

## Asia-Pacific Youth Science Exchange Forum in Okinawa September 23-26 2011

A forum for the exchange of ideas among youth from the Asia-Pacific region

### Overview

#### Aims:

- Strengthen ties between Okinawa and island communities across the Asia-Pacific.
- Develop Okinawa as a “center of international exchange in science and technology”.
- Foster the development of human capital in Okinawa.

The Forum is youth-driven, rather than top-down, providing a space for young scientists and youth leaders to present their ideas and initiatives. Extensive access to leading young researchers in fields related to the Forum Focus will allow them the opportunity to refine and discuss their ideas in a supportive environment, while showcasing what Okinawa and OIST have to offer grad students as we move toward the opening of the Graduate University.

**Title:** Asia-Pacific Youth Science Exchange Forum in Okinawa

**Theme:** “Coral Reefs, Island Nations, and the Future of Asia-Pacific Coastal Communities in the 21st Century”

**Concept:** Student and expert presentations and discussions on the problems facing the Pacific in the next 50 years and suggested ways to face these issues (e.g. global climate change effects on reefs, acidification, storm frequency overfishing, sea level rise, depopulation, reliance on tourism as an industry)

**Date:** September 23-26, 2011

**Participants:** 36 Undergraduate Students, Age range 18-23  
8 Panel members (expert in ecologists, reef biologists, sustainable development experts, etc.)

#### Breakdown of Students:

6 students from Kyushu (3 from foreign countries)

5 students from Okinawa

25 students from Asia-Pacific countries, focus on Pacific island nations (Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Palau, Philippines, Indonesia, Solomon Islands, Taiwan, Australia, Hawaii, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea)

**Venue:** OIST Onna Campus and Seaside House

**Hosted by:** Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Promotion Corporation  
University of the Ryukyus

## **Program:**

### **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011 Arrival and Orientation**

### **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Island Life Today**

- 9:30-12:00 Poster sessions: Student presentations on affected life in their communities
- 14:00-17:00 Presentation from panel experts on threats to Pacific communities in 21st century, 8 x 15 minute talks (3 hours, 30 minute break at midway point)
- 17:30 -18:30 Optional tour to OIST main campus
- 20:30-22:00 Informal discussion and deliberation of the day's ideas

### **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> A Way Forward**

- 9:30-12:00 Discussion groups on identified issues (6 students per issue, with an embedded speaker to moderate the discussion)
- 13:00-15:00 Spokesman student from each group presents their discussion findings to the panel of experts and other audience. 6 x 10 minutes, plus debate (2 hours)
- 15:00-16:00 Free Time
- 16:00-17:00 Setting a Resolution as forum outcome
- 17:00-18:00 Negotiate a draft position paper drawn up by expert panel from student presentations.  
Closing speech by Dr. Sho, OIST Board of Governors  
Group photograph

### **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> Depart Okinawa**