

KODOMO Ramsar:
International Wetlands Exchange Program,
a driving force of ESD at the Ramsar Sites in Asia



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RCJ in brief

- Establishment: 12 May 1990
The year that Japan applied for hosting the Ramsar COP5 (1993), in Kushiro, Japan
- Non-governmental Organization
- Membership organization:
Approx. 110 individual members from countries/areas such as Australia, Bangladesh, China, Taiwan, India, Iran, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand.
- Secretariat: Tokyo, Japan
- Active region: Wetlands in Asia

Its Mission

To promote the wise use of wetlands and foster the mission of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) in Asia by enhancing CEPA (Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness).

Two main CEPA activities of RCJ

(1) Asian Wetland Symposia

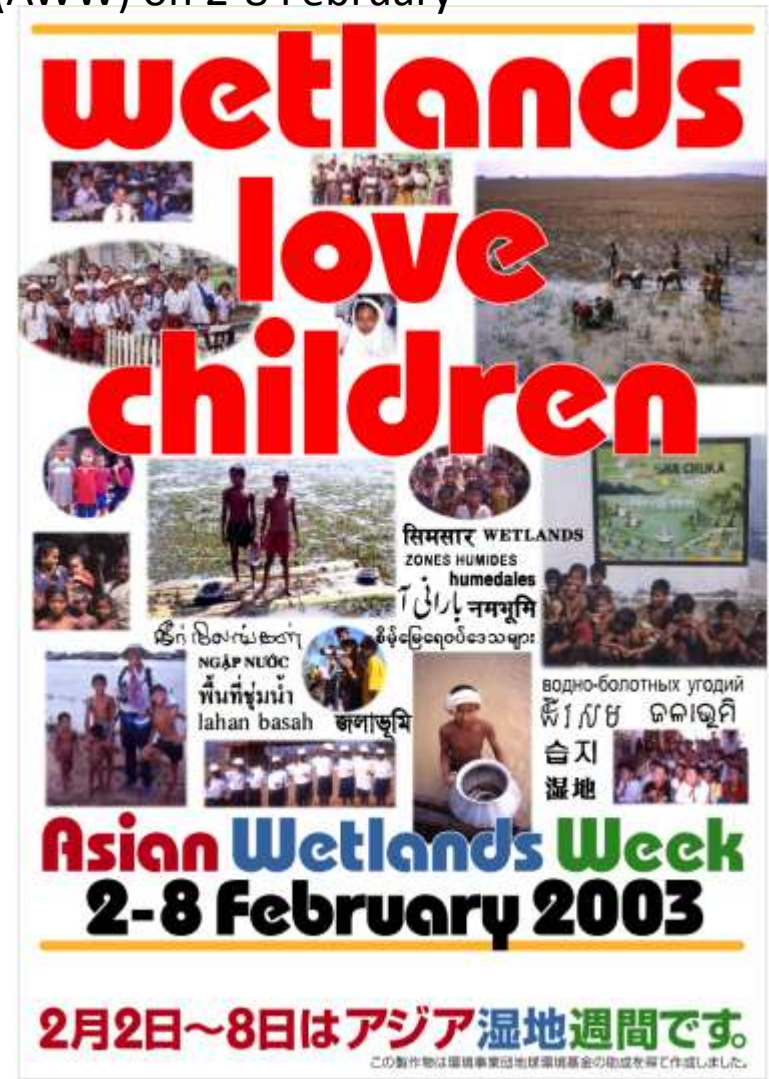
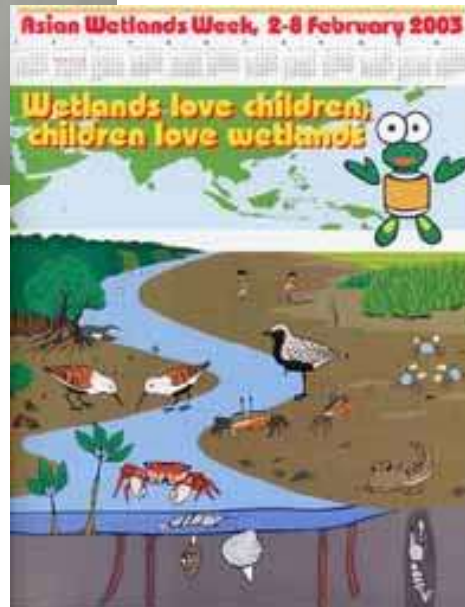
- A single platform for discussions among various sectors including national and local governments, NGOs, scientific experts, the private sector and local and indigenous peoples engaged in wetlands.
- Six meetings have been organized in Japan, Malaysia, India, Vietnam and China between 1992 -2011.
- Their recommendations have been reported to Ramsar COP5, COP8, COP9, COP10 and COP11 respectively.

(2) KODOMO (Children) Ramsar: International Wetlands Exchange

- Environmental education and exchange programs at Ramsar sites in Japan and other Asian countries.
- Focusing on children living around Ramsar sites in Japan and other Asian countries where they have a history of proactive conservation of wetlands.
- Aiming to build the capacity of KODOMO leaders who will be leading the children, and facilitators who will be supporting the children.

Children and Wetlands Exchange Program (2002-)

- Joint activity among RCJ, Wetlands International –China, Pusan University and Seoul University
- Putting forward annual Asian Wetlands Week (AWW) on 2-8 February
- Slogan: Wetlands Love Children



Children and Wetland Exchange Programme among Japan, Korea and China, 18-19 January 2003, Yatsu-higata, Narashino, Japan

- The first trail of international wetlands exchange.
- Each 3 children from China, Korea and Japan have participated.
- Organizational partners: Wetlands International-China, Pusan university, Seoul University, Yatsu-minami Elementary School, Yatsu-higata Nature Observation Center



Children and Wetlands Exchange Program was continued till 2011

- Arena was expanded to Japan, Korea, China, Thailand and Malaysia
- Total 12 exchange events were held and participated by more than 1100 children

Krabi, Thailand, 2009



Upo, Korea, 2004



Zhanjiang, China, 2008



KODOMO Ramsar: Asian-African Children Exchange Program, 8-10 November 2005, Kampala, Uganda

- 7 children from Japan, Korea, Thailand and Malaysia were invited.
- Knowledge sharing by presentations
- Discussion on "How children can participate in wetland Conservation ?" with 200 Ugandan children
- Adoption of "Children's Appeal for COP9"



Opening Ceremony of Ramsar COP9, 8 Nov. 2005, Kampala, Uganda



Children's Appeal for COP9



- 16 young representatives read out the Children's Appeal for COP9 in front of more than 1000 audience at the Opening Ceremony of COP9
- It was the first occasion that the younger generation was officially invited to COP's official program and deliver their recommendation.

KODOMO Ramsar Wetlands Exchange (2006-)

- Proposed project by children who participated the past international wetland exchange program.
- They liked to launch a series of exchange program around Ramsar sites in Japan in order to share their experiences, and construct network among children who were involved in various kinds of wetland conservation.



Kick-off meeting on 10 June 2006 at Yatsu-higata Ramsar Site, Narashino, Japan

KODOMO Ramsar: Children's participation in effective implementation of the Ramsar Convention (2006-2008)

- Total 9 events.
- Participated by 530 children from 38 Ramsar sites.
- Outputs: KODOMO messages



KODOMO Ramsar: International Wetlands Exchange in Niigata, 20-24 August 2008, Niigata, Japan

- Participated by 69 children from 23 Ramsar sites of India, China, Korea, Thailand, Russia and Japan.
- Output: KODOMO Message for the Ramsar COP10:

***"Wetlands are there, Live is there,
We connect them, They become treasures"***





KODOMO Message for Ramsar COP10

KODOMO Message T-shirts

Children at the Ramsar COP10



Presentation of the Children's Messages at the Opening of the Ramsar COP10

KODOMO Biodiversity: Participation of children in biodiversity conservation (2009-2010)

- Goal: CBD COP10, Nagoya, Aichi, October 2010
- Total 9 events
- Participated by 340 children from 24 Ramsar sites of Korea, Thailand, Malaysia and Japan
- Outputs: 9 posters on the local treasures





Performance in front of the exhibit booth of “KODOMO Biodiversity” at CBD_COP11, Nagoya, Japan , 2010



41 children from various Ramsar sites participated in the event as volunteers .

KODOMO Ramsar for ESD (2011-2013)



In line with Japanese Government's National Plan of Action on DESD (UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development)
Supported by Japan Fund for Global Environment



Kick-off Event of KODOMO Ramsar for ESD at the ECOLIFE FAIR 2011, an event for the World Environmental Day organized by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan , June 2011

KODOMO Ramsar for ESD: International Wetlands Exchange



Wuxi, China



Hyderabad, India



Chiang Mai, Thailand

- Total 11 events (as of November 2013)
- Participate by 1170 children from 20 Ramsar sites of India, Thailand, China, Korea and Japan.
- Outputs: Posters of local treasures, and slogans

Key contents of KODOMO Ramsar program

1. Presentations → Sharing mutual experiences on wetland conservation
2. Field visit → Learning about ecosystem and biodiversity of the specific wetland site
Looking for and identification of treasures of the site
3. Group discussion → Selecting 6 treasures from their findings and prioritize them
Drawing Illustration of the selected 6 treasures
Drafting a slogan of each group
4. Plenary discussion → Sharing outputs of each groups
Selecting top 6 treasures and drawings by discussion
Accomplishment of Poster of Treasures of the site

Teachers/staffs tend not to lead their discussion, only facilitate and encourage.

Poster of the Treasures of Kushiro-Shitsugen



- 6 treasures selected by children:
- Local people who conserve the wetland
 - Red-crowned cranes
 - Marshland
 - Rivers where cranes roost
 - Diverse plants
 - Sound of wild animals

Learning from the fields



Presentations and experience sharing



Group discussion



Plenary discussion and accomplishment of output

Achievements 10 years' KODOMO program of RCJ

- Total 47 events / Participants: 3700 children
- Involvement of 46 Ramsar sites (India, Thailand, Malaysia, China, Korea, Russia, and Japan)
- Contributions to Ramsar COP9 and COP10, CBD_COP10 and COP11 by sending children's voice

Outcomes

- Establishment of eco-clubs on wetlands at various Ramsar sites
Miyajima-numa, Nakaumi, Manko, Kutcharo-ko , Yatsu-higata and etc.
- Launch the exchange programs voluntarily
Fujimae-higata, Nakaumi, Lower Maruyama River, Kabukuri-numa and etc.
- Launch wetland school network
Wetland School Network in China
KODOMO Ramsar Wetland School Network in Thailand (proposed)

Individual-based fruits

- A boy who participated in the first KODOMO program in his elementary school days in 2003 is studying the ecology of tidal flats at university
- A girl who participated in the second KODOMO program in her elementary school days in 2004 is studying at a university course of international communication
- A former student volunteer is now engaged in consultancy work on environmental conservation projects in Cambodia and Jordan

Proposed project for FY2014

- To organize "KODOMO Ramsar for ESD: International Wetlands Exchange" at a Ramsar site in Japan, inviting representatives of the Ramsar sites in Asia where have been involved in the past 10 years KODOMO programs.
- Outputs of the above should be contributed to the UNESCO 2014 World Conference in Okayama-Aichi, Japan, November 2014.
- To launch a KODOMO Ramsar training program aiming at capacity building and knowledge sharing of educators/facilitators who are engaged in environmental education at the wetland centers of Ramsar sites in Asian region.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

