attended:	Tokyo GM
How do you circulate ICRI information within your country and/or organization?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report back to relevant Ministries as necessary • Provide outlines by press release as necessary • Report to the Japanese Coral Reef Society (JCRS) Council and it's International Liaising Committee (and hence be available on JCRS Newsletter and/or website)
Budget allocated for coral reef related activities (please mention for year/period):	

For countries only:

National Action Plan / Initiative	
Do you have a National Coral Reef action plan?	Under consideration
Is this plan publicly available? If so, please provide location:	-
Do you have a National Coral Reef Initiative or Task Force?	Under consideration
Are you engaged in any regional programs / initiatives relevant to coral reefs:	NO
If yes, please indicate which programs/initiatives:	-
Marine Protected Areas	
How many MPA(s) with coral reefs?	22
What is the percentage of coral reef MPA(s) to the (coastal zone / marine area)?	Total coral reef MPA area: 7348.5ha (7.65% of coral reef area)
Please provide the appropriate contact name for MPA data holdings	NAKASHIMA Keiji
Details for contact (email/fax/telephone)	coral@env.go.jp

2. **Member contribution to the ICRI GM:** Your responses to the following questions will contribute to the background material provided for the next ICRI General Meeting in Washington, DC. Due to heavy schedules of ICRI members, we have tried to keep the questions to a minimum and value any response you can provide.

A. Questions to inform the break-out discussion groups

Session 1: Economic Valuation of coral reef ecosystems

- a. Do you have examples of economic valuation of coral reefs being applied in practice? (e.g., in consideration of coastal land use, coastal/marine spatial planning, for determining compensation, etc.);
 - To develop a biodiversity/ecosystem service evaluation method including social and economic aspects is under consideration.
- b. Do you have established methods for assessing these values? If so, please provide further information.

Session 2: Designing the ICRI Regional Workshop on Sustainable Tourism (to be held in July 2008 directly following ICRS-11)

- a. With respect to coral reefs, what does sustainable tourism mean to you?
 - Sustainable tourism means that the style of tourism what tourists enjoy coral reefs without injuring them, moreover profit from the tourism contributes sustainable development of local communities around coral reefs, because they have much responsibility for conservation of coral reefs.
- b. What are the key challenges you face to achieving sustainable tourism?
 - Control diving:
Excessive divers have made huge damage to coral reefs in Kerama Islands. The local people, such as local government, diving shops, NPOs and others, are developing a local diving rule for controlling diver's impacts at each point. Ministry of the Environment is supporting to research the state of diving fields for developing the rule.

B. Summary of IYOR 2008 Activities

- Briefly tell us about your activities for IYOR 2008. Information provided will contribute to the discussion during the IYOR 2008 Session on Friday, January 25, 2008.
 - IYOR2008 Promotion Committee was established to lead the preparation and promotion of the IYOR2008 activities in Japan.
 - Promotion Committee meetings were held four times, on 22 August, 20 September, 25 October, and 20 November.
 - Four IYOR2008 working groups (Okinawa WG, Environment Education WG, Diving WG, and Scientific WG) were established and started working individually to facilitate IYOR activities at their respective fields.
 - Official launch of the IYOR2008 in Japan was announced at the Opening event of IYOR2008 (9th December)

- IYOR website (<http://www.iyor.jp/>) is regularly updated with above activities (in Japanese). The on-line Event Calendar has started accepting to post individual activities and events planned in 2008 by national governments, local governments, private sectors, NGOs and scientific communities. More than 25 activities have been posted so far (as of 14 December) and further postings are expected.
- A public symposium on the IYOR is planned in June of 2008.
- The International Coral Reef Marine Protected Area Network Meeting/4th ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop is planned in November or early December.
- The preparatory work has been initiated to develop a national coral reef conservation action plan. This plan is expected to be established by 2010.

C. Emerging Issues

- Please identify any emerging issues relevant to coral reef ecosystems that you believe ICRI should consider.

D. ICRI and Other Meetings

Are your ICRI Focal Points considering attending any of the following meetings in 2008?

- ICRS 11, Fort Lauderdale, 7-11 July