

EMECS

NEWSLETTER

No. 25

7th International Conference on the Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas 40th Estuarine & Coastal Sciences Association Conference (EMECS7/ECSA40)

The 7th International Conference on the Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas / 40th Estuarine & Coastal Sciences Association Conference (EMECS 7 / ECSA 40) was held for four days from May 9 - 12, 2006 at the Caen Expo-Congres in the city of Caen, located in Basse Normandie, France. The theme of the conference was "Sustainable Co-development of Enclosed Coastal Seas: Our Shared Responsibility" and it was attended by some 350 persons from 25 countries.

Opening Session

1. Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony for EMECS7/ECSA40 featured welcoming remarks by Ms. Nicole Le Querler, Chairperson of the EMECS7/ECSA40 International Organizing Committee and President of Caen University, Ms. Pascale Pr el, Deputy Mayor of Caen, Ms. Fabienne Allag Dhuisme, Director of the Environment and Sustainable Development in the Lower Normandy region, Mr. Jacques Rombault, representing Agence de l'Eau Seine Normandie (Agency for Water - Seine-Normandie), and Mr. Hugues Bousiges representing the French Minister of Ecology and Sustainable Development. These were followed by words of welcome from the organizers: EMECS, GEMEL (Groupe d'Etude des Milieux Estuariens et Littoraux) and ECSA.

Mr. Toshizo Ido, Chair, Board of Directors of the International EMECS Center and Governor of Hyogo Prefecture, presented a brief history of the EMECS conferences and stressed the importance of environmental restoration, creation and environmental education together with the need to find solutions to global warming and other environmental problems. He also expressed his hopes for the achievements of the EMECS 7 / ECSA 40 conference.

2. Keynote Lectures

Following the opening ceremony, the keynote lectures were presented.

- ◆ "Impacts of Climate Change on Coastal Areas and Possible Responses"
Dr. Yoichi Kaya
President, International EMECS Center and Professor Emeritus, Tokyo University, Japan
- ◆ "Shared Responsibility: Participation in Ecological Projects as a Means of Empowering Communities to Contribute to Coastal Management Processes"
Dr. Stewart Evans, Professor, Newcastle University, U.K.

Dr. Yoichi Kaya discussed such issues as the impact of thermohaline circulation of ocean currents in the North Atlantic. Dr. Stewart Evans spoke of the importance of comprehensive management of environmental protection of coastal zones as our shared responsibility.

Plenary Session: European Coastal Seas

The session on European Coastal Seas featured presentations by three specialists on different ocean regions surrounding the host nation of the conference, France. The presentations focused on the North Sea and Baltic Sea region, the Mediterranean, and the French side of the North Sea and the English Channel. Efforts to resolve environmental problems in each coastal sea were covered (in terms of both current status and most recent



efforts), as well as the natural variability (fluctuation) and complexity of the ecosystems in European coastal seas.

- ◆ "The Science and Management of the North Sea and the Baltic Sea: History, Present Threats and Future Challenges"
Dr. Mike Elliot, Professor, University of Hull, U.K.
- ◆ "Managing the Mediterranean Coast: The Regional Scale"
Dr. Erdal  zhan, Chairman, MEDCOAST, Turkey
- ◆ "Bordering Seas of the Western Part of the European Continent. Example of the Coastal Zone of the French North Sea English Channel Atlantic Coast"
Dr. Jean-Claude Dauvin, Professor, Station Marine de Wimereux, France

Special Sessions

Three special sessions were held. The Asia-Pacific Coasts session has been held since EMECS 2001, and the Students and Schools Partnerships session has been held since EMECS 2003. These sessions have continued to evolve and mature, and they received high marks from participants.

I. Asia-Pacific Coasts

This session had two objectives. One was to acquaint participants with books on the current status of the Asia-Pacific Coastal Zones and policy proposals, published by the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (ANP) and the International EMECS Center. A second objective was to present proposals for crisis and environmental management of coastal zones, based on the lessons learned from the recent tsunami generated by the earthquake off the coast of Sumatra, as well as typhoons and so on.

The session began with overviews of the APN and the International EMECS Center. This was followed by a presentation on the coastal vulnerability in the Asia-Pacific region and crisis management. Next, case studies from Thailand, Indonesia and Sri Lanka were presented, dealing with the current status and efforts in affected nations in the aftermath of the tsunami generated by the earthquake that occurred off

Contents

Achievements of EMECS7	1 ~ 3	Venue for EMECS8	5
Conference Declarations	3	JICA Training Course Report	5
Student and Schools Partnerships	4	From Normandy to Oristano (2)	6 ~ 8

the coast of Sumatra. The presentation covered the approach to Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) following the tsunami, as well as recovery efforts and lessons learned.

Dr. Nick Harvey (Professor, Adelaide University, Australia) served as coordinator for the panel discussion that followed. The discussion reached the conclusion that the coastal vulnerability was due to the centralization of population in these areas, and that the lessons of the tsunami must not be forgotten. It was also concluded that attention must also be paid to nations such as Kiribati in which the population is not centralized.

II. Students and Schools Partnerships

The purpose of this two-day session was to enable young people from various countries to share information with one another, and to encourage interchange among the participants who will be leaders of the next generation. With Dr. Wayne Bell, former Director of the Center for the Environment and Society at Washington College, U.S.A. and Dr. Hiroshi Kawai, Director/Professor of Kobe University Research Center for Inland Seas, Japan, serving as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively, the young participants gave presentations on the efforts made for environmental management centering on water-related activities.

The first day featured presentations on unique efforts in four countries - Japan, the United States, Thailand and the host nation, France. This was followed by a spirited exchange of views in the form of a question-and-answer session and workshop, participated in by approximately 20 students as well as faculty and members of the general public. In addition, in response to a question on reservoir management and use, Mr. Toshizo Ido spoke on the importance of the safe management of reservoirs and the promotion of multiple use, as well as the need to shift management responsibilities from those engaged in agricultural work to the local community and users.

On the second day, the venue changed to the harbor at the estuary of the Orne River, and the participants joined in an environmental activity being conducted by first year junior-high school students at the Middle school of Blainville. The students collected various objects washed up on the shore inside the harbor and sorted them into four categories (plant, mineral, animal and man-made). Following the activity, the group moved to Dumont d'Urville High School, where the students participated in an activity designed to deepen interchange among students.

To conclude the session, the participants created a Students and Schools Partnerships Declaration, which was read during the closing session of the conference.

III. Union des Oceanographes de France (UOF): Young Scientists Forum

The UOF Forum was a mini-forum, whose participants were students enrolled in master's and doctoral courses. The forum was coordinated by the European Federation of Marine Scientists (EFMS). Caen University provided full cooperation with regard to the venue, and the forum was held concurrently with the EMECS 7 conference. The participants gave enthusiastic presentations of their research results, and the forum achieved its objective of providing young researchers with a broad-based forum for international research.

From among the presentations, the following were selected to receive the Best Communication and Best Poster awards. The awards were presented during the closing session of the conference.

Best Communication Award (UOF Award)

- Ms. Aurélie Foveau (Station Marine de Wimereux, France)
"Long-term Changes of Sessile Epifauna from the Dover Strait's Pebbles Community"

Best Poster Award

- Ms. Sabine Stachowski (LUMAQ, IUT de Quimper, France)
"In situ microcosms, a tool to assess pesticides impacts on natural marine phytoplankton communities"

Technical Sessions

The technical sessions were based around five topics. The sessions featured both oral presentations and poster presentations.

1. Oral presentations

<Technical Session 1> *Recent Advances in Coastal Marine Sciences*

This session featured presentations on and discussion of such subjects as the relationship between biodiversity, habitats and environmental

conditions, the role of enclosed sea areas in the circulation of materials, and the artificial introduction and restoration process. New ecological remediation techniques were held to be promising with respect to the restoration of coastal areas. In addition, there was also a debate on the effective use of numerical models as well as the limitations of such models. As an example of the comprehensive approach, a presentation on an environmental restoration project in Ago Bay attracted great interest.

<Technical Session 2> *Ecological Quality: Concepts and Case Studies*

Presentations in this session focused primarily on environmental indicators and the like. One presentation concluded that, while there is a diverse array of indicators for substances in the ecosystem, the lack of data needed for standardization and the selection of appropriate indicators to improve monitoring are issues that must be resolved, and that indicator testing and consensual validation as well as spatial and temporal changes should be taken into consideration. Databanks for sharing data, the need to make indicators and policies easier to understand, and the participation of local entities and so on were also held to be important.

<Technical Session 3> *New Concepts and Innovative Experiences in Coastal Management*

In this session, the new concept of "Sato Umi" was presented as a rational vision of co-existence designed to achieve symbiosis among human communities and coastal areas. It was also pointed out that progress in coastal management will become increasingly advanced and multifaceted, and that ICM will require cooperation at the international, regional, national and local levels.

<Technical Session 4> *Co-management and Community Involvement: Sustainability and Awareness to Environmental Issues*

This session featured presentations that concluded that integrated management requires an organized approach that recognizes the diversity of coastal zones, and that project assistance from the local community and citizen participation are also important. Moreover, vertical and horizontal integration, such as cooperation between relevant entities on the local, regional and national levels, was also held to be necessary. It was also pointed out that in such cases the culture, history, and social and economic background of the people involved must not be forgotten.

<Technical Session 5> *Networking and 21st Century Education: the Communication Challenge*

In this session, the effectiveness of "hands-on" environmental education was emphasized. It was also pointed out that environmental management and education should be promoted in an integrated manner, and that solutions and information from multiple perspectives should be shared. In addition, consensus-building through citizen involvement is also needed in order to arrive at such solutions.

2. Poster presentations

The technical sessions also included poster presentations. Like the oral presentations, the poster presentations were organized around five topics. A four-member Best Poster Award Selection Committee headed by Dr. Osamu Matsuda, Professor Emeritus of Hiroshima University, Japan, selected the following three poster presentations for special recognition.



Best Poster Award

- Dr. Masahiro Seguchi (Professor, Saga University, Japan)
"Occurrences of Hypoxic Water in the Interior Parts of the Ariake Sea and its Preventive Measures"
- Mr. Dubois Stanislas (Graduate student, Caen University, France)
"Macrobenthic assemblages associated with *Lanice conchilega* populations under oyster farming influences: trophic approach using natural stable isotopes"

Special Award

- Mr. William Lee (High school student, Baltimore County, Maryland, U. S. A.)
"Getting Greener Schools Baltimore County, MD - Site-based integrated environmental education in the classroom, in the Schoolyard, in the community"

Closing Session

At the conclusion of the conference, congratulatory addresses were given by Mr. Cyrille Schott, Governor of Basse Normandie Region, France, and Mr. Luc Duncombe, President de la Communauté d'agglomération Caen la mer (President of Caen la mer, France).

Next, summaries of the five technical sessions and the three special sessions were presented by rapporteurs from each session in a roundtable format, followed by a spirited discussion between these rapporteurs and the audience. Proposals for the future direction of EMECS were also presented.

At the awards ceremony, the poster session awards, the UOF awards and the Coastal Zone Management 2006 award were presented.

With regard to the conference declaration, for the first time at the EMECS conference, a Students and Schools Partnerships Declaration was presented and adopted. In addition, Dr. Wayne Bell, Chair of the EMECS 7 Declaration Drafting Committee, submitted a draft of the Conference

Declaration that had been under study during the period of the conference, and this draft was unanimously adopted.

With regard to the venue of the next EMECS conference (EMECS 8), Prof. Zhongyuan Chen, representing Prof. Lizhong Yu, President of East China Normal University, read his welcome message announcing that Shinghai City has been selected to host the conference at the end of October or in November 2008.

Finally, representing the organizers, Dr. Nobuo Kumamoto, Chair of the Scientific & Policy Committee of the International EMECS Center and former President of Hokkaigakuen University, presented a summation of the EMECS7/ECSA40 conference. In his remarks, Dr. Kumamoto noted that what was urgently needed for environmental management was a recognition that it is our shared responsibility - in other words, that we must think about what we need to do for future generations. He then expressed his gratitude for all those who helped to make the conference possible. With that, the conference came to a close.

CONFERENCE DECLARATIONS <Extract>

THE CAEN DECLARATION

Our recommendations are as follows:

- Advances in knowledge and in technology have given scientists a wealth of new information on how the working landscapes that are coastal seas function. Now more than ever we encourage scientists to communicate that information to policy makers and citizens alike so that each of us is able to carry out "Our Shared Responsibility" more effectively.
- Sharing technical information beyond researchers and academicians requires translation into terms that can be understood by others. We strongly endorse the roles that environmental educators and NGO's continue to play as information translators for our young people and concerned citizens. EMECS has an increasingly important role to play as an information translator, not only through Internet-based networking activities, but also as a catalyst that brings people together from all disciplines and endeavors to realize "Our Shared Responsibility." We also encourage EMECS to assume a leadership role in making the findings from its conferences and workshops more widely available.
- "Responsibility" at the local level is often overlooked by governments and organizations eager to address regional, national, and even global problems on "Our" coastal seas. This top-down approach has proven to be important to coastal seas management, but a lack of community involvement makes it difficult to continue such programs over many years. We encourage the continued development of bottom-up, community-based programs where local leaders and the citizens themselves are better prepared to actively support and participate in programs as part of "Our Shared Responsibility."
- The EMECS 6 Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, introduced the EMECS Students and Schools Partnership. At EMECS 7 more than 50 students and their teachers have contributed through posters, formal presentations, open discussions in a Special Session, and as hosts during a field excursion. This is a superb initiative that effectively brings together all levels and meanings of "Our Shared Responsibility." We endorse the Schools and Students Partnership with all "Our" hearts. We thank those dedicated students and educators who are contributing so wisely and thoughtfully to EMECS.
- The history of EMECS as well as the distribution of the world's inhabitable lands have established a focus on coastal seas of the Northern Hemisphere. For "Our Shared Responsibility" to be truly global in meaning, EMECS needs to pursue initiatives that reach out to the Southern Hemisphere: to Africa, Australia, and South America. By this declaration we applaud such efforts and extend an invitation to colleagues at all levels on these continents to join us as full players on "Our" global team.

Caen, France
May 12, 2006

THE STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIPS DECLARATION

Help us by using your recognized influence with professional scientists and government officials to adopt education programs that encourage us to experience our local environment.

Help us by assisting our teachers to take advantage of the diversity of subjects in environmental education to use the natural world to teach about our history, culture, and economy as well as science and mathematics.

Strongly support those environmental education programs that will enable us to appreciate and understand that we are part of the system where we live, not outside intruders and polluters.

We will benefit greatly from your wisdom, experience, and technology. Please share them with us.

We will inherit the coastal seas that you leave to our generation. Please do your best to minimize the environmental problems we will receive so we can enjoy and appreciate this legacy as a living tradition that will define our home as surely as it has defined yours.

Caen, France
May 12, 2006



For detailed information, please visit our website at
http://www.emecs.or.jp/englishver2/cnference/kaigi_er.html

Special Session II: Students and Schools Partnerships

The special session of "Students and Schools Partnerships" developed its program from the one that was held in EMECS2003.

The young participants from different countries who shoulder the responsibility for the next generation, were given the opportunity to not only share information and knowledge through various activities, but also drafted and presented the "Students and Schools Partnerships Declaration" in this conference.

This session was highly praised by all participants once again as it was in 2003.

At the closing session, participants had expressed their hope that the program be further improved and continued into the future.

The following are some personal impressions from the students who participated in the session.

Participation in EMECS 7

For the first time in my life, I was given the opportunity to participate in an international conference and the entire experience was tremendously exciting. The "Students and Schools Partnerships" Special Session enabled me to learn in detail about the dedicated efforts of people of my own generation who are working to resolve environmental problems. The session was very stimulating and provided me with both new discoveries and a deep sense of empathy.



When, as the student representative, I read the declaration at the closing ceremony of EMECS 7, I was given a warm standing ovation from the conference delegates. I felt the passion toward resolving environmental issues on the part of the specialists in various fields and private citizens from 25 nations, and their encouragement of our efforts, and I was deeply moved. I felt strongly that I had to take this passion and turn it into intensified efforts to expand my circle of activities. I will report my experiences here to everyone at my school, and I will work to preserve the environment on a daily basis, starting with things close to home. I would also like to conduct more in-depth study of ways to improve water quality.

Finally, to my good friends who also participated in EMECS 7, I would like to say this. I do not think that the older generation is forcing a negative legacy on us. I think they have given us an opportunity to cooperate and fulfill our responsibilities in order to preserve the environment from a global perspective. We should view this irreplaceable global environment that we all share with gratitude and respect, and we must work to ensure that it is in good shape to pass on to the next generation.

Yuki Arita
Hiroshima Gakuin High School (Japan)

My First Time at EMECS

This is my first time at EMECS and it has impressed me very much. I have learnt many things from the conference. It has reminded me even more about how important the environment is and what other countries do to manage their environment.



EMECS has given me the chance to share my experiences of Tsunami. My presentation is on the topic of a "Science Tsunami Camp," which is about how the Tsunami affected Thailand, what my club, "Volunteer Camp Club," has done with regard to assistance and how we work. In fact, I had never faced a Tsunami myself, but I became aware how frightening it can be during the time I was in the camp.

I still remember the picture of a parent carrying his little children and catching hold of the older one, running away with such anxious faces when we heard the shout "Quickly! A tsunami is coming!" At that time, many thoughts came to mind; 'what shall I do if a huge wave comes towards me?' and 'will I survive?' It was really terrible. Luckily nothing happened. It was a very moving experience, one that I will not forget. Even though the tsunami is over, our Volunteer Camp Club still continues our work of lending a direct hand and developing the countryside.

It is not only knowledge that you can get from EMECS, but you will also make friends. I think opportunity, brain storming, relationships and good communication will lead to better cooperation for a better environment.

Finally, I hope that one day we will have another chance to cooperate, and enjoy an activity like this together again.

Thanchanok Udomsup
Chulalongkorn University (Thailand)

From a Global Perspective, From Our Own Perspective

Although this was the first time that I had participated in this type of international session, I think it was an extremely valuable experience for me, one from which I gained a great deal.



For one thing, I learned through this session to view things from a wide-ranging perspective. Prior to this, when thinking about the environmental issues I had some connection with, I had focused on only one thing, namely, reservoirs. But after listening to the presentations by other students, I realized that there are many different points of view even with regard to a single environmental issue.

I plan to use what I've learned here to focus not only on a single reservoir but on the ocean, rivers, mountains, and so on that are linked to that reservoir, and to pursue activities from a wide-ranging perspective. For this purpose, even as we maintain cooperation with people in the local community, I think it is important for us to move forward on our own to think about the future from new perspectives and grapple with environmental issues.

I am very grateful that I had the opportunity to participate in an outstanding session like this, in which students from many different countries could interact and exchange views on environmental issues from our own perspectives. It is up to us to protect our planet, and we must continue working to do so.

Azuna Sakonoue
Hyogo Prefectural Agricultural High School (Japan)

Next Generation Gains Knowledge, Experience and a Greater Appreciation of Our Environment

This year, I was able to experience my first flight on a plane, my first venture outside the United States, and my first EMECS Conference all in one trip! I learned a plethora of information about the world's environmental issues and different ways of alleviating the problems. One of the reoccurring issues was eutrophication; a problem caused by excess nutrients entering bodies of water via runoff and fertilizers. Excess nutrients can cause fatal damage to the aquatic environment. With such a common problem in the world's enclosed seas, everybody benefited from presentations, sharing different remedies for solving the problem. I also learned about the different ways environmental awareness and policy are incorporated into the different school systems of the world. In the student session we ventured out to an estuary with a group of French middle-school students to help them with their English project. They were using the environment as a device for learning how to write a persuasive letter. As this is my first year of college, I will be able to use the information I learned from the conference to aid me in my studies and with choosing an appropriate major. The EMECS Conference provided me with life-long experiences, deeper knowledge and a greater appreciation of our environment and its resources.



William Lee
Western School of Technology and Environmental Science
Baltimore County, MD (U.S.A.)

Shanghai City, China to be the venue for the 8th International Conference on the Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas (EMECS8)

The city of Shanghai, China has been announced as the venue of the next EMECS conference (EMECS8) at the closing session of the EMECS7 conference. The organizing committee will be set up, and the conference outline will be discussed there.

Here is a message from Professor Lizhong Yu, President of East China Normal University.

In the past 16 years, EMECS Conferences have been held with great success in Japan, the United States, Sweden, Turkey, Thailand, and France. There have been more than 5,000 professionals who have participated, including natural and human scientists, government officers and administrators, and individuals from industry, etc. In addition, numerous students have also been involved in the conferences.

It is of note that since its foundation, EMECS has disseminated a significant amount of basic knowledge in helping forge the environmental conservation of the earth on which human society has exclusively relied. It is also clear that in the past 7 EMECS conferences (including the present one), each conference has made a great contribution to reaching a consensus on how to overcome the negative factors of environmental degradation within the range

of the EMECS declaration. I believe such concepts are being updated all over the world as time advances.

I, on behalf of the East China Normal University, greatly appreciate the EMECS center for deciding on Shanghai, China, to be the location of EMECS 8, to be held in late October, 2008. My Chinese colleagues and I look forward to working hard with you in making the best preparations towards the target date, in the autumn of 2008.

I look forward to welcoming all of you to Shanghai, China for EMECS 8.

Lizhong Yu
President/Professor,
East China Normal University

JICA Training Course Report

Training Course in System of the Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas II 2006

The International EMECS Center conducted the Training Course in System of the Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas sponsored by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) from August 21 through October 27, 2006. 6 Government or local government officers from China, Cote d'Ivoire, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and Thailand participated in the course.

This course was born in 1990 in response to a proposal in the Seto Inland Sea Declaration adapted at the first International Conference on the Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas (EMECS '90) held in Kobe, Japan in 1990. The aim of the course is to contribute to the development of human resources who will promote the advancement of the environmental preservation of



coastal seas in developing countries. The course is designed to provide governmental officials who are engaged in the environmental management of coastal seas in developing countries with knowledge related

to environmental management strategies specifically applied to the environmental restoration of the Seto Inland Sea, the largest enclosed sea in Japan, which had suffered serious environmental pollution in 1960' and 1970' when Japan had experienced rapid economic growth.



During the course the participants were given opportunities to examine possible applicability of these strategies to their respective countries and to discuss with experts in both academic and industrial fields and exchange views and opinions.

For further information,
please contact the EMECS secretariat at
< secret@emecs.or.jp >

From Normandy to Oristano (2)

Dr. Nobuo Kumamoto

Former President of Hokkaigakuen University

Chair, Scientific & Policy Committee, International EMECS Center

5. The Hague Tribunal

On the morning of the 8th, we boarded the famous red "Thalys" high-speed train from the Gare du Nord station in Paris. For three hours, the train passed through the gentle rolling hills of France and the hilly region of southern Normandy, through Brussels in Belgium, and finally across the border into the Netherlands where the meadows were filled with water, to arrive at the international train station in the garden city of The Hague shortly thereafter. This is one of the most scenic routes in all of Europe, and of course along the way there are no billboards or other tasteless objects that might spoil the view. Natural beauty is truly the greatest hospitality. Japan's bullet train is fast, but the many tunnels adversely affect the scenic beauty of the ride.

From the train window, it was green all the way to the gentle arc of the horizon, dotted here and there with Holstein dairy cows. Waterfowl played with their young near the water's edge at the boundary with the meadow. It was proof that the world of the pastoral landscapes of 17th and 18th century Holland is still alive and well. People speak of refining one's aesthetic sense, but immersing oneself in such rich natural beauty and great paintings since one's childhood surely must cultivate one's eyes and nurture a sense of nature and beauty.

In The Hague, we were met by Dr. Frank von Meulen of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) department of the National Institute for Coastal and Marine Management (RIKZ). Dr. von Meulen is an old friend of mine and was a principal member supporting Dr. Erdal Özhan at the time of the International Conference on the Mediterranean Coastal Environment (MEDCOAST). From the international train station in The Hague, we traveled by train to the Institute. During the trip, Dr. von Meulen talked to us about the parliament building that resembles a church, the courthouse that evokes the middle ages and the other major institutions of government in The Hague, as well as the bronze-cast representation of Rembrandt's "Nightwatch", the National Museum of Art and the Panorama Mesdag with its panorama of the shoreline.

According to Dr. von Meulen, when Queen Beatrix is in residence, the queen's standard is displayed in front of the palace. Dr. von Meulen says he can see it from his office. The royal household is literally across the street from the general public. Dr. von Meulen's office overlooks the splendid stables affiliated with the palace.

On the high walls of the front of the courthouse building can be found the names of several outstanding Dutch lawyers, including Hugo Grotius (1583 - 1645), founder of the modern theory of natural law and author of "Commentary on the Law of Prize and Booty" and "On the Law of War and Peace." These names are undoubtedly displayed here to honor their authority and fame. Although I wish I could say that there is little distance between the great scholars and the private citizens relaxing in the small pavilion in front of the courthouse, the high walls make this a somewhat dubious claim.

In the past, international conflicts centered on territories and territorial waters, trade, and marine resources, and so legal scholars specializing in the Law of the Sea played an important role. Their insights formed the general rules for oceans and jurisprudence, not only in the Netherlands

but throughout the world as well. In this sense, it is only natural that the Netherlands, the birthplace of Grotius, should be the place where the Permanent Court of International Justice was located during the period of the League of Nations, and, later, where the International Court of Justice, in which international disputes are judged, was established under the United Nations.



Dr. Shigeru Oda of Tohoku University, an authority in the area of maritime law, served as a judge at the International Court of Justice for three terms, or 27 years, making him the longest-serving judge at both the International Court of Justice and the Permanent Court of International Justice. Regretfully, he retired in 2003. I remembered attending his lectures during an intensive course at the Faculty of Law of Hokkaido University in the summer of 1958. Dr. Oda spoke while referring to case studies written down on cards. The discussion was lively, as was Dr. Oda's energetic lecture; he never seemed to run out of steam.

More than thirty years ago, in the summer of 1974, I resided in The Hague for a month and a half while attending The Hague Academy of International Law. During this time, I had the opportunity to witness a session of the International Court of Justice. The case involved the so-called "Cod War" between Iceland and Britain, which was supported by West Germany and other European nations. Iceland asserted that the fishing grounds in its surrounding seas were within its territorial waters while the other countries asserted that they were in international waters. I had been told that Iceland had sent destroyers while fishing vessels from both nations were operating, and that the situation had progressed to just short of a collision. During the trial that day, Iceland was absent, and for that reason no examination of evidence or other actual proceedings were conducted. As I recall, the day was devoted exclusively to a brief statement of opinion by the opposing countries, after which the session ended without ceremony.

In the rose garden behind the International Court of Justice is a rose named "Peace," a new variety developed in 1929 that takes its name from the desire for peace following the end of World War I. It is an elegant flower with yellow petals with a pink border. Among the other noteworthy flowers in the garden is the Princess Michiko, a purple-red flower commemorating Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Michiko. As I recall, the rose garden was open to the general public. On this occasion, however, the front gate was closed, perhaps due to security considerations, or perhaps the garden was closed on that day of the week. On the traffic strip in front of the gate, a single, young T-shirt-clad protestor, a member of a Chinese religious group that was suppressed by Beijing, held a banner and a panel of photographs and demonstrated for "Truth". The trees surrounding the courthouse had not changed, unlike the times, which are undergoing great changes.

6. Wetlands and Reclamation in the Netherlands

According to Dr. von Meuren's explanation, one-third of the land area of the Netherlands consists of lowland marshes. As a result, the central problem is how to resolve, in an integrated manner, such issues as developing methods of regulating the water levels of these areas and of surrounding ocean regions, ascertaining the ecological impact of the discharge of marsh water into the ocean, and finding ways to protect the embankments from natural disasters. Protection of wetlands is a problem faced by many countries, but the difficulty of doing so in the Netherlands lies in finding ways to change marshland into dry land.

Regarding the Netherlands, Ryotaro Shiba comments:

"People in the Netherlands built embankments and reclaimed the land inside. They dug canals in the reclaimed land and dried the surface of the ground. They used the power generated by windmills to operate pumps to discharge the water in the canals. There is no doubt that the battle with seawater is the greatest problem faced by the country. But at the same time, ecological preservation is also a problem. "Historically, Holland prospered as a result of the herring trade. For this reason, marine ecological research centered on preserving fishing resources. The hands-on knowledge and experience relating to coastal management made a major contribution to the development of civil engineering technologies in Japan in the Meiji period." Yet even now, Japan can learn a great deal from the Netherlands. With a promise of cooperation at the upcoming EMECS conference, Dr. von Meuren parted from me at the international train station in The Hague.

7. The Savoia Majestic in Genoa

Two days later, I flew from Amsterdam to Milan, Italy. From there, I took a local train for a little over an hour, arriving in Genoa. There were only a few people on the train, and while both facilities and speed were a marked contrast with the Thalys, it offered the casual comfort that is typical of a local train. I tried to order ice cream, but I was not able to make myself understood. A gentleman sitting nearby translated for me, saying "gelato." Such assistance is undoubtedly commonplace here. The kindness more than made up for the deficiencies in facilities and speed.

When I emerged from the last tunnel on the Genoa line, I was in Genoa. At the kiosk, I strung Italian words to ask "Una carta Genoa?" The salesgirl beamed in response, saying "Si, si, signore, grazie mille." When I asked for directions saying "Dove Hotel Savoia Majestic?" she came out of the kiosk and went out of the station exit in front with me and carefully explained how to get to the Savoia. "Grazie mille, senora." This was the Italy of cheerfulness and kindness, in all its glory.

On the left as you leave the elegant station building is an enormous marble statue of a standing figure. Carved into the base is "Cristoforo Colombo, Patriot." Prior to this, I had not realized that this was the birthplace of the famous Christopher Columbus. Later, upon reading many guidebooks, I learned that Genoa was his birthplace and the house in which he was born has been preserved to this day. Today we remember only Columbus, but this is the English reading of the name from the time of the British Empire. This led me to think that possibly the name Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka, is a remnant the age of the Genovese Republic that preceded the emergence of the British Empire. Did even the power of the British Empire, which changed Melaka on the Malay Peninsula to Malacca, yield to the authority of Genoa? Or did it demonstrate its sincerity by not changing Colombo to Columbus? I do not know.

While contemplating such matters, I gazed at the glittering gold lights of the residential area that stretched endlessly behind the Savoia Majestic Hotel, and I recalled the great prosperity of the Genovese Republic long ago. The expressway running between the hotel and the coast cuts off the

city center from the coast in a wide swath. It felt as if the citizens had been separated by a great distance from the sea.

If you take a long detour down the expressway, you come face to face with a group of dilapidated, bare concrete buildings at the Genoa University Department of Economics currently under construction on the coast. They will one day be covered with slabs of marble, as if they were in Jerusalem, but now they stand in sharp contrast with the adjacent National Aquarium located a short distance away, which is simple but elegant and resembles the royal palace. The exterior of the aquarium has an aura that outstrips even the maritime museum in Monaco. Unfortunately, it had already been closed and visitors are not permitted. Moreover, the meeting with a certain local marine geographer that had been planned did not take place due to a scheduling conflict on that person's part. However, there is long experience and a great deal of knowledge in this region regarding the Mediterranean studies and harbor management, and it should be considered as a candidate area for future EMECS interchange.

In the 15th century, Genoa was a narrow coastal nation surrounded on the north, east and west by the republics of Savoy, Milan, Modena and Florence. Though a small nation with steep mountains to its rear, Genoa built a financial foundation through sound commercial transactions, gaining in return an isolated abundance as a republic that reigned proudly over northern Italy. With this awareness, the proud citizens were different from the people of southern Italy both in temperament and in customs. From my balcony, I could see in the harbor which seemed to compare favorably with the harbors of Kobe and Nagasaki several container ships, small as toys. They were bound for Naples in the south of Italy, and for Tunisia in northern Africa. From this, you can see that Genoa is a strategic crossroads that links northern Italy with the eastern Mediterranean. Turin, the site of this winter's Olympics, is located in a mountainous region some 200 kilometers north of Genoa.

8. The Bottarga of Oristano

Before sunup on the following morning, the 10th, I headed for a small airport outside the city and traveled via Rome to Cagliari on the island of Sardinia, an enjoyable one-hour flight on Alitalia. I flew through the deep blue of the Mediterranean sea and sky before arriving in Sardinia, Italy's second-largest island. In the small, bright airport lobby, I was met by Dr. Paolo Magni. As there is no public transport from Cagliari Airport to Oristano, I was very grateful that he came to meet my flight. The Duomo Hotel that he had reserved for me was wonderful -- a family-style place that resembled a Japanese minshuku.

Several years ago, Dr. Magni studied Japanese at Okayama University on a Japanese government scholarship. Subsequently, he acquired his doctorate after studying in the graduate programs at Kagawa University and Ehime University. Currently, he is a senior researcher at the International Marine Centre (IMC) in Oristano on the west coast of Sardinia. He is engaged in one part of the Mediterranean oceanographic research sponsored by the United Nations.

The IMC was established in 1995 as an NPO of the United Nations (UNEP-MAP) with the objective of conducting research, teaching and training, and it supports oceanographic research on the western coast of the Italian peninsula. The head of the IMC, Dr. Reato Covacci, is originally from the Balkans but subsequently made Italy the center of his activities. He is a big man whose appearance is exactly what you would expect of a man of the sea. The Centre is small in scale, with a dozen or more researchers working under Dr. Covacci, but it has a very good reputation locally. The IMC conducts research into the ocean currents and marine organisms in the waters off the western coast of the Italian peninsula, as well as the development of marine product resources and so on.



The coastal ecosystem research group at the IMC comprises Dr. Giovanni De Falco, Dr. Maura Baroli, Dr. Serena Como, Dr. Ivan Guala, Dr. Giuseppe Piergallini, and Dr. Simone Simeone.

One of the Centre's recent research projects concerns the bottarga caviar made from the eggs of a fish named Maletto that is caught in the waters around Sardinia. As this research is of great benefit to the Italian seafood processing industry, the project receives financial assistance from the Italian government.

Dr. Zuzana Smolenicka plays a central role in this research project, which involves genetic research into Italian bottarga with the aim of developing a method of easily distinguishing it from imported bottarga. Imported bottarga consists primarily of inexpensive bottarga from the oceans surrounding Northern Europe that is shipped to Italy, where it is processed and labeled as being from Sardinia and then marketed at an inexpensive price. This imported bottarga has dealt a severe blow to the local Sardinian fishing industry. When the raw fish eggs of both the local Sardinian bottarga and the imported bottarga are sun-dried for a long period of time, they turn the same semi-translucent amber color, making it impossible to distinguish local bottarga from imported bottarga by their appearance. Establishing a method of distinguishing these types by means of genetics would make it possible to eliminate this type of fraud.

Later, as a tribute to the courteous lecture I had been given, I sampled a solid block of amber-colored Sardinian bottarga at the Cagliari Airport. It is definitely a product that can be recommended.

In Japan as well, North Sea smelt once appeared on the market as Hokkaido smelt. In this case, the two characters for "North Sea" are the same as the first two characters in the Japanese island of Hokkaido, so it was not false labeling. But as it gave the impression to consumers that it was from Hokkaido, it was misleading and therefore became an issue. This was severely criticized by both producers and consumers and was subsequently corrected. When I told this story, the response was a laugh and a comment that "such types of people are present everywhere in the world, so my research has meaning."

One night we went to the Ristorante Trieste frequented by Dr. Magni that faces the beach at Oristano to have local seafood dishes and enjoy a pleasant chat and the gentle sea breeze at dusk. Dr. Magni's stay in Japan seems to have been a very fruitful one as a result of the many close friends he made among the Japanese researchers. We had friends in common among the researchers at Kagawa University and Ehime University, in addition to Dr. Tomotoshi Okaichi, Professor Emeritus at Kagawa University, and Dr. Tetsuo Yanagi, Professor at Kyushu University. During his stay in Japan, Dr. Magni had also worked at Kagawa University as a research assistant, and he has published many papers in both Italian and English.

As a result of the kindnesses he had received in Japan and the research opportunities he had been given, Dr. Magni appeared to have grown to love Japan naturally, in addition to his own country. When I asked him which team he would support if both Japan and Italy made it to the finals of the World Cup, he laughed and said in fluent Japanese that that would be a problem both for him and his daughter Marina. His beloved daughter Marina is a bond that unites the two countries. For the oceanographic research of both countries, it is extremely heartening that a researcher with such a background and research history is being nurtured. It is my hope that someday he will make a major contribution to the field.

Oristano lies in the 250-kilometer distance between Cagliari in the center of the island and Olbia at the northern tip. There is a bay named Oristano Bay that takes its name from this province. It is a small elliptical bay with a major axis of 15 kilometers and a minor axis of 10 kilometers. Its economy is centered on commercial fishing. The cape of San Marco at the western tip of the island is a small rise that is off limits to the general public. On the gentle slope that leads halfway down the hill to the coast is the remains of an ancient hamlet from the Roman era, with a small amphitheater in which two columns still stand. When I asked about this, I was told that, even before the Roman era, this region had been invaded by people of many different races and religions, and through the process of destruction and construction, bloodletting and assimilation, and conflict and reconciliation, there had been a blending and fusing of many different bloodlines and cultures that formed the unique history of Sardinia. This type of process was common to other islands in the Mediterranean as well, such as Cyprus, Malta and Corsica.

Thinking about the historical background of this island as I strolled around the ruins on the cape, I suddenly became aware of many familiar species of plant such as thistles, morning glory, psyllium and gourds that had taken root in the dry soil between the rocks and flowered. In form, they were no different from the plants that one would see in Hokkaido, and yet they were smaller in shape, and it could be observed that they had developed the ability to store water in their fleshy leaves and stalks so as to withstand the intense sunlight. Undoubtedly the plant species on this island that had separated from the Italian mainland so long ago basically belong to the plant populations of the northern hemisphere, and over time they had evolved to adapt to the fierce heat of the Mediterranean.

If so, then, as in the process of the metamorphosis of plant populations, it is possible that we will see changes in the marine organisms that inhabit the ocean around the island that are not seen in the northern seas. I was suddenly overcome with the desire to go to the fish market. Nevertheless, that will have to wait until my next trip.

Call for Articles

Contributions from readers (reports on research on enclosed coastal seas, conference information, etc) would be greatly appreciated.

International EMECS Center

IHD Bldg. 5-1 Wakino-hama-kaigandori 1-chome, Chuo-ku, Kobe 651-0073 Japan

TEL: +81-78-252-0234 FAX: +81-78-252-0404

URL: <http://www.emecs.or.jp> E-mail: secret@emecs.or.jp