

# Preservation and Restoration of Tidal Flats and Shallow Sea Regions

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## 1. Activities to preserve wetlands in Japan

The Japan Wetlands Action Network (JAWAN) 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary

Sanbanse, Isahaya, Fujimae – 30 years: Since 1971: Environment Agency, inauguration of Ramsar Convention

Tidal flats and shallow sea areas: estuaries of large rivers, inner bays, differences in sea level, enclosed coastal seas

Tokyo Bay, Ise Bay, Osaka Bay – Seto Inland Sea, Hakata Bay, Ariake Bay...

Things that have destroyed the bounteous seas:

High-level economic growth policies – industrial development in waterfront regions – discharge of pollution – dredging and reclamation – public works projects through government leadership – Public Waters Reclamation Law – mass production – mass consumption – "throw-away" refuse

History of conservation activities

## 2. Wide-ranging collaboration and cooperation

Factors causing the renunciation of the creation of refuse landfills in the Fujimae tidal flats (1999)

(1) Widespread sympathy: toward a wide-ranging citizen's movement

Silently suffering migratory birds; the refuse that human beings produce; another way

(2) NGO solidarity, cooperation among researchers

Private citizen assessments showing the importance of feeding ground and tidal flat ecosystems

"Little impact" -> "Clear impact"

(3) Cooperation among environmental administration, media and government

Nationwide snipe and plover counts -> catalogue of migratory bird destinations

Closing off of Isahaya Bay, besieged by public opinion

Two years after the renunciation: 20% reduction; major transformation of refuse administration to the springboard for a goal of "zero refuse"

## 3. From conservation to restoration

Fujimae -> Ise Bay, Sanbanse -> Tokyo Bay, Isahaya -> Ariake Sea...

Ramsar COP7 [The 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar), San Jose, Costa Rica] 1999

Expansion of standards: water fowl, vegetation, fish and shellfish, water quality, biodiversity, catchment basins

From preservation of what remains to restoration of what has been lost

## Keywords

1. Tidal flats, seaweed beds
2. Reclamation, refuse
3. Restoration, revitalization