June 1, 2015

**Invitation to Sakura Science Plan by Japan Science and Technology Agency:**

To whom it may concern:

Dear Sir:
Thank you for your enthusiastic cooperation with Kochi University on Kuroshio Science to establish a sustainable society in this region influenced by the Kuroshio Current.

We all appreciate your contribution very much.

 Today, we would like to ask you to join for the application to the Sakura Science Plan aiming to introduce your students or staffs our science in Kochi and Japan. This is a plan by Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST). If our proposal is accepted by JST, we can invite one of your students or staffs to Kochi University.

 The candidate must fulfill conditions described below.
We appreciate your cooperation to recommend two candidates to join this Sakura Science Plan to learn our research fields and facilities to study Kuroshio Science. Although we can invite only one student or staff from your institution, please recommend two. Since we are asking at 10 students from 10 institutions from Philippines, Malaysia, and Taiwan, we need to keep the balance between students and staffs and among fields of candidates’ interests.

 I am sure that this opportunity gives young students or staffs to have a chance to facilitate their ability to learn.
**Please write the criteria to recommend your students or staffs such as top 10% in the School Record or who is awarded a prize for their achievement. This is an important point for JST to accept our proposal.**

**The followings are the condition of young students or your staffs to apply.**
1. Who has never been to Japan to visit research institution.

2. Who has a master degree or has a plan to take a master degree within two years. The fourth grade college students are included.
3. Who has a future plan to study subjects related to Kuroshio Science. Definition of Kuroshio Science is described below.

4. Please send brief C.V. and Abstracts of 500 words about your future plan to study in relation to the Kuroshio region.
5. Who is under 30 years old at the end of this September. If there is no candidate under 30 years old, please consult with us.

**Kuroshio Science:**

**To maintain our country’s biological resources in a sustainable condition, it is necessary to manage the biological resources and environment in the upstream area of the Kuroshio region. The purpose of this Kuroshio Science is to nurture talented people who are capable of developing sustainable management of the Kuroshio environment and ecosystem through the exploration of indigenous biological resources and their effective usage, such as edible algae that have benefits to human health. Our program aims to develop students who can contribute to the sustainable maintenance of biological resources of the coastal areas in the Kuroshio region, such as the Philippines, Taiwan and Japan as well as other countries influenced by the Kuroshio Current.**

**Especially in this program, we welcome students who are interested in the following subjects:**

**・ Studies of coastal resources and environmental management**

**・ Economic study of the regional environment including Ecotourism**

**・ Studies on algae, fish, plankton, benthos, coral cells, viruses, etc. in the ocean ecosystem**

**・ Studies of food science & nutrition**

**・ Studies of environment & health science**

**In future, students are expected to engage in works that involve the achievement of a sustainable society in the Kuroshio region such as environmental conservation and the management of marine protected areas.**

**If candidates want to meet one of our professors, please let us know, we will be happy to arrange for it.**

**Attached is our teaching staffs in Graduate School of Kuroshio Science.**

**Schedule to join this Program (tentative plan)**
October 12: Arrive at Kochi-Ryoma Airport
October 13: Orientation: Lectures on Kuroshio Science, visiting labs in Asakura Campus
October 14: Visiting Science Research Center in Okoh Campus and Center for Advanced Marine Core Research in Monobe Campus

October 15: Usa Institute of Marine Biology and Yokonami Research Station
October 16: Wrap up Meeting at Kochi University & visit Makino Botanical Garden
October 17: Fly to Tokyo
October 18: Visit National Museum of Science
October 19: Fly to Home.

**Facilities you can visit are the followings:**

1. **Usa Institute of Marine biology: juvenile fishes, algae cultivation etc.**
2. **Science Research Center: Instruments for protein analysis.**
3. **Center for Advanced Marine Core Research: Instruments to study Marine Core.**

**I appreciate your sending me the brief C.V. including Name, Address, TEL/FAX No, and e-mail address, and Abstracts of their study interests in relation to the Kuroshio region of two candidates of students or staffs till June 10.**

 **If you will be late, just write us that you have a candidate, and let us know the information later. In this case, please make a contact with us till June 14.**
Please do not hesitate to ask me about this Plan and the invitation of young students or staffs.
Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely yours,

Akira Tominaga
Head of Kuroshio Science Unit, Kochi University
In charge of correspondence of this Plan

Yoshiaki Iiguni

Dean of Graduate School of Kuroshio Science

Kochi University