Recommendation

“Learning from history”

by Dr. Makoto Tsuchiya*

It is my great pleasure to distribute the special issue of *Galaxea*, *JCRS* which includes a great contribution for coral reef science by Dr. Siro Kawaguti to all of our colleagues.

In the field of coral reef science, the Palao (Palau) Tropical Biological Station, which had been established by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science in 1934, is a legend place. A total of 29 young researchers have stayed in this station and they showed a great contribution into various fields of biology after coming back to Japan.

In the field of coral reef science, nobody does not know the name of Dr. Kawaguti. His contributions are indeed conspicuous, giving off a brilliant light in this field. His research results are mostly available in two periodicals published by the station, i.e. *Palao Tropical Biological Station Studies* and “*Kagaku Nanyo*” (*Science of the South Sea*). Although the latter one was published in Japanese, there are many interesting and important articles. In “*Kagaku Nanyo*”, enthusiasm for science by the young researchers can be seen in many articles.

I have been thinking the possibility how we can inform these articles contributed by Dr. Kawaguti to the all coral reef researchers. Today, it is actualized to distribute this important contribution to the coral reef scientists all over the world by the intensive effort of the young researchers in the Japanese Coral Reef Society (JCRS). They tried to translate the articles in Japanese by Dr. Kawaguti, which appeared in “*Kagaku Nanyo*”, into English. I think of as trustworthy for this great voluntary effort by the young people.

Current situation of coral reefs is quite serious. In order to discuss the rehabilitation of the damaged coral reefs, accumulation of the scientific information by the basic research fields should be required. I believe that this is a strong trigger as a new starting point for our coral reef research. We have always been learning from history.

Various international cooperative researches have been conducting in Palau now, and Dr. Kawaguti’s passionate love for coral and coral reef has certainly been taking over. I strongly hope that this issue is useful for further coral reef researches by young generation in the JCRS. Also I am expecting the further collaboration between Japan and Palau in any scientific fields.

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