

Trans-disciplinary Research in Ishigaki Island and Mikawa Bay Area, Japan

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This component focuses on trans-disciplinary research activities on Area Capability enhancement in Ishigaki Island and Mikawa-bay area of Japan, eventually aims to propose an ideal way of trans-disciplinary research in regional development field.

This presentation will indicate what we have done and what we have left undone so far, and will discuss the viewpoints for examining the ideal way of trans-disciplinary research in regional development.

The activities of this component could be divided into three stages as follows. First stage is the scientific research activities on regional resources both in natural and social (cultural) perspectives, such as researches on organisms in tideland (Mikawa), planktons (Mikawa), underwater heritages (Ishigaki), tea cultures and community networks (Mikawa), etc. This is the stage where we put much more efforts on clarifying the unknown or non-well known regional resources while getting cooperation from local residents.

Second stage is educational activities on environment and resources for improving the perception on local resources which as well in collaboration with local societies such as Fisheries Cooperative Association, Junior Chamber International Japan Yaeyama, local governmental offices etc. In this stage, we are not only aiming to hold a variety of environmental classes, but also aiming to grasp the perception changes of local residents on regional resource conservation and the usage. “Underwater robot class” (Ishigaki), “Mangrove class” (Ishigaki), “Underwater heritage class” (Ishigaki), “Organism observation class” (Mikawa) etc. are the environmental education classes we have held for the time being.

Third stage is the activities on finding ways for making best use of regional resources to improve the quality of human society, which as a matter of course in collaboration with local residents as well. We have been working on “Under water museum” (Ishigaki), “Regional economic circle” (Ishigaki), “Field guide book” (Mikawa), “Nakanaka heritage” etc.