



Special Issue of the Second Asian Marine Biology Symposium - Toward the Blue Sea, Asian Seas in a Changing World

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Preserving the ocean's beauty and resources for future generations is a fundamental obligation and task for us all. However, the health of many coastal and ocean environments across the world is in jeopardy due to numerous human-induced stressors occurring on different temporal and spatial scales, such as overfishing, ocean dumping, invasive species, global warming, ocean acidification, etc. Unfortunately, threats to these environments are increasing in many areas, and the links between such factors and deteriorating ocean health have been confirmed through research.

To protect and ensure the sustainable use of our regional seas, we must develop a better understanding of our ocean systems, not only at the local level but also at regional and global levels, as these systems are interconnected. Likewise, biological systems in our oceans must be considered and understood in an integrated fashion - from species to entire ecosystems.

It is within this context that the Second Asian Marine Biology Symposium was held October 1–4, 2014 in Jeju, Korea. The Symposium was organized under the main title and theme of "Toward the Blue Sea, Asian Seas in a Changing World". It aimed to promote research in the marine ecosystems of Asian regional seas, discuss marine biological issues at local, regional, and global levels among the Asian marine biologists and facilitate communications among professional working groups.

More than 300 marine biologists and related persons attended the symposium. Scientists came from 12 countries. There were a total of 217 papers, 116 oral presentations and

96 posters in 16 different sessions. The symposium addressed issues of marine biodiversity and productivity together with their ecological interactions across a deliberately wide range of relevant spheres and related topics.

The key topics outlined and presented different fields of inquiry of marine biology and included;

- Impact of the 2011 Tsunami disaster on the coastal ecosystems along the Pacific Coast of Japan
- Long-term Ecological Monitoring in Korea
- Present status of Korean Marine Biodiversity Studies including Marine Invertebrates, Algae, Fishes, Shorebirds, and their barcoding and molecular phylogeny
- National Survey of coastal wetlands and continental shelf ecosystems
- Impact of the dike construction on coastal ecosystems
- Other global issues: climate change, ocean acidification, marine bio-invasion, eutrophication, hypoxia, habitat modifications, etc.

Five speakers presented keynote addresses which set the tone of the presentations of that day as follows;

- Prof. Karsten Reise (Alfred-Wegener-Institut, Helmholtz-Zentrum für Polar- und Meeresforschung, Germany): The Role of Contingency in Marine Ecology
- Dr. Song Sun (Institute of Oceanology, Chinese Academy of Science, China): New Perception of Jellyfish Bloom
- Prof. Jennifer Ruesink (University of Washington, USA): Biological Invasions of Mudflats
- Prof. Masahiro Nakaoka (Akkeshi Marine Station, Field Science Center for Northern Biosphere, Hokkaido University, Japan): Broad-scale Comparisons of Biodiversity, Functions and Ecosystem Services in Seagrass Beds

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- Prof. John P. Giesy (University of Saskatchewan, Toxicology Centre, Canada): Status and Trends of Contaminants in the Yellow Sea: an International Perspective

The attendees were housed in local hotels with the symposium taking place in the Ramada Plaza Jeju Hotel. Sessions were held for the first two days. In addition, a one day excursion was provided by bus for a scientific field trip to the coastal region of Seongsan and to Munseom Island, Seoguipo, for underwater diving.

All papers submitted for publication were reviewed by three marine biologists, the guest editors, and finally the editorial staff of the *Ocean Science Journal* according to the

instructions for authors and review process of the journal. As a result, a total of 10 papers were approved for publication.

We would like to express our thanks to not only all the attendees but also the AMBS 2014 Organizing Committee and International Advisory Committee for helping to make the symposium a success. We are also indebted to the people who reviewed the papers submitted to this special issue of the symposium. Special thanks are due to OSJ for accepting the issue of this special edition and the editorial manager of OSJ, without who's efforts publication of this volume would not have been possible.



Picture 1. Group photo of participants in the Second Asian Marine Biology Symposium held on August 1–4, 2014, in Jeju, Korea