



International Symposium including Field Workshops
**Biodiversity in Changing Coastal Waters
of Tropical and Subtropical Asia**



30 November - 4 December 2012 in Reihoku, Amakusa, Japan

Registration now open (<http://ambl-ku.jp>)

- // **Interdisciplinary** - Ecology, Taxonomy and Biogeography; invertebrates (all taxa), fish, algae (benthic/planktonic), seagrasses, mangroves.
All habitats: reefs, rocky shores, soft substrates, coastal forests.
- // **Delegates** (inc. invited speakers) from Japan, Thailand, Vietnam, Korea, Taiwan, China, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia/Singapore, Australia/Hawaii and beyond.
- // **Field workshops** involve visits to subtidal and intertidal sites, plus in-house methodology sessions.
- // **Publications** anticipated in *Hydrobiologia* (IF = 1.96), subject to normal peer reviewing. MS to be submitted after the symposium (by mid January 2013).

Supporting organizations:



Japanese Coral Reef Society (日本サンゴ礁学会)
 Ichthyological Society of Japan (日本魚類学会)
 Japanese Association of Benthology (日本ベントス学会)
 Ecological Society of Japan (日本生態学会)
 Town of Reihoku (熊本県天草郡苓北町)

Conference secretariat:
Prof M Tokeshi & Dr S Arakaki, AMBL
(see <http://ambl-ku.jp>)



Biodiversity in changing coastal waters of tropical and subtropical Asia

Delegates from Japan and other countries are cordially invited to participate in this special symposium on the biodiversity of coastal waters in tropical/subtropical Asia, focusing in particular on western Pacific and adjacent waters. This is a major conference on this theme held for the first time in a picturesque fishing town of Reihoku on the Amakusa-Shimoshima island, the seat of the Amakusa Marine Biological Laboratory of the Kyushu University. Located in western Kyushu at the entrance of Ariake Sea, the largest estuarine water in Japan, Reihoku boasts its varied subtropical coastal environments with sand spits, beaches, stony and rocky shores, including some subtidal platforms dotted with coral assemblages. The coasts around the Amakusa Shimoshima island have been a major centre of research activity in shallow-water marine ecology and this area is among the best known taxonomically in East Asia. With the ongoing trend of global warming, the environmental changes appear to manifest in a subtle but appreciable manner in the shore assemblages of this island, making Reihoku an ideal venue for this symposium.

The symposium is designed to look into the state of biodiversity-related research that has been conducted in subtropical and tropical waters of Asia by offering a congenial meeting point for researchers who have been or are involved in ecological and taxonomic works in this region. Different types of assemblages/taxonomic groups will be covered, including fishes and invertebrates in estuaries and coral reef systems in particular. We intend to designate a maximum number of active researchers as symposium speakers, such that issues of importance are identified and exchange of ideas is facilitated through diverse fields. A session is also planned for non-designated, mainly early-career, speakers and poster presentations. Based on the symposium works, a special volume of *Hydrobiologia* (2010, IF=1.96) is planned for publication, with the baseline quality of contributions being controlled by the editorship of Prof M. Tokeshi.

A major feature of this symposium is the “field workshops” which are planned to include, among various possibilities, sandy/muddy estuaries of Hondo/Yokaku Bay, rocky shores, dredge sampling in the Tomioka Bay and the reef assemblages of Ushibuka (conditions permitting, water temp < 20 °C), with the aim of forging new networks of researchers combining taxonomy and ecology. With the superb quality of sea food that Reihoku can offer in late autumn, delegates will have nothing to lose and much to gain by spending time and money to attend this special symposium – all are welcome.

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Symposium schedule *

Delegates, including invited speakers, are expected from Japan, Taiwan, Korea, Philippines, Vietnam/Thailand, Malaysia/Singapore, Indonesia, Australia/Hawaii, and beyond.

30 November 2012 - - - - Delegates arrive. Registration.
1 December - - - - - - - - Symposium sessions (oral/poster)
2 December - - - - - - - - Symposium sessions (oral/poster)
3 December - - - - - - - - Field workshop/poster/S-9-5 sessions
4 December - - - - - - - - Field workshop/poster/S-9-5 sessions

Oral presentations (15min): a 250-word (max) abstract to be submitted by 27 October to arakaki(at mark)ambl-ku.jp

Posters : A1 size, portrait. All materials to be prepared in English.

Where an excess number of oral/poster presentations occurs, a shift to the other format may be requested. Delegates are recommended to make an early registration. There will be a "best-oral" competition for student presenters.

The symposium itself will be held in a modern, architecturally-attractive and well-equipped conference hall of the Reihoku Town.

Accommodation information

There are four categories of accommodation, which offer a considerable value for money for the symposium participants. Delegates are reminded to apply early, as these will be offered on a 1st come-1st served basis. If one category of accommodation is exhausted, the next most economical option will be arranged.

All inclusive of **breakfast**, per night per person; prices are approximate:

1. Hotel (single rooms) --- 6000 yen.

..... (There is a limited number of double occupancy, on request)

2. Reihoku-town hostel (single rooms) --- 3500 yen.

..... (Very good value of business-type rooms without hotel-like entertainment facilities, specially arranged in collaboration with Reihoku Town. **Recommended.**)

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Accommodation information - continued

3. Japanese-style inn (single occupancy) --- 4500-5000 yen.
: : : : : (it is possible to request up to 4-person occupancy)

4. AMBL dormitory (shared, sexes separate, students only, limited availability)
: : : : : This is an exceptional value for money for economically-tight students, offered only as an inclusive package of 5 nights/6 days with breakfast, at 8000 yen.
[Students who are not funded by research grants will have priorities.]

Lunch & Dinner options:

Lunch : It is strongly recommended that delegates pre-order lunch during the symposium, as this is quite convenient and competitively priced (600 yen).

Symposium dinner (2 December) is a not-to-be-missed event, as we have a full support of Reihoku Town. --- 5000 yen.

Apart from the symposium dinner, we have arranged dinners on other nights as well, because eating opportunities are otherwise restricted. Our dinner options are good values for money and the quality is guaranteed with fresh local (marine) products. Expected cost c. 1500 yen each without drink. Highly recommended; you will not regret these.

30 November : : : : : Welcome Dinner
1 December : : : : : AMBL Dinner
2 December : : : : : Symposium Dinner
3 December : : : : : Working Dinner
4 December : : : : : Farewel Dinner

Travelling tips

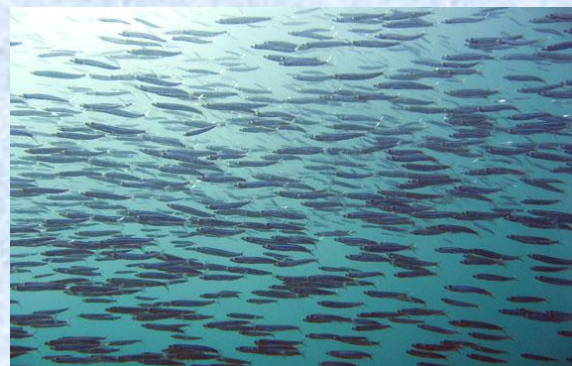
- Amakusa Airline : from Fukuoka Airport to Amakusa Airport (Hondo) (35min) or from Kumamoto Airport to Amakusa Airport (20min); an early discount is offered by the airline.
- Express bus service from Fukuoka to Hondo is time-consuming (c. 5hrs) but most economical (¥3500 one-way).
- From Kumamoto airport, express bus service takes c. 3hrs to reach Hondo at c. ¥2600.
- Fast boat (not car-ferry) connects Mogi (Nagasaki) and Tomioka (Reihoku) in 50min.
- Rent-a-car will give you the maximum mobility for accessing different sites around the island, including local spas (hot spring baths).



Reihoku Conference Hall



Reihoku Town Spa has a commanding view of Tomioka Bay, while no effort is spared in the preparation of Reihoku cuisine.



Waters around Reihoku are teemed with organisms. Swim with *Spratelloides gracilis* ! (photos by M Tokeshi, Dec 2011).

Conference secretariat :

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