

# **Coordination of Activities among NGOs, Policy Makers and Scientists; Review and Future Perspective for the Environmental Management of the Seto Inland Sea, Japan**

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New era of the better coordination among NGOs, policy makers and scientists has just begun in Japan under the circumstances of increasing social demand for public access to environmental information which requires high transparency during the processes of decision making on the critical environmental issues. Development of information technology as well as enactment of new law for information disclosure is also accelerating this movement. Many cases of decision making on the coastal management in the Seto Inland Sea were pioneer work of coastal management in Japan and has given valuable lessons to the people and society.

The main activities and role of NGOs, policy makers and scientists have been changed during the approximately 40 years history of environmental management in the Seto Inland Sea. Focus of NGO's activities has gradually shifted from anti-pollution campaign in 1960's to proposing an improved environmental policy or social education in the recent years. At the same time there has been a significant change in environmental policy and administration. For example, during the early stages, emphasis was on banning of pollution discharge, but recently the policies are more inclined towards environmental remediation. Accordingly, the focus of scientific research has also changed from descriptive study (distribution of causative phenomena; evidence for where and when?), through mechanism oriented study for identifying the cause of phenomena (why?), and finally to evaluation, prediction and solution of the causative phenomena (how to solve problem, what to do for control?).

However, in the case of the Seto Inland Sea, the coordination among these groups has not been always so successful mainly due to lack of mutual understandings and supporting systems for coordination. Recently legal and social system has been gradually changed to be more conscious about regional environment and ecology. Since environmental issues are highly interdisciplinary in nature demanding holistic understandings, cooperation among variety of activities and integration of diversified ideas are highly required to solve the actual problems.

Some selected cases of coordination among these groups on policy making and solving the problem in the Seto Inland Sea will be reviewed. Role of individual group, desirable cooperation and linkage of the activities will be proposed for future perspectives.