



General Incorporated Association Change Our Next Decade
<https://condx.jp/>



Homepage



Twitter



Instagram



Facebook



Japan Fund
for Global
Environment

This English version of the booklet was funded by the Japan Fund for Global Environment.



Biodiversity Youth Reporter

2021 Activity Report



COND

General Incorporated Association Change Our Next Decade

INDEX

1. About Biodiversity Youth Reporter	2
2. Reporter Introduction① Ecological Campus Student Committee of the University of the Ryukyus (Ryu-Dai Eco-Can)	4
3. Reporter Introduction② Getting Associate Into Action (GAIA)	5
4. INTERVIEW	6
Ecological Campus Student Committee of the University of the Ryukyus (Ryu-Dai Eco-Can) Getting Associate Into Action (GAIA) Jinde Pond Biological Laboratory Kochi Commercial High School Gibier Product Development and Sales Promotion Club (Gibier Club)	
5. Survey of Japanese Youth Attitudes toward Biodiversity	8
6. Interview Cooperating Organizations	10
7. Special Lecture / Acknowledgement	11



About Biodiversity Youth Reporter

Summary



Biodiversity Youth Reporter is an initiative that attempts to visualize the efforts and good practices of youth in biodiversity conservation that are rooted in the community by having youth organizations serve as "Biodiversity Youth Reporters". The aim is to raise the interest of the general public as well as youth of the same generation who are not interested in biodiversity by effectively disseminating information on nature in each region and the activities of youth rooted in the region. As we transmit information, we aim to build a network among "Biodiversity Youth Reporters," to resolve the lack of information and network, which are problems unique to youth. Biodiversity Youth Reporters will be asked to regularly disseminate information using social networking services and to answer in interviews on our YouTube channel.

Presentation at the 2022 Biodiversity Summit

生物多様性分野における課題について「自分ごと」として考え、行動するためには?

生物多様性サミット

参加費：学生 1,500円
社会人 3,000円
※COND準会員様は半額となります
定員：学生200名、社会人200名
参加方法：オンライン (zoom)

2022年2月19日(土)
10:00~17:10

【午前の部】 10:00-12:30
・オープニング
・午前の部の紹介
・登壇団体の紹介、パネルディスカッション
「取り組みを知る—多分野の取組から学ぶ
生物多様性との関わり」
・協賛企業の紹介

【午後の部】 13:30-17:10
・午後の部の紹介
・生物多様性レポーターの活動報告
・登壇者紹介
・分科会ごとの講演とグループワーク
「自分ごとの取り組みを考える」
「自分ごとの取り組みから考える社会課題の解決」
分科会ごとのグリーンインフラから考えるこれからの展望
分科会ごとの行動宣言から考える活動のヒント

主催：NPO法人エコ・リーグ、
一般社団法人 Change Our Next Decade
連絡先：secretariat.cond@gmail.com

このサミットは令和2年度国土計画推進協議会が主催する「生物多様性サミット」の一環として開催されます。

The "Biodiversity Summit" was an online event held on Saturday, February 19, organized by the NPO Eco-League and COND. The morning session consisted of a panel discussion and the afternoon session consisted of breakout sessions. The Summit aimed to provide an opportunity to think about how to take action based on the perspectives of people who are working to solve various social issues related to biodiversity.

At the beginning of the afternoon session of the Biodiversity Summit, various youth groups across Japan were invited to share their activities related to biodiversity conservation. Among them, "Ecological Campus Student Committee of the University of the Ryukyus (Ryu-Dai Eco-Can)" and "Getting Associate Into Action (GAIA)" made presentations as biodiversity youth reporters, explaining their past activities and future prospects.



Ecological Campus Student Committee of the University of the Ryukyus (Ryu-Dai Eco-Can)

Reporter Introduction ①



Ecological Campus Student Committee of the University of the Ryukyus (Ryu-Dai Eco-Can)

Date of Formation: December 2012
Members: 18 students enrolled at the University of the Ryukyus



Known on campus as "Ryu-Dai Eco-Can," the purpose of the group's activities is threefold: 1) to learn about environmentally friendly initiatives on campus and increase interest in the environment around us, 2) to understand the many aspects of environmental issues and be able to take concrete action, (3) to act based on students' independent and free conception for a more comfortable campus life.

In order to achieve these activity objectives, the Ryu-Dai Eco-Can also engages in cleanup activities such as beach cleanups and campus cleanups, as well as activities involving the entire university student body such as campus eco-tours, Re-Repack collection, and PET bottle cap collection. In

particular, the collection of Re-Repacks and PET bottle caps is conducted in cooperation with outside organizations and companies, showing how the environmental conservation activities of Ryu-Dai Eco-Can are not limited to the campus, but extend to a wide range of activities outside the university.

Lastly, Ryu-Dai Eco-Can consists of students from freshman to seniors from different faculties. Utilizing unique perspectives and mobility as university students, Ryu-Dai Eco-Can aims to continue to act upon environmental conservation both inside and outside of university as they come up with original ideas beyond faculty separation.



Getting Associate Into Action (GAIA)

Reporter Introduction ②



Getting Associate Into Action (GAIA)

Date of Formation: March 2020
Members: Around 70 people, including high school students and adults



As Aichi Prefecture was selected as an "SDGs Future City" in 2020, with the support of Aichi Prefecture, GAIA formed to promote youth activities. Approximately 70 members of a wide range of youth ages, from high school students to working adults, university students and vocational students, are participating in GAIA. Led by the youth who will lead the next generation, GAIA aims to "expand the circle of biodiversity" and is active in various parts of Aichi Prefecture, focusing on conservation activities and information dissemination as they cooperate with various entities.

GAIA works with the "Ecosystem Network," which is a

network of various entities working together to promote biodiversity conservation activities in nine regions in the prefecture. Specifically, they have engaged in beach cleanups, tree planting, vegetation surveys as well as extermination of invasive alien plants, bird watching, rice harvesting, bamboo forest maintenance, and other activities. Based on what they have learned through these activities, they are planning youth-led conservation activities based on ideas that only young people can come up with, and are striving to help youth take the lead in biodiversity conservation.



Ecological Campus Student Committee of the University of the Ryukyus (Ryu-Dai Eco-Can)

Interviewer Ryo Toyoshima, COND Secretariat

Ecological Campus Student Committee of The University of the Ryukyus (Ryu-Dai Eco-Can), active at the University of the Ryukyus in Okinawa Prefecture, is a student committee that aims to spread environmental issues and SDGs in a more accessible and fun way.

Ryu-Dai Eco-Can is composed of students from different faculties. In fact, the members include students from medics, humanities and social science, and agriculture. This makes it possible for each student to take advantage of his or her expertise to view issues from a unique perspective, enabling them to think about the complexity and multifaceted nature of problems from a bird's eye view.

Ryu-Dai Eco-Can has been involved in activities such as campus eco-tours and beach cleanups. However, many activities are currently restricted due to COVID-19. For example, the beach cleanup, which was also an opportunity to interact with local people, has been scaled down to avoid contact and secrecy. Now, the beach cleanup is conducted only by students of the University of the Ryukyus. Furthermore, in a condition where the spread



of COVID-19 is unexpected, new members have only heard about the local activities, and the seniors who were actually involved in the activities have begun to graduate. The activities of the Ryu-Dai Eco-Can, whose main focus is on activities in the region, were hit hard by COVID-19. However, their activities have not stopped, and they are moving forward by focusing on SNS transmission and video creation, which can be done even with the COVID-19 disaster.

Getting Associate Into Action (GAIA)

Interviewer Ryo Toyoshima, COND Secretariat

GAIA conducts biodiversity conservation activities in Aichi Prefecture. Members of GAIA are increasing and other than university and vocational students, several high schoolers are members of GAIA. As GAIA grows in size, it is gradually gaining recognition within Aichi Prefecture. With the hope to be recognized outside of Aichi Prefecture, GAIA accepted the position of "Biodiversity Youth Reporter" for this year.

GAIA focuses on "hands-on experience in conservation activities," and they participate in biodiversity conservation activities conducted by various companies and organizations. While participating in actual conservation activities may seem attractive enough, GAIA members feel that the current situation poses a challenge. Basically, GAIA's conservation activities are conducted in the form of participating in the activities of other organizations, and GAIA members believe that this lacks initiative. In order to solve such issues, GAIA members have recently planned and implemented activities such as mowing grass to secure firefly habitats with the cooperation of "Aichi Kodomo no Kuni".

GAIA, which is engaged in such activities, considers its strength to be its youth-oriented activities. Environmental organizations tend to attract people who have a lot of knowledge about the environment, and youth and students



who do not have much specialized knowledge tend to feel intimidated by environmental groups. GAIA, however, attracts many youths who are not familiar with specific environmental knowledge, and they enjoy learning about the field and thinking about how they can improve the current situation. In addition, since many of the local conservationists are elderly, GAIA wants people to know that youth are also trying to contribute to biodiversity conservation, and at the same time, they hope that more youth will participate in conservation activities. This desire is being conveyed to the people of Aichi Prefecture, and recently elementary school students have also been active as members of GAIA.

Jinde Pond Biological Laboratory

The Jinde Pond Biological Laboratory conducts biological surveys, mainly of insects, at Jinde Pond located in Susaki City, Kochi Prefecture. Jinde Pond Biological Laboratory conducts daily biological surveys to protect the biodiversity of Jinde Pond, which is rooted in the local community.

Jinde Pond was decided to be closed by the city after it was destroyed by a torrential rainstorm in western Japan. However, the director of Jinde Pond Biological Laboratory, Mr. Yuto Uemura, who was conducting research at Jinde Pond, directly explained to the mayor the preciousness of the pond's biodiversity and the abundance of native species. Thanks to his efforts, the decision to close the pond was successfully cancelled. Not only that, but he was able to persuade the mayor to allow the Jinde Pond to be constructed in a way that would allow both protection of the natural environment and disaster prevention. Behind these results, Director Uemura attributes the success to the long-term research conducted by the Jinde Pond Biological Laboratory. The collection of long-term data helps to better understand Jinde Pond. For example, the Jinde Pond Biological Laboratory's research has revealed that the number of underwater insects decreases during the summer because of the decrease in water due to the rise in temperature. Another attraction of the Jinde Pond Biological Laboratory is that Jinde Pond is a pond rooted in the

Interviewer Ryo Toyoshima, COND Secretariat



community, and its role in connecting the young people who are active in the pond with the elderly is also an attraction.

With the establishment of the Jinde Pond Biological Laboratory, the number of members has increased, making biological surveys easier. On the other hand, the Jinde Pond Biological Laboratory's challenge is that its members are elementary, junior high, and high school students, which limits their knowledge of environmental conservation. However, the Jinde Pond Biological Station is working to overcome this issue by cooperating with professors and experts at Kochi University. The director of the Jinde Pond Biological Laboratory, Mr. Uemura believes that even in the places where we spend our time without thinking about it, various organisms live there, and it is important to protect the environment where such organisms live.

Kochi Commercial High School Gibier Product Development and Sales Promotion Club (Gibier Club)

Interviewer Yuzu Sakaura, COND Secretariat

In the summer of 2008, the gibier club was established as a high school club activity mainly by students who learned about the current situation regarding the impact of wildlife on the natural environment in class and wanted to utilize gibier to solve the problem. The aim of the gibier club is to develop and sell products that utilize gibier, and to donate the profits to forest conservation, thereby contributing to a recycling-oriented society.

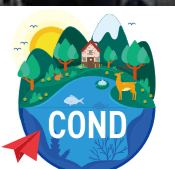
Currently, a fifth generation member of the club, who is interested in product development, is working in the club. Since gibier has no odor when cooked well, members are constantly thinking up menus to reduce prejudice against deer and wild boar meat and to convey their deliciousness. In addition to product ideas, the department also proposes to companies the ingredients they would like to use, and by working together, they promote the commercialization of their products and actually sell them in restaurants.

When coming up with menus, the Gibier Club aims to create menus that everyone can eat frequently. For example, they have devised menus such as oyaki and omelet rice, most of which have been commercialized. The most popular item among the club members is the curry bun. The reason for it is that it is the least gibier-like menu and has a lot of ingredients, making it a satisfying meal. Another popular item is the gibier

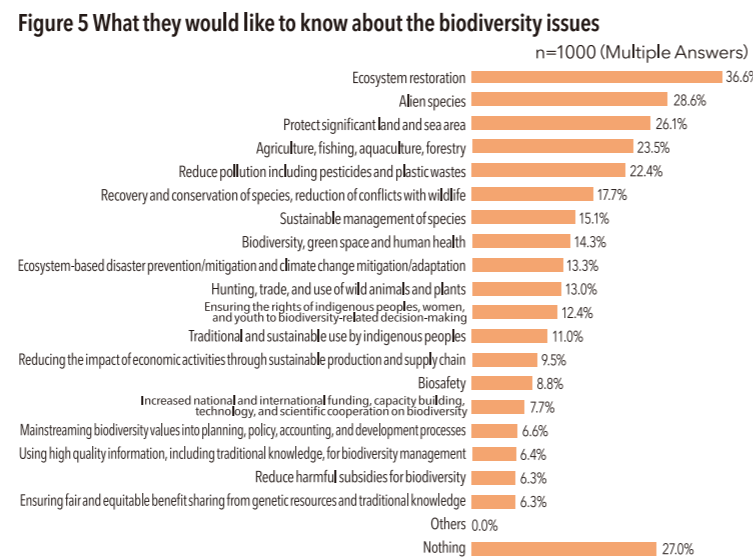
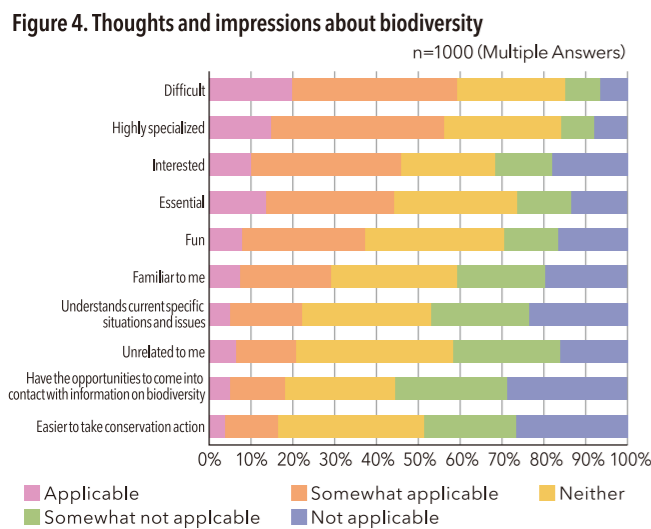
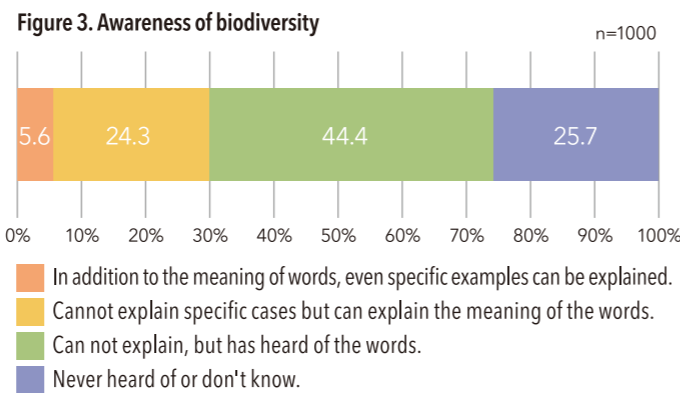
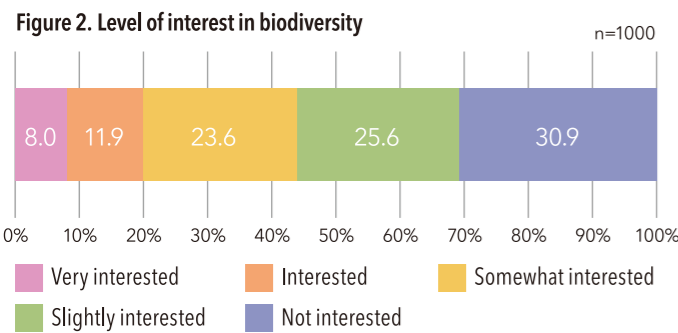
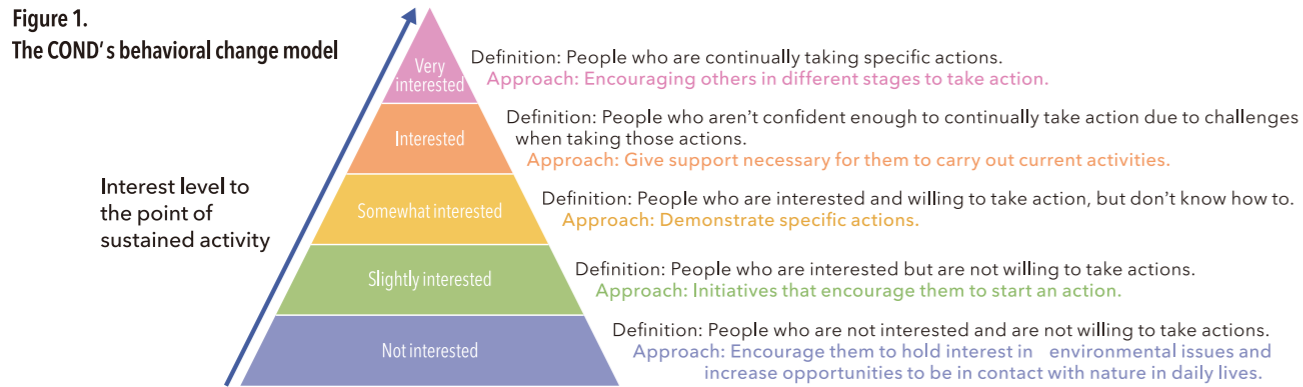


curry, which is sold only at restaurants.

On the other hand, there are some issues that are felt in the course of their activities. For instance, the way how COVID-19 has reduced the number of places where gibier products can be sold, and the difficulty to remove the unique smell of the birds and animals. However, they believe that the fact that high schoolers are making gibier products is an advantage. Even people who are not really interested in gibier will pay attention to the fact that "students are doing it" and try to learn about the activities. They said that they would like to use this strength to tell everyone about the richness of the mountains and the sea through gibier. Many students joined the club because they were invited by their friends or advisors, but most of them commented, "It was fun when I joined it." We hope that they will continue to have fun while developing new products and conveying the appeal of gibier to others.



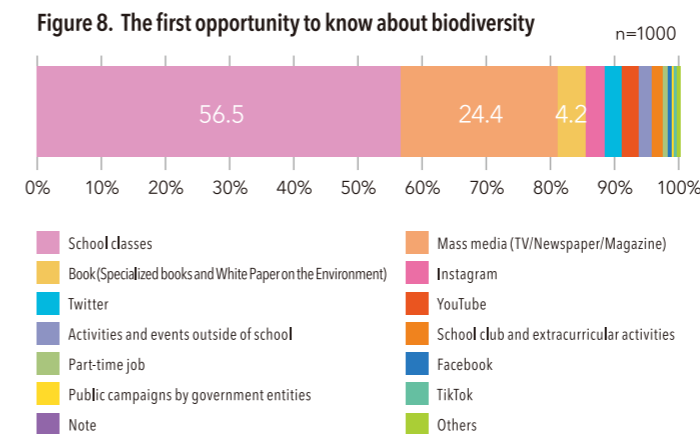
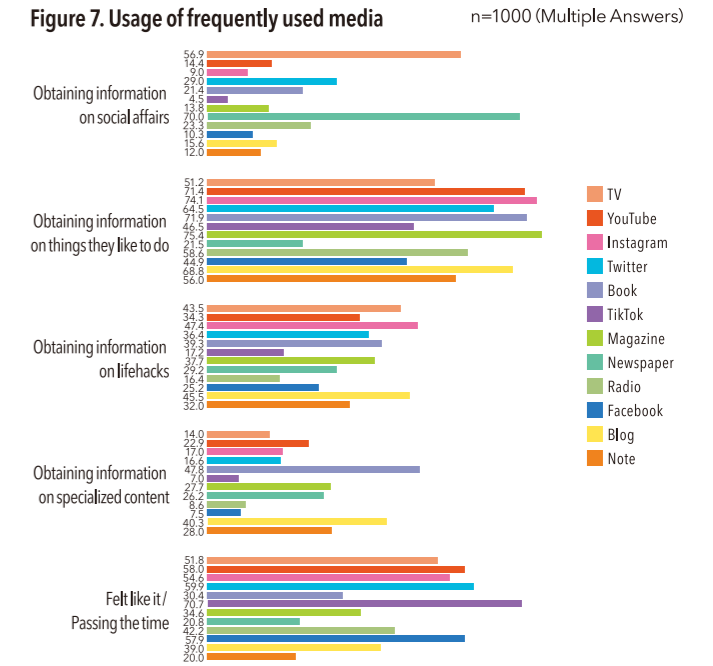
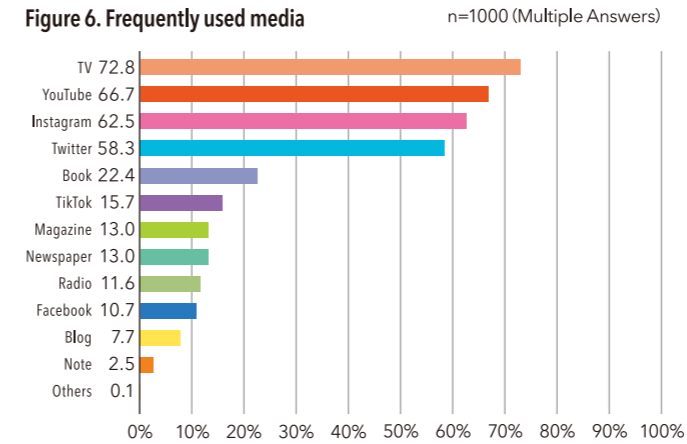
The current state of interest and attitudes of young people toward biodiversity



We found that about 70% of young people were interested in biodiversity, but almost half were not willing or able to take action (Figure 2). In addition, only about 30% of the respondents could explain biodiversity in terms of specific examples and the meaning of the word, indicating that many young people could not explain biodiversity (Figure 3). It can be deduced that many people consider biodiversity to be "difficult" and "highly specialized," and few people "have the opportunity to come into contact with

information on biodiversity" (Figure 4). Furthermore, when asked what they would like to know about the biodiversity issues based on the first draft of the Post-2020 GBF, which is currently under discussion, about 30% of young people answered that there was "nothing" they wanted to know (Figure 5). Even when asked what they would like to know, only about 30% of respondents selected any of the items, indicating that young people do not have a high level of interest in the topic.

The current status of how young people obtain information and use media



The highest usage rates of media resulted as follows: TV, YouTube, Instagram, and Twitter (Figure 6). However, when looking at these uses, TV and newspapers were most frequently used for social affairs, and books for specialized content (Figure 7). In addition, school classes and mass media were the main sources of information on current biodiversity (Figure 8). Therefore, it is possible that information dissemination through SNS, which is highly used to collect information on things they like to do or pass the time, is not practical under current circumstances.

Summary of results and implications on the future information dissemination

The results of this survey indicate that many young people are interested in biodiversity, but few are taking concrete actions. This suggests that it would be desirable to provide young people who are even slightly interested in biodiversity with opportunities to take action. We also found that few people can explain biodiversity, and many people have the impression that it is difficult and highly specialized. Although many people learn about biodiversity through school classes and mass media, after that, many of them

do not have many opportunities to come into contact with information on biodiversity. Therefore, a different method of information dissemination is required. While many young people use SNS, they tend to use it to obtain information about their favorite things and pass the time. Thus, it will be necessary for the future to disseminate information with content that makes biodiversity more accessible to them and to lower the hurdle for biodiversity for many young people.

Purpose and Methodology of this Survey

This online survey was conducted from February 24 to February 27, 2022, as basic data for understanding the current status of attitudes toward biodiversity among young people in Japan and for developing better information dissemination measures. Respondents were young people aged 18-30 from various regions of Japan, 273 males and 727 females. To ensure that respondents were evenly distributed among the prefectures in which they resided, we adjusted the number of respondents so that there were 21 to 22 respondents in each prefecture.

Interview Cooperating Organizations



Jinde Pond Biological Laboratory

Members: Total of 8 elementary, middle and high school students
Date of Formation: 2021

The director of the lab, Yuto Uemura, has been conducting biological surveys at Jinde Pond since the second grade of junior high school, and has been interested in insects since he was young. As he went on to high school, due to the difficulty to make time for research, The Jinde Pond Biological Laboratory was launched. The lab has eight members, mostly elementary and junior high school students who are familiar with insects, as well as specialists in biological research. This has made it possible to conduct research in a variety of fields.

Their main activities include monthly visits to Jinde Pond to survey various species of gengorou, amphibians such as tree frogs, and Japanese Fireflies. In addition, with the cooperation of the Awa Community Council, they have installed signboards stating the importance of the pond and co-hosted a biodiversity seminar for local residents with the Awa community activity center. Gradually, Jinde Pond Biological Laboratory is expanding the scope of their activities while deepening the understanding of local residents.



Kochi Commercial High School Gibier Product Development and Sales Promotion Club (Gibier Club)

Members: 13
Date of Formation: July 2018

Kochi Prefecture has a lot of damage from deer and wild boars, and when the advisor talked about this situation in class, the students wanted to start a club that makes use of gibier. The club's activities range from devising menus using gibier to product development and sales. The challenges are that the number of places to sell gibier products has decreased due to COVID-19 and that it is difficult to remove the unique smell of the birds and animals. However, by taking advantage of the unique strengths of students, they are developing products every day to achieve their goal of protecting nature while continuing to utilize gibier.



Special Lecture



As part of the capacity building for biodiversity youth reporters, on March 5, 2022, Mr. Tetsuji Ida of Kyodo News gave a special lecture on how to effectively transmit biodiversity. Mr. Ida is a specialist who has been covering environmental issues for Kyodo News for over 30 years. In his lecture, he explained what to keep in mind and what to devise when disseminating information on biodiversity and the environment. On the occasion of the publication of the Biodiversity Youth Reporter Activity Report Booklet, Mr. Ida gave us a message to the youth!



Lecturer Editorial Writer, Kyodo News Editorial Board Member, Environment, Development and Energy Issues
Tetsuji Ida



Been covering environmental issues at Kyodo News for nearly 35 years. He first came into contact with the term "biodiversity" in 1991, when he covered the negotiation process of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Since then, biodiversity issues have been one of his main reporting themes, partly because he has always loved living things.

For a long time, human beings have been on the path of becoming "rich" while destroying nature, which is indispensable for our own survival on this planet. Now, the biodiversity crisis has become so severe that it has reached the point where people will not be able to continue to live luxury and peaceful lives on this planet if the situation continues.

The earth is now full of crises: climate crisis, biodiversity crisis, plastic crisis, and food crisis. The crisis of infectious diseases such as COVID-19 is also deeply related to the destruction of nature by humans. To resolve the problems simultaneously, we must fundamentally change the current state of our economy and society.

The key to this is the "Choice and Voice" of each and every one of us. It is important to choose actions and products that have as little impact on the environment as possible, to choose companies that are serious about solving problems, and, above all, to choose legislators and leaders who are encouraged to solve problems at the time of elections. At the same time, we must raise our voices to demand action from politicians and companies.

It is very important that the younger generation has begun to speak out in the face of the biodiversity crisis, so please remember the importance of Choice and Voice and continue to raise your voices and actions to demand that the current generation responsible for causing the problem be properly "dropped".

Acknowledgement

Although we had to change many of our plans due to COVID-19, thanks to the efforts of everyone involved, we were able to publish a report booklet on the activities of the Biodiversity Youth Reporter. "Biodiversity Youth Reporter" is a part of the Shinnyoen Grant Program. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to ICHINYOSHA Co., Ltd. and the Environmental Partnership Council (EPC) for their generous support. In addition, this English version of the booklet was funded by the Japan Fund for Global Environment. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to them.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the many people who helped us in the development of this project and the publication of this booklet. We would like to express our gratitude to the Biodiversity Youth Reporters: Ecological Campus Student Committee of University of Ryukyus and GAIA, as well as the Jinde Pond Biological Laboratory, and Kochi Commercial High School Gibier Product Development and Sales Promotion Club for cooperating for the interviews.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Tetsuji Ida for his special lecture to the biodiversity youth reporters and his message to the youth, and Associate Professor Komei Mishima of Chiba University's Graduate School of Horticultural for his advice in conducting and analyzing the youth biodiversity awareness survey.

Finally, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to Mr. Masahiko Horie, Special Advisor to the Japan Committee for the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, who has given us much support and cooperation in the execution of this project.

Change Our Next Decade President **Kotoko Yadomaru**

Biodiversity Youth Reporter 2021 Activity Report First edition published (English version) May 20, 2022
Publisher : General Incorporated Association Change Our Next Decade 1106-1-101, Matsudo, Matsudo-shi, Chiba, 271-0092, Japan
Editor : Ryo Toyoshima, Yuzu Sakaura and Kotoko Yadomaru Translator : Ryo Toyoshima
Designer : ANTIGUA GOODFELLOWS Inc. Printing office : EDUPRESS Inc.