

# **Educational Activities for Improving the Water Quality of Tokyo Bay**

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The Tokyo Bay Council for Local Environmental Initiatives consists of 27 local governments facing Tokyo Bay. In order to improve the water quality of Tokyo Bay, the council has been conducting educational activities for citizens in the coastal area.

In August 2001, an event entitled "Let's Enjoy Tokyo Bay!" was held in Minato Mirai 21 District in Yokohama. Its focus was symbolized by a subtitle, "The relationship between Tokyo Bay and your town."

The event information was disseminated to residents in the coastal area by public information papers published by the council members and their letters to local schools. In the event, visitors participated in the followings:

1. Seeing living species through an underwater TV camera placed in the dock of a sailing boat, Nippon-maru (On-the-spot broadcasting)
2. Inspecting aquatic species living in the dock (A display in fish tanks)
3. An exhibition of the photographs of aquatic species and the panels regarding the environmental relationship between Tokyo Bay and its coastal towns
4. An experiment of a simple water pollution test

This event was accomplished in cooperation among staff members of the 27 local governments, citizen groups and the Nippon-maru Memorial Foundation. Especially the on-the-spot broadcasting and the photo exhibition were carried through mainly by the citizen groups.

Many visitors enjoyed these experiences with surprise and excitement; they discovered many aquatic species even at one of the most famous sightseeing spots in Yokohama. From now on, the council will plan such events suitable for its members' waterfronts.

