

International Marine Biology Course (IMBC) 2017 (2017 9/11-14)

The first International Marine Biology Course (IMBC2017) was organized at Sado Marine Biological Station (SMBS), Faculty of Science, Niigata University in Sado Island of the Japan Sea from 11th September to 14th September 2017. For the event, we had 16 students and invited lecturers from 4 Asian countries.

Institute	Country	Participants (incl. staff)
Hanoi National University of Education (HNUE)	Vietnam	5
Monash University Malaysia (MUM)	Malaysia	4
University of Hong Kong (UHK)	China	5
National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU)	Taiwan	2

On the first day, most participants took the noon car ferry from Niigata, and arrived at the SMBS in evening. Following the opening, general instruction of the course and living guidance were given. After dinner, nocturnal animal



Nocturnal animal sampling

sampling was carried out at the wharf in front of the SMBS. Though it was drizzling, many different animals that were attracted by light in the dark or hiding in seaweeds were captured.

On the second day, two basic lectures, “Classification” and “Characteristics of the Japan Sea and the marine animals” were given in the morning. After the lectures, each participant made sea urchin release its eggs/sperms and tried artificial fertilization using the eggs and sperms by him/herself. Using a light microscope, early events of fertilization and embryo development



Artificial fertilization of sea urchin

were observed. After lunch, following the afternoon lecture “Marine biology” given by Dr. Tran Duc Hau from HNUE, we went to a nearby wharf and collected plankton samples there using a plankton net. Using binocular and light microscopes, we could observe a variety of planktonic animals. In evening, people drew sketches of animals they collected and identified the animals by referring picture books.



Lecture of Dr. Tran Duc Hau



Plankton sampling

The third day started with 2 special lectures from Dr. Satoshi Ogawa and Dr. Shogo Moriya. The next was the main event snorkeling sampling. Participants went to the rocky shore near the SMBS and enjoyed snorkeling beneath the sunny sky.



Going out for snorkeling!



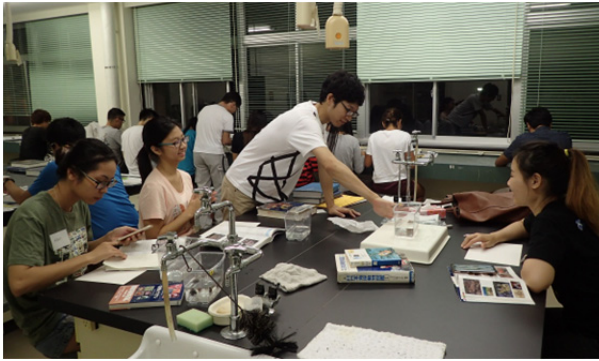
Safety instruction

They collected fishes, sea slugs, starfishes, ribbon worms, and many more. In the group presentation session, each group gave presentation of specific features of a selected phylum. Each group member further presented a particular species in the selected phylum using his/her



Snorkeling sampling

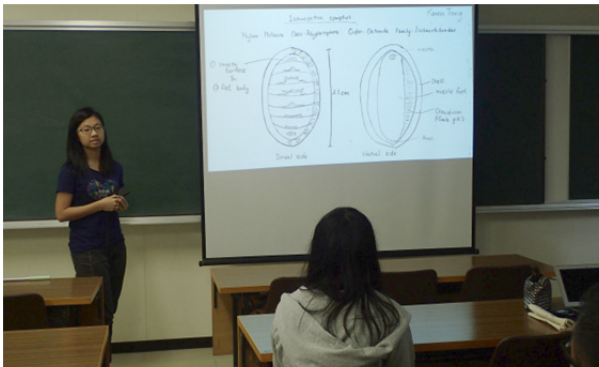
own drawing. We were very much impressed by their excellent presentations. After cleaning up the laboratories, all participants enjoyed a BBQ party until late.



Identification of animals



Group presentation



Individual presentation



BBQ party

On the last day, we had a closing and took a group photo. Some went back to the Main Island directly and the others stayed at the SMBS for extra sightseeing activities.



Group photo

Although the participants ranged from sophomore to graduates who had obtained MBBS, swimming in the beautiful sea of Sado, finding a variety of marine animals, and observing them in detail would be new experiences and precious for all participants. Of course, mingling with people from different cultural backgrounds was also a great fun.

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