

RCJ Action Plan for FY2019 (April 2019 – March 2020)
(source : RCJ News Letter No.196 issued on 10 July, 2019)

The RCJ has been formulating its annual plan/policy based on its “Medium Term Plan/Target” focusing on the next COP after examining the situation in Asia and Japan based on the trend of the resolutions and discussions of the meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention held every 3 years.

At the COP13 (UAE) in 2018, “Global Wetland Outlook” was published covering the loss of wetland extent and the critical situation of decreasing wetland fauna and flora and stressing the importance of strengthening networks in a local scale including Ramsar sites and other wetlands.

RCJ’s basic policy for FY2019 was formulated under the new structure of younger board members as the first year of the “10th Medium Term Plan (2019-2021)” targeting COP14. The Tenth Medium Term Plan supports the importance of the resolution XIII.9 “Ramsar Regional Initiative 2019-2021” adopted in the COP13 along with capacity building cited by the resolution XII.9 “CEPA Program 2016-2024”, which RCJ has promoted in accordance with the 9th Medium term Plan. RCJ will sets these targets listed below for the 10th Medium term Plan

The 10th Medium Term Plan (until FY2021)

Target 1 : Strengthening the Bay of Bengal Wetlands Partnership, that contribute to the promotion of wetland conservation and wise use in the area along the Bay of Bengal.

Target 2 : Strengthening CEPA and raising human resources for wetland conservation

Target 3 : Establishing an organization operating system under the new board members

1 Continuing and strengthening RCJ projects in Asia

- ① The Bay of Bengal Wetland Partnership (BoBWeT) Initiative toward sustainable use of ecosystem services - Based on a new participatory monitoring activity using SNS. (a BoB activity / supported by Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund)

This project was granted by KNCF as a 3 year project from April 2019 to March 2022 (granted 5,150 thousand yen for the first year). Several actions have been taken in the area along the Bay of Bengal already. This project aims to strengthening the wetland conservation network along the Bay of Bengal and

to promoting activities of the network by establishing and operating an SNS platform mainly by local NGOs and experts to introduce to the world the situations and efforts by local organizations along the Bay of Bengal.

② Participatory community managed sustainable life forest and environmental education for eco-restoration at Gopalpur zone along Bay of Bengal, Odisha, India. (Supported by the Green Fund of National Land Afforestation Promotion Organization)

This is a tree planting project started from July 2018 with Pallishree as a counterpart. It was granted as a year project from July 2018 to June 2019. As it is possible to apply with the same project for 3 years, the 2nd year application was granted as well.

③ 「Achieving the SDG#14 through community-based resource management by conserving coastal and marine biodiversity of the Bay of Bengal in Teknaf Peninsula, Bangladesh. (Supported by TOYOTA Environmental Activities Grant Program)

This is a 2 year project from January 2019 to December 2020 aiming to developing the outcome of the JFGE project implemented until March 2019 and to promoting biodiversity conservation along the Bay of Bengal. Bangladesh POUISH is the counterpart of this project.

2 Support and Cooperation Mainly for Ramsar Sites in Japan

So far, there is no new project planned by RCJ. RCJ is going to engage in those activities listed below as usual.

- ・ Participating the Meeting of Municipalities Related to Ramsar Sites
- ・ Wetlands investigation (including new Ramsar sites) in Japan
- ・ KODOMO Ramsar Wetland Exchange * The venue will be Kasai Marine Park, which was designated as a new Ramsar site at the COP13.

3 Other Main Activities

・ Cooperation for the Pallishree's project "Promoting sustainable crab bank and development of plastic free zone in Bahuda and Rushikulya estuaries along Bay of Bengal, India" (the 1st year) granted by JFGE (Japan Fund for Global Environment). RCJ president Dr. Shimpei Iwasaki is going to support the project as a Japanese agent.

- Participation in partnership with RRC-EA to the Asian Wetland Symposium scheduled to be held in Suncheon, South Korea. RCJ is planning to send representatives and organize a side event (or session) and a booth exhibition.
- Information Gathering regarding the international trend of wetland conservation at the Ramsar standing committee held in Geneva, Switzerland.

4 Continuing RCJ's Basic Activities

- Wise Use Workshop
- RCJ News Letter, Online CEPA activity

5 Organization Structure and the Secretariat

The general meeting of RCJ confirmed that it is difficult with its current human resource to maintain its operation as before. Therefore, it was suggested that, instead of the former operation, its operation should be based on a system in which each project will be managed separately by a person or more who are assigned for the project, and the new operation should be started tentatively after assigning a distinctive role for each person in charge. The general meeting approved the proposal to renew the board members and assign supportive fellows to improve the reliability of the new team.

Based on the above-mentioned, RCJ assigned those persons for the 2019 projects ; Mr. Tanabe and Mr. Koyama for the TOYOTA Environmental Activities Grant Program, Dr. Iwasaki for the KNCF program, Ms. Ohara for the Green Donation of National Land Afforestation Promotion Organization (Pallishree) and Dr. Iwasaki for the JFGE project (Pallishree). As for the KODOMO Ramsar in Kasai, Mr. D. Nakamura, Ms. R. Nakamura, Ms. Sasaki and Ms. N. Suzuki will be in charge of it.

The followings are new board members and fellows for FY2019 ;

Board members

President	Shimpei Iwasaki (Fukuoka Women's University)
Vice president	Misato Ohara (INTEM Consulting, Inc.) Fumihiko Koyama (Omori Nori Musium) Atsushi Tanabe (Postgraduate course of Kumamoto University) Daisuke Nakamura (a primary school teacher in Shiga Prefecture) Akihiko Hayashi (Neitec Co.,Ltd.) Ryo Fujikura (Professor of Hosei University)

Auditor	Hisashi Fujioka (Trustee of Japan Travel Writers' Organization)
Secretary General	Taketo Kitamoto (DYNAX Urban Environment Research Institute)

Fellows

Motokazu Ando (Former professor of Yamazak Gakuen University)

Hiroshi Isozaki (Honorary professor of Iwate University)

Toru Iwama (Honorary professor of Seinan Gakuen University)

Tamotsu Kameyama (Media producer)

Reiko Nakamura (Writer)

Takayuki Musha (Editor)