International EMECS Center
International Center for Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas

For the Environmental Management and Appropriate Use of Enclosed Coastal Seas
Establishment  November, 1994  The International EMECS Center is established.
    April 1, 2000 (approved by the Prime Minister of Japan)
    May 7, 2001 (approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the
    Ministry of the Environment)
    March 1, 2012 (certified as a Public Interest Incorporated Foundation
    by the Prime Minister of Japan)

President  Motoyuki Suzuki

Chairman of Board  Toshizo Ido

Basic Property  Approximately 1.2 billion yen (as of April, 2012)

Location  DRI East Bldg. 5F, 1-5-2, Wakinohama-kaigandori,
    Chuo-ku, Kobe, Hyogo 6510073 Japan

Objectives  The Center’s objectives shall be to construct an organized network
    linking governments, researchers, companies, private citizens and other
    entities to promote academic exchanges on an international level and
    conduct research, training and support activities, in order to conserve
    existing enclosed coastal sea environments and create new ones and
    help create a society capable of sustainable development in which
    human beings can coexist with the tremendous diversity of nature.

Activities  1. Gather and make available information relating to enclosed coastal
    seas
2. Conduct research into the conservation of existing enclosed coastal
    sea environments and the creation of new environments
3. Implement training relating to the conservation of existing enclosed
    coastal sea environments and the creation of new environments
4. Support activities relating to the conservation of existing enclosed
    coastal sea environments and the creation of new environments
5. Collaborate and cooperate on activities of international organizations
    relating to the conservation of existing enclosed coastal sea
    environments and the creation of new environments
6. Promote international exchanges relating to the conservation of
    existing enclosed coastal sea environments and the creation of new
    environments, including organizing international conferences
7. Carry out other activities necessary to achieve the Center’s objectives
Message from the President

[The Oceans and Humanity]
Life on earth had once arisen from non-living matter in the sea over 4 billion years ago. Seawater contains diverse substances essential for the growth of almost all organisms on earth. The oceans nurture marine life, eventually providing us with food and a wide range of other benefits that we call "ecosystem services", while serving as our spiritual home, and at the same time reminding us of the fierceness of nature. Standing in front of the oceans that stretch out to the distant horizon, we often allow our thoughts to roam. We ponder the significance of the oceans and are very much inspired by our close link to them. Almost unnoticed, the oceans as a large body of water play a vital role in regulating climate on earth. Through the process of evaporation, the oceans generate water vapor that becomes the source of fresh water on the land, which all land-based living beings depend on.

[Importance of Coastal Zones]
Oceans cover 70.8% of the total surface area of the earth with their average depth reaching 3,800 meters. In the oceans, phytoplankton and algae propagated by solar energy serve as a nursery for various marine organisms. They multiply mainly in shallow seas bordered by land, supporting complex ecosystems in the waters. The coastal zones that serve such an important function are estimated to occupy as little as 0.1% of the total ocean surface area. Given that human activities on land are performed mostly in areas adjoining the seas, they obviously have a powerful impact on the coastal zones.

How we maintain healthy ecosystems in the coastal zones in consonance with ever-growing human activities is a serious challenge faced by humanity. For the last 30 years since 1990, the world’s population has grown by nearly 1.4 times and world economic activity (Gross World Product) has quadrupled. The trend of exploding human activities is not likely to stabilize in the near future.

By 1990 we had already witnessed a marked deterioration in water quality and water environment in coastal zones, particularly in enclosed coastal seas where the impact of human activities is noticeable. Against this backdrop, environmental management of enclosed coastal seas including the Seto Inland Sea has attracted increasing attention as a common problem in the world, which indeed led to the establishment of the International EMECS Center, where EMECS stands for "environmental management of enclosed coastal seas."

[The Center’s Roles]
For almost 30 years since its establishment, the International EMECS Center has organized EMECS Conferences around the world every 2 or 3 years, thereby promoting information sharing on an international level, mainly regarding environmental issues for and methods for environmental management of the world’s typical enclosed coastal seas.

While efforts are well underway to improve the environment in a considerable section of the world’s water areas, along with the creation of an international network, the world has recognized one pressing challenge after another involving marine environments, and these challenges are becoming increasingly important to address, such as global warming and ocean acidification, which will in the future have the impact of a body blow on marine ecosystems.

In addition, marine plastic waste has become an issue of particular concern in recent years. Plastic debris already discharged into and accumulated in waters is not easy to deal with.

In 2015, the United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, of which Goal 14 is to "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development". Functioning as the nucleus of efforts to envisage a sustainable relationship between sea areas and human activities, establish realistic, specific and quantitative goals, and examine measures to realize such goals, the International EMECS Center will no doubt see its future roles evolve. We count on the continued support of everyone interested in the Center’s activities.
**History**


1972 “Law Concerning Provisional Measures for Conservation of the Environment of the Seto Inland Sea” is enacted and promulgated.

1976 The Association for the Environmental Conservation of the Seto Inland Sea is established to promote both public and private activities to conserve the environment of the Seto Inland Sea.

1978 “Law Concerning Special Measures for Conservation of the Environment of the Seto Inland Sea” is enacted and promulgated.

1987 The research group, including Dr. Ian Morris from the University of Maryland, visits Japan to study enclosed coastal seas. Exchange of views and discussions are held with relevant domestic organizations. The Governors and Mayors’ Conference on the Environmental Conservation of the Seto Inland Sea adopts the statement “Appeal ‘87 for the Creation of a New Seto Inland Sea”.

1992 An interdisciplinary research team “The Research Institute of the Seto Inland Sea (RISIS)” is established based on “The Seto Inland Sea Declaration (EMECS 90 Declaration)”.

1993 EMECS’93 in Baltimore, USA. Establishment of “International EMECS Center” is adopted in this conference.

1994 Articles of the Association for Environmental Conservation of the Seto Inland Sea are revised to include international activities pertaining to the environmental management of enclosed coastal seas. International Fund for Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas is established for this purpose. The preparatory committee for the establishment of international organization dealing with the environmental management of enclosed coastal seas is formed.

1994 “International EMECS Center” is established. The 1st Meetings of Board of Directors, Board of Trustees and Scientific and Policy Committee are held.

1995 EMECS ‘95 in Baltimore, USA. Establishment of “International EMECS Center” is adopted in this conference.

1996 EMECS 1996 in Kobe / Awaji, Japan.


1999 EMECS 99 as a joint conference with the 4th International Conference on the Mediterranean Coastal Environment in Antalya, Turkey.

2000 At the 14th Meeting of Board of Directors. the dissolution of International EMECS Center as a voluntary organization and the establishment of new juridical foundation are resolved. The application for juridical foundation is submitted to the Environment Agency.

2001 EMECS 2001 in Kobe / Awaji, Japan.


2006 EMECS 7 in Caen, France.

2008 EMECS 8 in Shanghai, China.

2009 Sato-umi Workshop is held as a special session at the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2009 in Manila, the Philippines.

2011 EMECS 9 in Baltimore, USA.

2012 International EMECS Center is certified as a Public Interest Incorporated Foundation.

2013 EMECS 10 as a joint conference with the 11th International Conference on the Mediterranean Coastal Environment in Marmaris, Turkey.

2016 EMECS 11 as a joint conference with the Sea Coasts XXVI Conference in St. Petersburg, Russia.

2018 EMECS 12 in Pattaya, Thailand.

2020 EMECS 13 as a joint conference with ECSA 58 in Kingston upon Hull, UK.

**Objectives**

Striving to conserve enclosed coastal sea environments and to build a sustainable and co-existing society with diversity of nature.
**Objectives**

**Working towards conservation of beautiful nature for the next generation**

Bays, inland seas, archipelagos and other ocean areas that are substantially closed off by land regions have outstanding natural attributes that have caused them to become centers for fishing, industry, maritime transport and recreation since ancient times. These regions have nurtured a variety of cultures and have ensured rich and fulfilling lives for their inhabitants. Ensuring that the bounties of these enclosed coastal seas, which are a treasure for all of humanity, are passed on to future generations in the next century is a tremendous responsibility.

Accordingly, the International EMECS Center was established in November 1994 in Kobe Japan through the cooperation of concerned persons and organizations. Its purpose is to create new prospects for the conservation of the environments of the Seto Inland Sea and other enclosed coastal seas throughout the world.

Since its establishment, the Center has sponsored the Third International Conference on the Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas (EMECS) in Stockholm, Sweden (August 1997) and the Fourth EMECS conference in Antalya, Turkey in November 1999. The Center issues newsletters and has been building a database to gather and make available general information pertaining to the environmental management of enclosed coastal seas. It also conducts training in environmental management techniques for government officials from developing countries and holds an International Seminar on environmental conservation of enclosed coastal seas.

However, although the environment is improving in some enclosed coastal seas throughout the world, in most areas habitat environments are worsening; both species and populations are declining, and fish catches are diminishing. If these trends continue, enclosed coastal sea environments will continue to deteriorate, and this may even have a major adverse impact on the global environment as a whole. As a result, increasingly there are calls for the Center to implement more aggressive measures, making enhancement of its information-providing and research functions necessary.

It is for these reasons that the International EMECS Center was reorganized as an organization that is authorized by the Japanese government in April 2000. The new Center will form a solid base for the creation of an organized network linking governments, researchers, companies, private citizens and other entities for enhanced academic exchanges on an international level, as well as conducting research and training and providing support activities, in order to preserve existing enclosed coastal sea environments and create new ones, and to help establish a society capable of sustainable development in which human beings can coexist with the tremendous diversity of nature.

From the prospectus of the International EMECS Center
(In 2012, the Center was certified as a Public Interest Incorporated Foundation.)
Enclosed coastal seas such as bays and inland seas are difficult places to conserve and improve water quality because pollutants tend to accumulate easily due to poor exchange of water with open seas. Blessed with abundant nature, enclosed coastal seas have been used as fisheries since ancient times and developed as spatial resources to serve more varied purposes such as industry and transport. As a result, these areas are densely populated and overdeveloped therefore natural purification capacity is decreased which easily leads to environmental degradation.

Water Pollution Process in Enclosed Coastal Sea

- Land generated contamination flows into the sea through various courses such as rivers, underwater etc.
- Poor exchange of water with open seas causes pollutants to accumulate.
- Reclamation decreases biodiversity including bacteria in shallow areas.

《Major Enclosed Coastal Seas of the World》

1. Chesapeake Bay (11,603km², 6.4m) 11. Black Sea (508,000km², 1.240m)
2. San Francisco Bay (1,040km², 6m) 12. Puget Sound (2,600km², >300m)
3. Gulf of Mexico (1,592,800km², 1,486m) 13. Hudson Bay (1,232,300km², 1.28m)
4. Mediterranean Sea (2,556,000km², >5.150m) 14. Gulf of California (153,000km², 1.200m)
5. North Sea (575,200km², 94m) 15. Caribbean Sea (2,718,200km², 2,647m)
6. Baltic Sea (422,200km², 55m) 16. Red Sea (438,000km², 491m)
7. Persian Gulf (233,000km², 35m) 17. Bay of Bengal (2,173,000km², 2,600m)
8. Gulf of Thailand (320,000km², 45m) 18. South China Sea (2,319,000km², 1,652m)
9. Bohai Sea (77,284km², 26m) 19. Yellow Sea (466,200km², 40m)
10. Seto Inland Sea (23,203km², 38m) 20. East China Sea (735,800km², 175m)
21. Sea of Japan (978,000km², 1,752m)

*area, average depth > maximum depth

The International EMECS Center registers a voluntary commitment for implementation of Goal 14 (SDG14) of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To show its leadership, EMECS shall voluntarily register its commitments to the UN Sustainable Development Goals on the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas, and marine resources (SDG14).

The International EMECS Center contributes achievement of SDG14 as our commitment, "Developing networks on the environmental management of enclosed coastal seas (EMECS)" by organizing conference with the participation of researchers, government officers, business persons, citizens and students.

We also provide data access and share scientific knowledge of integrated coastal management and conservation of marine and coastal ecosystem for achievement of SDG14.

※Note that not all enclosed coastal seas in the world are covered in this brochure.
The International EMECS Center registers a voluntary commitment for implementation of Goal 14 (SDG14) of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Developing networks on the environmental management of enclosed coastal seas (EMECS)

The International EMECS Center proclaimed the registry of a voluntary commitment for implementation of Goal 14 "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development" (SDG 14)” through Pattaya Declaration at 12th International Conference on the Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas (EMECS12) in Pattaya, Thailand on 8 November 2018.

The International EMECS Center contributes achievement of SDG14 as our commitment, “Developing networks on the environmental management of enclosed coastal seas (EMECS)” by organizing conference with the participation of researchers, government officers, business persons, citizens and students. (#OceanAction29103, #SDG Action29103)

We also provide data access and share scientific knowledge of integrated coastal management and conservation of marine and coastal ecosystem for achievement of SDG14.

EMECS12 Pattaya Declaration (Excerpt)

Cooperative Stewardship for Integrated Management Toward Resilient Coastal Sea

To show its leadership, EMECS shall voluntarily register its commitments to the UN Sustainable Development Goals on the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas, and marine resources (SDG14).
Since EMECS6 held in Bangkok, Thailand in 2003, EMECS conference has featured a Students and Schools Partnership (SSP) session intended for senior high school and university students with the aim of fostering the growth of future leaders in environmental conservation and promoting environmental education in other ways. During the session, participating students from Japan and other countries give presentations and exchange views regarding environmental conservation, and produce a Students & Schools Partnership Declaration (SSP Declaration) for adoption at the closing session. The participants also join a field trip to learn about the marine environment in the local area.

Using experimental facilities located off the coast of Amagasaki Port owned by the International EMECS Center, hands-on educational programs are provided for students and the public to learn about the function and role of the ocean, the current state of Osaka Bay and the Seto Inland Sea, and the living creatures that inhabit the ocean. Through these programs, people have the opportunity to build their knowledge of coastal issues.

EMECS Conference
Aiming to establish an international and interdisciplinary network to solve the environmental problems of enclosed coastal seas in an integrated way, the 1st International Conference on the Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas (EMECS1) was held in Kobe, Japan in 1990. Afterward, the EMECS Conference has been held around the world every 2 or 3 years. Based on presentations and discussions in a wide range of fields held by participants such as researchers, government officials, enterprises, citizens, etc., the importance of the integrated management of enclosed coastal seas and their hinterlands and “Shared Responsibility” has been transmitted to the world as “EMECS Conference Declaration” at each conference.

EMECS International Seminars
By inviting academic experts from home and abroad as speakers, the International EMECS Center hosts seminars and symposiums where participants including researchers, government officials, citizens, and companies exchange information on a wide range of themes such as the current status of and challenges facing the world’s enclosed coastal seas, integrated environmental management, Sato-Umi and environmental learning.

Database and Information Dissemination
EMECS Database on World Enclosed Coastal Sea Information Dissemination through Newsletter, Website and Facebook
Research

The Environment Research and Technology Development Fund administered by the Ministry of the Environment provides funding for research and development in virtually all environmental domains. As one part of this effort, from FY 2014 to FY 2018 the International EMECS Center conducted a 5-year project, “S-13 Development of Coastal Management Method to Realize the Sustainable Coastal Sea”.

Environmental Education and Training for Human Resource Development

Students and Schools Partnership (SSP) Session

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Environmental Education and Training Program

Using experimental facilities located off the coast of Amagasaki Port owned by the International EMECS Center, hands-on educational programs are provided for students and the public to learn about the function and role of the ocean, the current state of Osaka Bay and the Seto Inland sea, and the living creatures that inhabit the ocean. Through these programs, people have the opportunity to build their knowledge of coastal issues.
1st EMECS Conference (EMECS '90)
Dates: August 3 (Fri) – 6 (Mon), 1990
Venue: Kobe, Japan
Theme: Environmental Management and Appropriate Use of Enclosed Coastal Seas
- Participating countries: 42 (including Japan, the U.S., China, and Korea)
- Number of participants: 1,200

2nd EMECS Conference (EMECS '93)
Dates: November 10 (Wed) – 13 (Sat), 1993
Venue: Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.
Theme: Toward Effective Governance – employing science, policy and management to preserve the environment in coastal areas
- Participating countries: 46 (including Japan, the U.S., Canada, and the U.K.)
- Number of participants: 2,300

3rd EMECS Conference (EMECS '97)
(EMECS ’97 / 7th Stockholm Water Symposium Joint Conference)
Dates: August 11 (Mon) – 14 (Thu), 1997
Venue: Stockholm, Sweden
Theme: With Rivers to the Sea: Interaction of Land Activities, Fresh Water and Enclosed Coastal Seas
- Participating countries: 80 (including Japan, Sweden, the U.S., and France)
- Number of participants: 1,000

4th EMECS Conference (EMECS '99)
(EMECS ’99 / 4th MEDCOAST Joint Conference)
Dates: November 9 (Tue) – 12 (Fri), 1999
Venue: Antalya, Turkey
Theme: Land Ocean Interactions: Managing Coastal Ecosystems
- Participating countries: 50 (including Japan, Turkey, the U.S., and Croatia)
- Number of participants: 500

5th EMECS Conference (EMECS 2001)
Dates: November 19 (Mon) – 22 (Thu), 2001
Venue: Kobe and Awaji Island, Japan
Theme: Toward Coastal Zone Management that Ensures Coexistence between People and Nature in the 21st Century
- Participating countries: 41 (including Japan, the U.S., Thailand, and India)
- Number of participants: 1,100

6th EMECS Conference (EMECS 2003)
Dates: November 18 (Tue) – 21 (Fri), 2003
Venue: Bangkok, Thailand
Theme: Comprehensive and Responsible Coastal Zone Management for Sustainable and Friendly Coexistence between Nature and People
- Participating countries: 23 (including Japan, Thailand, India and China)
- Number of participants: 600
7th EMECS Conference (EMECS7)  
(EMECS7 – ECSA40 Joint Conference)  
Dates: May 9 (Tue) – 12 (Fri), 2006  
Venue: Caen, France  
Theme: Sustainable Co-development of Enclosed Coastal Seas: Our Shared Responsibility  
- Participating countries: 25 (including Japan, France, the U.S., and the U.K.)  
- Number of participants: 350

8th EMECS Conference (EMECS8)  
Dates: October 27 (Mon) – 30 (Thu), 2008  
Venue: Shanghai, China  
Theme: Harmonizing River Catchment and Estuary  
- Participating countries: 35 (including Japan, China, the U.S., and India)  
- Number of participants: 470

9th EMECS Conference (EMECS9)  
Dates: August 28 (Sun) – 31 (Wed), 2011  
Venue: Baltimore, Maryland, USA  
Theme: Ensuring Accountability and Effective Communication for Successful Integrated Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas  
- Participating countries: 25 (including Japan, the U.S., Canada, and Korea)  
- Number of participants: 300

10th EMECS Conference (EMECS10)  
(EMECS 10 / MEDCOAST 2013 Joint Conference)  
Dates: October 30 (Wed) – November 3 (Sun), 2013  
Venue: Grand Yazici Club Turban Hotel, Marmaris, Turkey  
Theme: Global Congress on Integrated Coastal Management: Lessons Learned to Address New Challenges  
- Participating countries: 40 (including Japan, Turkey, Russia, and Italy)  
- Number of participants: 300

11th EMECS Conference (EMECS11)  
(EMECS 11 / Sea Coasts XXVI Joint Conference)  
Dates: August 22 (Mon) – 27 (Sat), 2016  
Venue: St. Petersburg, Russia  
Theme: Managing Risks to Coastal Regions and Communities in a Changing World  
- Participating countries: 21 (including Japan, Russia, the U.S., Thailand and China)  
- Number of participants: 360

12th EMECS Conference (EMECS12)  
Dates: November 4 (Sun) – 8 (Thu), 2018  
Venue: Pattaya, Thailand  
Theme: Cooperative Stewardship for Integrated Management Toward Resilient Coastal Seas  
- Participating countries: 17 (including Japan, Thailand, China, Korea, and the U.S.)  
- Number of participants: 300

13th EMECS Conference (EMECS 13)  
(EMECS13-ECSA58 Joint Conference)  
Dates: September 7 (Mon)-11(Fri), 2020  
Venue: Kingston upon Hull, UK
Parking: Not available (Please use a nearby toll parking lot.)