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Proceedings of 4th
International Symposium on



EASTAR 2000

and Asian Bio-logging Science

December 15-17, 2007

Royal Phuket City Hotel, Phuket, Thailand

Edited by

Nobuaki Arai



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Preface

It is my pleasure to publish the proceedings on 4th International Symposium on SEASTAR2000 and Asian Bio-logging Science (The 8th SEASTAR2000 workshop). We, as a part of the biosphere should perform sustainable use of biological resources without destroying the ecology. Whilst there still are mysterious things in aquatic ecology, expectations for the possibility of providing the necessary biological resources exist. However, in recent years, the number of aquatic species has decreased. Conservation of these species is becoming a major social problem.

We set the challenge to clarify the ecology of aquatic animals which are not readily visible by using bio-logging. Bio-logging is a new method to monitor, record, and measure a living organism's basic physiological functions making the best use of information technology. We place small transmitters or recorders on target species and obtain ecological information of aquatic animals. This is a method to see “what is unseen”.

We are performing the Southeast Asia Sea Turtle Associative Research (SEASTAR2000), the Mekong Giant Catfish Tracking Project (MCTP) and the Dugong Biological Survey (DBS) as part of the 21st Century Centers of Excellence (COE) Program (2002-2006) and the Global COE Program (2007-2012). All the species of the projects are seriously endangered and need a sufficient degree of protection. They are listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Appendix I. However, very little is known of the species whilst the implementation of their conservation is a pressing problem in Thailand and neighboring ASEAN countries. From this standpoint, it is important to discuss mutually with each other and among the researchers and administrators of the countries concerned.

We launched the first SEASTAR2000 workshop in 2000 in Kyoto, Japan. Since then the meeting has been held every year and 8 proceedings were published. The proceedings now include many topics other than sea turtles.

I hope to continue the meetings and create the next generation.



Nobuaki Arai
Secretariat to SEASTAR
Associate Professor, Kyoto University

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