

Satoumi Creation Support Project launched

In May 2024, the International EMECS Center signed an Agreement to Promote Satoumi Creation with the Environmental Management Bureau of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOE).

In FY2025, the Center launched the 'Satoumi Creation Support Project' as its independent project, with the aim of further promoting Satoumi creation activities. Under this project, we provide funds to organizations involved in Satoumi creation in coastal regions across Japan, as well as our experience and scientific and technological knowledge gained through the commissioned project from the MOE as needed to support their continued activities. We also provide support to researchers engaged in various research and technological development projects that contribute to Satoumi creation activities being undertaken in coastal regions.

Furthermore, as part of this project, we established a support program, which provides grants of up to 500,000 yen per application to organizations engaged in Satoumi creation activities, and grants of up to 1 million yen per application to researchers conducting research that contributes to Satoumi creation. Applications were accepted from May to June 2025, and 17 organizations were selected for activity support, and 8 researchers for research support.

To further advance this project, we solicited donations and received support from five companies. We greatly appreciate their understanding and support for our activities.



Satoumi Creation Support

List of Activity Support Grant Recipients (17 Organizations) ※ Unofficial translation

No.	Location	Organization	Project
1	Ishikari City, Hokkaido	Ishikari Bay Fisheries Cooperative	Kombu Aquaculture Trial for Satoumi Development at Ishikari Bay New Port
2	Haboro Town, Tomamae District, Hokkaido	North Rumoi Fisheries Cooperative, Yagishiri Branch - Shallow Sea Cultivation Section	Yagishiri UNI-MOBA Sustainable Project
3	Tateyama City, Chiba Prefecture	NPO Tateyama Sea Appraisers	South Boso / Tateyama: Content Development and Awareness-Raising for Sustainable Satoumi and Satoyama Activities
4	Hyogo Ward, Kobe City	General Incorporated Association ABAREWORK	AmaDropProject (A planting method in which large eelgrass seedlings grown onshore are dropped from boats to naturally take root on the seabed)
5	Suma Ward, Kobe City	BLUABLE Co., Ltd.	Urban Sea-Connected Seaweed Bed Project at Suma, Kobe
6	Toyooka City, Hyogo Prefecture	Tajima Fisheries Cooperative, Takeno Branch - Young Fishermen's Division	Sustainable Community Development Starting from Seaweed Beds
7	Kurashiki City, Okayama Prefecture	The Foundation for Environmental Rehabilitation and Redevelopment of Mizushima	Activities to Learn about the Takahashi River Basin toward Satoumi Development in Mizushima Nada
8	Kasaoka City, Okayama Prefecture	KASAOKA BLUE RAISE	Survey of Eelgrass Beds in Kasaoka
9	Higashihiroshima City, Hiroshima Prefecture	River Basin Environmental Restoration Center	Environmental Education on the Functions of Tidal Flats and Seaweed Beds
10	Etajima City, Hiroshima Prefecture	Etajima Future Sea Development Council	New Seaweed Bed Expansion Activities Utilizing Oyster Shells through Industry-Government-Academia Collaboration around Etajima City
11	Munakata City, Fukuoka Prefecture	Munakata City	"Munakata Sea Urchin Project" - Seaweed Bed Regeneration and Awareness-Raising Project Using Culled Sea Urchins
12	Karatsu City, Saga Prefecture	NPO Genkai-nada Protection and Cultivation Association	Building a Virtuous Cycle of People, Goods, and Funds through Marine Environmental Education and Experiential Tour Demonstrations for Future Generations
13	Nagasaki City, Nagasaki Prefecture	Yattaro de Takashima	Creative Project for Continuous and Collaborative "Satoumi Development"
14	Iki City, Nagasaki Prefecture	Wa Corporation Ltd.	"Iki Island" Ocean Plastic Waste Clean-Up Operation, Trash Art Exhibition, and Eco-Tourism Event
15	Hyuga City, Miyazaki Prefecture	Hiraiwa Harvesting Group	Hyuga / Hiraiwa: Forest of Kurome Kelp in the Sea
16	Kagoshima City, Kagoshima Prefecture	Sea Protection Corps	Toward Coexistence with Beautiful Coral Communities - Odari Marine Clean Project
17	Minamisatsuma City, Kagoshima Prefecture	Minamisatsuma City Seaweed Bed Restoration Council	Restoration Project for "Cradle of the Sea" (Eelgrass Beds)

List of Research Support Grant Recipients (8 Researchers) ※ Unofficial translation

No.	Location	Researcher	Affiliation	Research Project
1	Matsushima Bay, Sendai City, Miyagi Pref.	Manami Saito	Yamagata Analytical Science Research Center	Estimating the Growth Potential of Eelgrass Beds in Matsushima Bay Using Seaweed Bed Distribution Data (2012-2024)
2	Suruga Bay, Shizuoka Pref.	Hisayuki Arakawa	Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology	Satoumi Development to Restore Degraded Resources in Suruga Bay
3	Nanao Bay, Ishikawa Pref.	Takafumi Yoshida	Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center	Seaweed Bed Ecosystem Survey in the Western Part of Nanao Bay Using Environmental DNA
4	Toba City, Mie Pref.	Kosuke Yamamoto	Mie University	Study of Factors Necessary for Eelgrass Bed Restoration in Toba City
5	Onomichi City, Hiroshima Pref.	Masaki Sagehashi	Eikei University	Research on University Education Methods through Satoumi Creation via Short-Neck Clam Resource Recovery
6	Onomichi City, Hiroshima Pref.	Hironori Yamamoto	Setouchi Satoumi Association	Research on Preserving Local Satoumi History and Culture and Creating Satoumi Stories Using AI
7	Onomichi City, Hiroshima Pref.	Yukimasa Yamagishi	Fukuyama University	Genetic Analysis of Local Eelgrass Populations in the Eastern Hiroshima Coastal Waters
8	Tsushima City, Nagasaki Pref.	Sun-ae Li	Miyazaki Municipal University	Attempts at Satoumi Restoration by Fishermen in K-Village, Tsushima City, Nagasaki: Focusing on Hijiki Fishing Grounds

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Winners selected for Excellence Award (Minister of the Environment Award) at the Reiwa Satoumi Creation Poster Design Competition

The International EMECS Center held the 'Reiwa Satoumi Creation Poster Design Competition' for students enrolled in higher education institutions across Japan, including universities and junior colleges.

This competition invited submissions of poster designs on the themes of the Satoumi creation projects being implemented by the eight organizations selected by the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) under the FY2025 Infrastructure-Building Support Project for Strategic Reiwa Satoumi Creation.

Posters were accepted from Saturday, 1 November to Sunday, 23 November 2025. At the 'Reiwa Satoumi Creation Poster Design Judging Committee' meeting held on Tuesday, 9 December, one entry per theme (eight

entries in total) was selected for the Excellence Award (Minister of the Environment Award).

An awards ceremony was held at the 'FY2025 Satoumi Creation Symposium' (co-sponsored by the MOE, the Environment Research and Technology Development Fund S-23 Project, and the National Institute for Environmental Studies), which took place on Friday, 30 January 2026 at the Namba Midotsuji Hall (Chuo-ku, Osaka). The award-winning posters were displayed at the venue.



Satoumi Creation Poster Design Competition

Themes on which entries were invited, implementing organizations (activity locations), project names (Unofficial translation)

Theme	Implementing organisation (location of activity)	Project
1	Environmental and Ecological Engineering Research Institute(Matsushima Town, Miyagi Prefecture)	Matsushima Satoumi Basket
2	Higashimatsushima Organization for Progress and Economy, Education, Energy(Higashimatsushima City, Miyagi Prefecture)	Higashimatsushima BLUE LAND Project
3	Wakura Onsen Creative Reconstruction/Town Development Promotion Council (Nanao City, Ishikawa Prefecture)	Wakura Onsen-Nanao Bay Satoumi Restoration Project
4	Mie University (Toba City, Mie Prefecture)	Satoumi in Japan: A Demonstration Project for the Utilisation of Natural Environment, Coexistence Culture, and Biodiversity as Local Resources in Toba City, Mie Prefecture
5	Kaizuka Satoumi Future Council (Kaizuka City, Osaka Prefecture)	Sustainable Ecosystem Conservation and Satoumi Network Building Project in the Nishikinohama Coastal Area
6	Onomichi Eastern Fisheries Cooperative (Onomichi City, Hiroshima Prefecture)	New Satoumi Creation Project Aimed at the Restoration and Utilisation of Matsunaga Bay
7	Fukuoka FUN (Fukuoka City, Fukuoka Prefecture)	Starting from Hakata Bay: Harmony Between Human Activities and Nature via Coastal and Basin Areas
8	Higo Bank, The Foundation for the Preservation of Green and Water Resources of Higo (Ashikita Town and Amakusa City, Kumamoto Prefecture)	Satoumi Creation Project through Restoration and Utilisation of Seagrass Beds in Coastal Areas Such as the Yatsushiro Sea Based on Collaboration Between Industry, Government, Academia, Citizens, and Financial Institutions: Aiming to Create Satoumi That Is Sustainable Far into the Future.

Excellence Award (Minister of the Environment Award) winners and their award-winning works



Theme 1
Saki Morita
(Tokai University)



Theme 2
Ayane Yamamiya
(Tokai University)



Theme 3
Saki Takahashi
(Tokai University)



Theme 4
Keigo Horie
(Mie University)



Theme 5
Tomoko Kuwano
(Tokai University)



Theme 6
Rin Yoshihara
(Onomichi City University)



Theme 7
Moka Hyodo
(Tokai University)



Theme 8
Miko Omizo
(Nagoya University of Arts and Sciences)

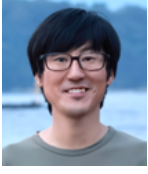
Recipients selected for FY2025 Grants-in-Aid for Young Researchers

As part of its efforts to strengthen its survey and research activities, the International EMECS Center established the Grants-in-Aid for Young Researchers in FY2020 to provide support for outstanding young researchers who are engaged in research that contributes to environmental conservation of enclosed seas. In FY2025, the sixth year of the program, we received 12 applications.

On Friday, 6 June 2025, six researchers, including three continuing from the previous year, were selected as grant recipients after a rigorous selection process at the EMECS researchers' meeting.



Grants-in-Aid for
Young Researchers

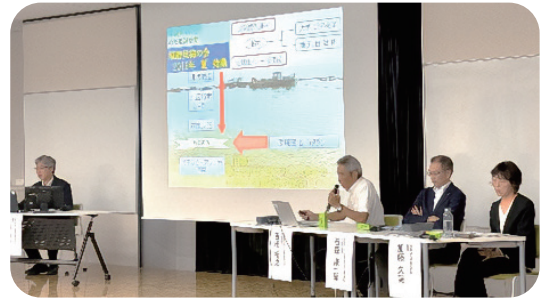
	Name	Affiliation	Research theme	Overview
	Takashi Namamura	Associate Professor School of Environment and Society, Institute of Science Tokyo	Development of a Shizugawa Bay Digital Twin using an integrated watershed-ocean-ecosystem model (part 3)	
	Hidetaka Kobayashi	Special Assistant Professor Faculty of Science, University of Toyama	Elucidating the Carbon Budget in Coastal Areas: A Case Study of Toyama Bay	
	Tatsuya Ozaki	Doctoral Degree Programs Division of Environmental & Symbiotic Sciences Graduate School of Environmental & Symbiotic Sciences Prefectural University of Kumamoto	Primary production of microphytobenthos on tidal flats influenced by tides and submarine groundwater discharge (Part II)	
	Megumu Fujibayashi	Associate Professor Department of Urban and Environmental Engineering Faculty of Engineering Kyushu University	Effects of Dissolved Silica on the Growth and Eicosapentaenoic Acid (EPA) Production of Benthic Diatoms in Tidal Flats	
	Tomonori Isada	Associate Professor Akkeshi Marine Station Field Science Center for Northern Biosphere Hokkaido University	Origin and composition of Transparent Exopolymer Particles (TEPs) produced in eelgrass meadows	
	Ryota Sone	Chief researcher Aichi Fisheries Research Institute	Restoration of stock of asari clams and tidal flats ecosystem through nutrient management -A study of ecosystem response and function in tidal flat mesocosm experiments	

Report on the Satoumi International Forum

On Sunday, 28 September 2025, the Satoumi International Forum ‘Toward the Next Phase of Satoumi Creation: Messages from Hyogo’ took place at the House of Hyogo Origins of the Hyogo Prefectural Hyogo-no-Tsu Museum (Hyogo Ward, Kobe). It was held as part of the ‘Hyogo Satoyama Satoumi International Forum’ (organised by Hyogo Prefecture, International EMECS Center, etc.), an event organised during Hyogo EXPO Week’s ‘The Future of the Earth and Biodiversity’ theme week, which was established to coincide with that of the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan.

At the Satoumi International Forum, three case-study presentations were given. The first presenter, Mr. Hiroyuki Yoshida, Representative Director of the Suma Satoumi Association, gave a talk on Satoumi creation in the Suma Coast area in Kobe. The second presenter, Mr. Koichiro Ishimori, President of Value Frontier Co., Ltd., talked about Satoumi creation in the Gulf of California, Mexico. The third presenter, Professor Kumi Kato of the Faculty of Tourism, Wakayama University, gave a presentation on Satoumi creation that utilises local resources. These presentations were followed by a panel discussion, with Professor Yusuke Uchiyama of the Graduate School of Engineering, Kobe University, as moderator.

The Forum was attended by approximately 80 participants.



An Aquarium-Led Endeavour: Satoumi Creation in Urban Areas

Panelist : Hiroyuki Yoshida, Representative Director, Suma Satoumi Association

At Suma Beach in Kobe, the Suma Aquarium launched its “Satoumi” initiative in 2010 after hearing from fishermen that they could no longer harvest clams. Clam fishing in Suma had ceased after 2009, and it is believed that this was due to a combination of factors, including land reclamation.

The aquarium secured research funding, and fishermen and aquarium staff collaborated to begin surveys of the seabed and the actual status of the clams. In 2016, the Suma Satoumi Association was formed, with citizens, fishermen, researchers, and local government working together to restore the coast so that wild clams could return. However, they concluded that regenerating the wild clam population would require large-scale civil engineering projects and extensive water quality improvements—efforts that went beyond the scope of citizen-led initiatives.

In 2020, the decision was made to close the aquarium, and the association relocated its base of operations to the fisheries cooperative. To enhance its financial capacity and credibility, the association obtained general incorporated association status in 2024 and continues its activities.

Currently, in addition to activities such as raising broodstock and securing settlement sites for juvenile clams, the association is also focusing on creating seagrass beds and kelp beds. These seagrass beds are said to function as “blue carbon,” helping to mitigate global warming.

Furthermore, in collaboration with Hyogo Prefecture, Kobe City, and local fishermen, the association established the “Kobe Suma Abundant Sea Project” and is working to secure funding through the J-Credit system.

The association places the greatest emphasis on educational outreach. Through activities such as holding the Satoumi classroom for elementary school students, the association continues its work with the goal of broadening interest in the ocean and passing on a rich Satoumi environment to future generations.

Creating Satoumi in Mexico

Panelist : Koichiro Ishimori, President, Value Frontier Co., Ltd.

In Mexico, fish catches are on the decline due to the effects of climate change and overfishing, placing increasing pressure on the livelihoods of fishermen, especially small-scale fishermen. The La Paz Satoumi Council—comprising local governments, universities, NGOs, and fishermen—was established to address the challenges facing the La Paz region, where fish catch volumes had plummeted due to climate change and overfishing. With support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Council adopted a method that involves miniaturising artificial reefs made from oyster and scallop shells produced by a manufacturer in Okayama Prefecture and sinking them onto the seabed after filling them with local shells.

Just one week after artificial reefs were installed, large numbers of fish began to gather, and within three months, high-value commercial fish were also observed, demonstrating the remarkable effects of the method. Furthermore, the discovery of attached eggs by university researchers proved that this was not merely a gathering of fish, but a ‘nature-positive’ state where biological production was taking place.

To ensure the sustainability of these activities, the Council is also working to establish rules to prevent overfishing. Currently, this initiative has been expanded to approximately 10 locations along the Gulf of California, and the goal is to expand it throughout Central and South America in the future.

Creating Satoumi by Utilising Local Resources

Panelist : Kumi Kato, Professor, Faculty of Tourism, Wakayama University

Against the backdrop of recent overtourism issues, it is necessary to go back to the starting point of ecotourism and switch to 'sustainable tourism', in which tourists, businesses, and local communities share responsibility.

Tourists' attitudes are also changing, with a growing tendency to prioritise social and environmental contributions to local communities. As seen in the examples of the Palau Pledge, which asks international visitors to sign a commitment to environmental responsibility, and the Miyajima Visitor Tax, initiatives designed to convey a region's determination and commitment to sustainable tourism to tourists are spreading across various regions. Traditional knowledge and spiritual culture that cannot be fully expressed by the term 'sustainable' are deeply embedded in Satoumi creation. We can consider tourism activities only by building on such knowledge and culture. Certification programs such as the Blue Flag certification will function as effective tools for creating a common language among regions and fostering their collaboration. It is necessary to work in partnership with the local community, with a 'do what we can do' attitude, based on the belief that tourism can be a driving force for social transformation.

Panel Discussion

Coordinator : Yusuke Uchiyama, Professor, Graduate School of Engineering, Kobe University

< Discussion >

While Satoumi creation activities such as fishing and seaweed bed restoration are underway at Suma Coast, the results are still limited. The goal for the future is to expand beyond the current 60-hectare activity area and establish a network connecting it with surrounding beaches and locations. Additionally, there is a need for human resources, funding, and strategic planning (including goal setting) to apply the knowledge gained from the artificial coastline to the natural coastline.

The success of the artificial reef installation in La Paz, Mexico, can be attributed to the fishermen's own keen sense of urgency and their voluntary and proactive efforts. While Hyogo Prefecture's Satoumi activities are well-designed and rich in content, the main challenge seems to be a lack of awareness among prefectural residents. It may be necessary to promote proposal activities that involve young people, and to co-operate on a broader scale with neighbouring prefectures such as Okayama and Kagawa.

A common challenge regarding the utilisation of local resources is that activities being undertaken in each region do not form a consistent story. Tourism must shift from merely attracting visitors to 'sustainable tourism' that is integrated with nature conservation. Certification systems should be used as a mechanism for participation and evaluation of regions, instead of a means to simply 'obtain a logo'.

A young participant at the event commented, 'Young people are seeking a return to a "human-centered lifestyle" due to digital fatigue, which could align well with Satoumi activities. Why not leverage the young generation's tendency for "emotional consumption" (where empathy for a product's background and story drives purchasing decisions)?'

< Wrap-up >

There is a need to disseminate information and raise public awareness about Satoumi creation. The first step will be to let a broad range of people, including Generation Z, know what Satoumi actually is. To foster economic circulation, it is necessary to establish a system where companies that prioritise ESG (Environment, Social, and Governance) management can enhance their corporate value by donating to and collaborating on Satoumi initiatives. Moving beyond one-off, isolated efforts, the future of Satoumi creation lies in building a wide-area network that connects local communities.



Satoumi International
Forum

Report on the PEMSEA (Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia) Meeting

The International EMECS Center is a non-governmental partner of PEMSEA (11 country partners and 22 non-country partners), which has its secretariat in the Philippines. We participated online in the 'East Asian Seas (EAS) Partnership Council Meeting' held by PEMSEA in Manila, Philippines from 22 to 23 July 2025.

At the meeting, country and non-country partners reported on their respective projects and initiatives related to PEMSEA's 'Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) Implementation Plan 2023-2027'. Our Center reported on the Satoumi creation project and the High School Student Marine Environmental Conservation Research Seminar, held as part of our human resource development initiatives.

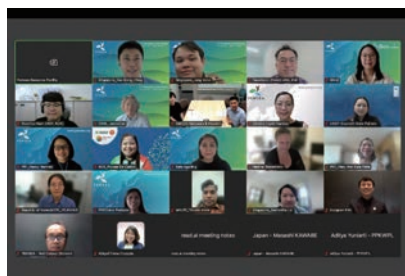


Photo by PEMSEA Resource Facility



PEMSEA

About PEMSEA

The Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) is a sustainable development framework established by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1994 to promote harmony between marine development and marine environmental conservation in the waters of East and Southeast Asia.

The Secretariat (PEMSEA Resource Facility) is located in Manila, Philippines, and includes 11 country partners (Cambodia, China, North Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, the Philippines, South Korea, Singapore, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam) and 22 non-country partners.

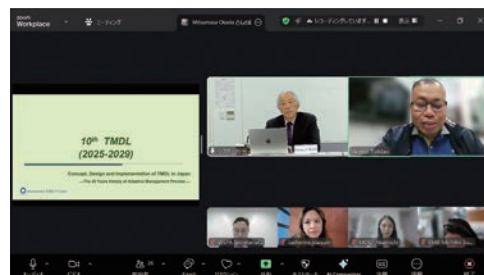
Report on the Water Environment Partnership in Asia (WEPA) Project

As part of the Water Environment Partnership in Asia (WEPA) initiative implemented by the Ministry of the Environment, a meeting took place on Thursday, 15 January 2026. It was organized by the International EMECS Center, commissioned by the WEPA Secretariat—Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)—to allow government officials and researchers from WEPA partner countries to learn about Japan's total pollutant load control system and Satoumi creation projects and exchange information. At the meeting, presentations were made to share Japan's and Hyogo Prefecture's total pollutant load reduction efforts and nutrient management operations with administrative officials and researchers from the Philippines, and active exchanges of information and ideas took place between participants from both countries.

1. Date and Time: : Thursday, 15 January 2026, 10:00–17:00 (Online)
2. Participants : 19 people from the Republic of the Philippines (administrative officials from the Environmental Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, etc.)
3. Presentations: : Current status and prospects for Japan's total pollutant load reduction initiative by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan / The roles of the national and local governments in total pollutant load reduction by Hyogo Prefectural Government / Others

With the aim of sharing Japan's experience in water pollution control methods with participants from the Philippines, Mr. Mitsumasa Okada (WEPA Advisor, Professor Emeritus at Hiroshima University, President of the International EMECS Center) spoke about Japan's efforts to reduce the total amount of pollutant load flowing into water areas; Mr. Yusuke Uchiyama (Professor, Graduate School of Engineering, Kobe University) discussed the history of environmental conservation in Japan's coastal areas and the Ministry of the Environment's promotion of Satoumi creation; and a representative from the Water and Air Division of the Environment Department, Hyogo Prefectural Government, provided an overview of the water quality conditions of the Seto Inland Sea and the Prefecture's total pollutant load reduction efforts and nutrient salt management plan.

Finally, Mr. Yusuke Nakatani (Associate Professor, Graduate School of Engineering, The University of Osaka) gave a presentation on measures to address nutrient salt inputs into coastal waters and their impact on nori cultivation. The meeting served as a forum for comprehensively sharing information on the history of water pollution and countermeasures in Japan's coastal areas, as well as local governments' efforts to address water pollution.



WEPA

Report on the FY2025 High School Student Marine Environmental Conservation Research Seminar

With the aim of further promoting the development of the next generation of leaders for environmental conservation of enclosed coastal seas, the International EMECS Center has been holding the 'High School Student Marine Environmental Conservation Research Seminar' since FY2022 (held under the name 'High School Student Marine Environmental Conservation Research Presentation Meeting' until FY2024) to provide high school students engaged in environmental research/studies and conservation activities in coastal or catchment areas of the enclosed coastal seas with the opportunity to receive direct advice and guidance from experts and to present their findings to the public.

This fiscal year, the presentation guidance session was held on Saturday, 25 October 2025, and the research presentation session was held on Saturday, 24 January 2026, at Space Alpha Sannomiya (Chuo Ward, Kobe), where 10 research projects from a total of eight schools were presented.

In addition, from this fiscal year, a new programme has been launched to support the high schools selected to participate in the seminar. Specifically, prior to the presentation guidance session, five presentation advisors provide advice, upon request, to the participating students on their research activities, either in person at their school or online.

For each school, an advisor who specialises in the field most closely related to its research topic is appointed. From late July to early September 2025, support was provided to seven schools that had requested it. Advisors listened to students explain the progress of their research and then provided advice on various matters, including how to improve research methods and clarify the purpose of research.

The presentation guidance session was closed to the public, and up to five students from each high school participated and gave presentations on a wide range of topics, including the development of a board game to raise awareness of marine debris, the conservation of eelgrass using oyster shells, the recovery of bigfin reef squid stock, and raising awareness of marine environmental conservation through artworks made

from marine debris. After each presentation, the students received advice and guidance from the presentation advisors on their research content, how to proceed with their research, and how to create clear and easy-to-understand PowerPoint slides.

The presentation guidance session was held all day, in the morning and afternoon, and the participating students listened attentively to presentations made by, and advice given to, other schools. At the end of the event, a plenary Q&A session was held to allow students to ask and answer questions to each other.

The research presentation session (open to the public) was held in a hybrid format combining in-person and online participation, where the students delivered refined presentations, incorporating feedback from the guidance session.

After the presentations, the presentation advisors evaluated the presentations. The Grand Prize was awarded to 'Oyster Shells: Heroes of the Sea! Could They Be the Savior of Eelgrass Restoration?' by Okayama Gakugeikan High School, while the Excellence Award was awarded to 'Where Do Juvenile Squid Born on the Spawning Beds Go?: Basic Research on Early Stage Mortality of Bigfin Reef Squid and Stock Restoration' by Kagoshima Prefectural Kagoshima Fisheries High School, and 'Towards Zero Marine Debris: Environmental Conservation of Megijima Island through Art' by Anabuki Gakuen High School.

In the post-seminar survey completed by the accompanying teachers from the participating high schools, we received comments such as, 'It was inspiring for students to hear presentations from various schools', 'It was helpful to receive specific advice on presentation methods and content', and 'Receiving advice at the guidance session and having the goal of presenting at the final showcase as a culmination of the year's work motivated the students to do their best'.

A video of the presentations from this seminar has been released on the International EMECS Center website, so please check it out.



High school seminar

High schools participating in the FY2025 High School Student Marine Environmental Conservation Research Seminar (in order of presentation)

※ Unofficial translation

School Name	Presentation Title	Award
Miyagi Prefectural Minamisanriku High School	Biological Survey of Matsubara Coast	
Ehime Prefectural Uwajima Higashi High School	Research on Marine Debris in Uwajima Bay: Can a Board Game Change the World?	
Okayama Gakugeikan High School (Mori Educational Institution)	Oyster Shells: Heroes of the Sea! Could They Be the Savior of Eelgrass Restoration?	Grand Prize
Hyogo Prefectural Amagasaki Oda High School	Sources of Floating Debris in the Yomogawa River and the Amagasaki canal	
Okayama Gakugeikan High School (Mori Educational Institution)	Let's aim for Satoumi Paper!	
Kagoshima Prefectural Kagoshima Fisheries High School	Where Do Juvenile Squid Born on the Spawning Beds Go?: Basic Research on Early Stage Mortality of Bigfin Reef Squid and Stock Restoration	Excellence Award
Okayama Gakugeikan High School (Mori Educational Institution)	Long-Term Storage of Eelgrass Seeds	
Hyogo Prefectural Himeji Nishi High School	Development of Casein Plastics that Do Not Harm the Ocean	
Anabuki Gakuen High School (Anabuki Gakuen Educational Foundation)	Towards Zero Marine Debris: Environmental Conservation of Megijima Island through Art	Excellence Award
Kobe Municipal High School of Science and Technology	Water Quality Along Kobe's Coastline as Seen Through Plankton	



Report on the Japanese-French Oceanography Symposium

The Japanese-French Oceanographic Society (SFJO), established to promote collaboration and co-operation among Japanese and French scientists and organizations working in fields related to the ocean and fisheries, held its 20th Japanese-French Oceanography Symposium “Toba2025:Ocean Science for a Sustainable Future” at the National Institute of Technology, Toba College (Toba City, Mie Prefecture) from Friday, 28 to Sunday, 30 November 2025. The International EMECS Center provided funding for the ‘Satoumi Session’ program at the symposium.

At the opening ceremony of the symposium held on the first day, Osamu Matsuda, Professor Emeritus at Hiroshima University, delivered the first keynote speech. He discussed how the concept of Satoumi has spread not only within Japan but also to other countries. He also presented case studies of Satoumi creation in Japan, including the Ministry of the Environment’s Reiwa Satoumi Creation Model Project and the Ocean Acidification Adaptation Project being undertaken by the NPO Satoumi Research Institute, of which he serves as Director, in collaboration with related organizations.

Following the opening ceremony, the Satoumi Session was held. At the beginning of the session, Teruhisa Komatsu, President of SFJO Japan, delivered an opening address and explained the purpose of the session. Next, Patrick Prouzet, President of SFJO France, delivered the second keynote speech. He proposed the ‘Nature and

Culture’ project and spoke about the importance of incorporating Japanese concepts such as Satoyama and Satoumi into the sustainable development of nature and culture. He advocated for an ecosystem-based and participatory approach that emphasises the co-existence of humans and nature and the intergenerational transmission of these values. Following this, Junko Nishikawa, Director of the Office of Environmental Management of Coastal Seas, Marine Environment Division, Environmental Management Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, provided an explanation regarding measures to combat water pollution in enclosed sea areas such as the Seto Inland Sea, as well as the Ministry’s Satoumi creation support projects based on the Satoumi principles and the challenges they face. She noted that Japan’s experience could serve as an international model for sustainable coastal area management.

Following the keynote speeches, presentations took place over two days (28th and 29th), with participants sharing activities and research incorporating the concept of Satoumi conducted in Japan, France, Indonesia, and other countries. This provided an opportunity to learn about Satoumi development efforts tailored to the local conditions of various regions both domestically and internationally.

The symposium was attended by approximately 160 participants from Japan, France, Indonesia, China, Korea, and other countries.



Japanese-French
Oceanography Symposium



Japanese-French
Oceanographic Society

Call for Articles

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

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