

International Summer Course on Integrated Marine Biology and Ecology in Hokkaido University

Date: August 5th – 10th (1st phase), August 11th-16th (2nd phase), 2013

Places: Muroran Marine Station, Hokkaido University (1st and 2nd phase), Akkeshi Marine Station, Hokkaido University (2nd phase)

Organizer: Field Science Center for Northern Biosphere, Hokkaido University

Organizing committee: Masahiro Nakaoka*, Taizo Motomura**, Chikako Nagasato (Hokkaido University) *Chief, **Vice-Chief

Objectives: Marine biodiversity and ecosystem functions are declining rapidly worldwide due to multiple stresses from human activities, such as overexploitation, eutrophication, coastal development, invasive species and global climate changes. To understand the responses of marine organisms and ecosystems toward better management of ocean and coastal areas, it is required to gain integrated knowledge of the responses of marine organisms to these stresses at various levels, i.e., molecular, cell, organisms, population, community and ecosystems. This summer course provides unique opportunities for international and Japanese graduate students and undergraduate students with sufficient basic knowledge of biology to learn the structures and dynamics of marine organisms at the multiple levels. In the school, participants will learn about various topics: biodiversity of algal community in Hokkaido, cellular response of marine algae against environmental changes, community structure of rocky intertidal organisms across environmental gradient and variation in plant-animal interactions in relation to environmental changes. Based on these subjects, the program aims to encourage the participants to develop future research proposal that includes international perspectives.

Keyword: Marine algae and seagrass, species diversity, cell structure and cellular response, community structure, plant-animal interactions, cold current system

Participants:

- (i) up to 8 graduate and undergraduate students studying in Japan (including foreign students)
- (ii) up to 8 international graduate and undergraduate students currently enrolled in programs that focus on the overall theme and objectives of the Summer Course.

Cost: No registration fee is required. The organizer will also cover the minimum travel expenses (international and domestic flight tickets, domestic ground transportation and accommodations) based on the requests of participants.

Program structure:

1st phase: from August 5th to 10th: All the Japanese and international students will take a series

of lectures and field practices at Muroran Marine Station,

2nd phase: from August 11th to 16th : The international students (and some Japanese students) will conduct individual project at either Muroran or Akkeshi Marine Station (subjected to his/her research interest). Extension of the stay is possible with consultant with host scientists.

Application: Application forms need to be submitted to the administration office of the Summer Course (see below) no later than **31 May 2013 (extended)** for international students. Participants will be selected based on information provided in the application.

Contact: Prof. Masahiro Nakaoka (nakaoka@fsc.hokudai.ac.jp)

Related URLs:

- Muroran Marine Station, Hokkaido University, <http://www.fsc.hokudai.ac.jp/muroran/>
- Akkeshi Marine Station, Hokkaido University, <http://www.fsc.hokudai.ac.jp/akkeshi/>