More evolution

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Many scientists are aware of the journal *Galaxea*, a prominent publication on coral reefs from Japan. Looking back over the history of *Galaxea*, it was originally a publication of Sesoko Marine Science Station, at the University of the Ryukyus. Following the foundation of the Japanese Coral Reef Society in 1997, *Galaxea, Journal of the Japanese Coral Reef Society* was launched as the official journal of the society in 1999, replacing the original *Galaxea*. Professor Makoto Tsuchiya (University of the Ryukyus) served as the first Editor-in-Chief of the journal. Professor Michio Hidaka (University of the Ryukyus) succeeded him in 2002 and opened the journal to submissions from non-members. He stepped down as Editor-in-Chief after five years of excellent service to the journal, and I replaced him in July 2007. Since then, a number of changes have been made to enhance the circulation internationally.

1. Separate English and Japanese volumes: *Galaxea, Journal of the Japanese Coral Reef Society* was a dual-language journal that published both Japanese and English papers. To increase its readability for both domestic and international audiences, we separated the journal into two independent volumes with new names: *Galaxea: Journal of Coral Reef Studies* (hereafter *Galaxea*) publishes English papers only, while the *Journal of the Japanese Coral Reef Society* publishes Japanese papers only. Two issues of *Galaxea* and one issue of *Journal of the Japanese Coral Reef Society* are

scheduled to be published annually beginning in 2008.

2. Preparation of an online version: Today, most journals are published online in addition to the paper version. After publishing this issue, we will move forward and publish our issues online, alongside the paper version, on J-STAGE (<http://www.jstage.jst.go.jp>), which links papers to papers in other international journals. For this purpose, the publisher has been changed to Soubun Printing (<http://www.soubun.com>), a company that can prepare online publications. I hope to report on our progress in the next issue.
3. More opportunities for papers: We would appreciate proposals for special issues. Any topics related to coral reefs are welcome. Interested parties should contact the Editor-in-Chief for pre-queries. In addition, *Galaxea* will publish review papers by active young scientists who receive awards from the Japanese Coral Reef Society. They will present cutting-edge research in their field.
4. Editorial Board: Some members who have served the journal for many years have stepped down. The new editorial board, which is listed inside the front cover, are grateful to them. The editors have invited specialists from outside Japan to join the board to enhance our international readership. We plan to invite yet more people who can contribute to this journal from all over the world.

Awareness of coral reefs is growing significantly. For

example, the official journal of the International Society for Reef Studies, *Coral Reefs*, published 32 papers in 1982, the year it was founded. In 2007, there were about 130 papers in *Coral Reefs*. To reiterate, *Galaxea* has been open to everybody and aims to be yet more accessible in the future. In response to a growing need for publication, we believe that *Galaxea* will serve as an important publication medium for coral reef studies.

Finally, we appreciate suggestions from our readership regarding ways in which the journal may be further developed and look forward to your contributions.

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