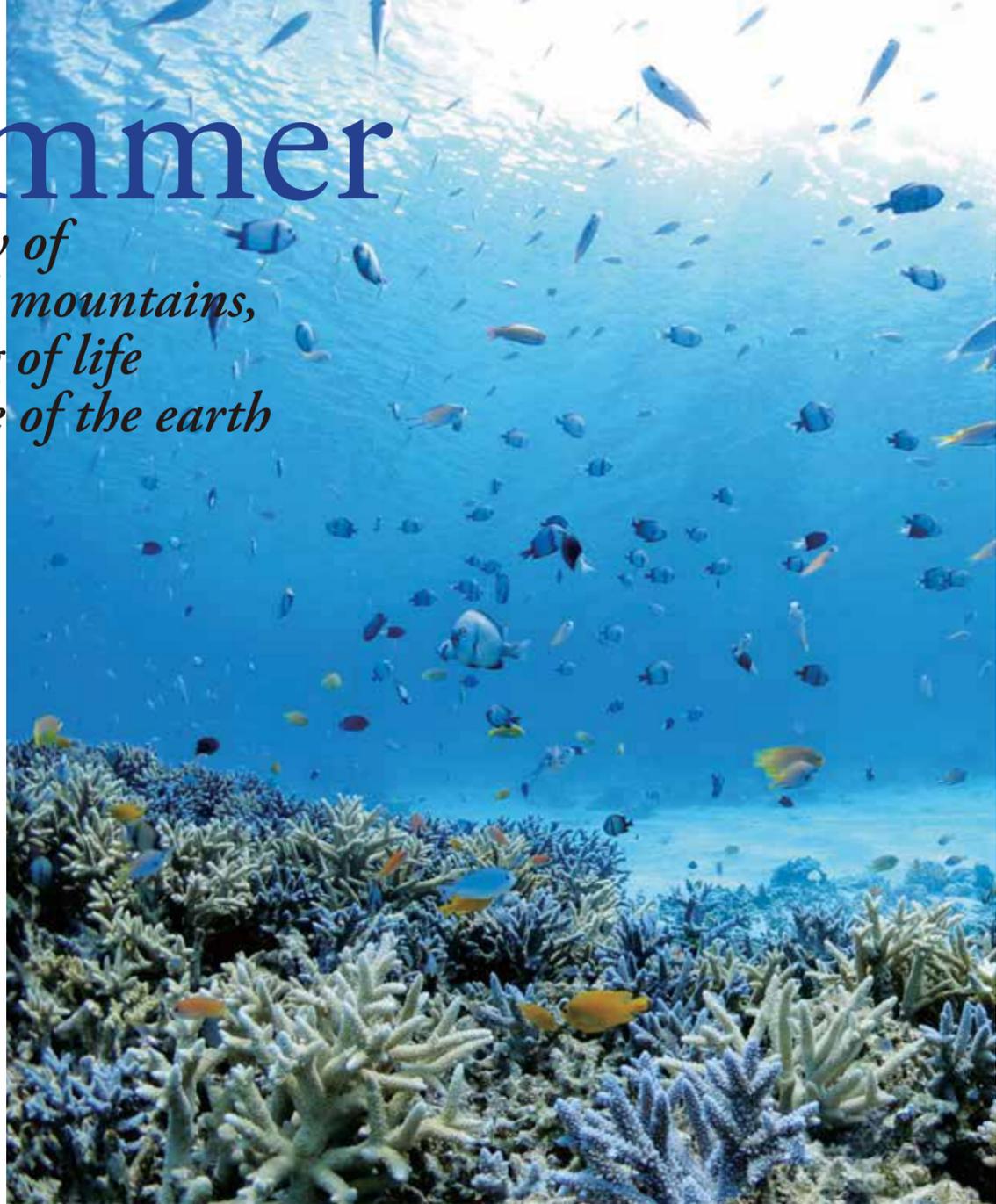


# Summer

*The glow of seas and mountains,  
The song of life  
in praise of the earth*



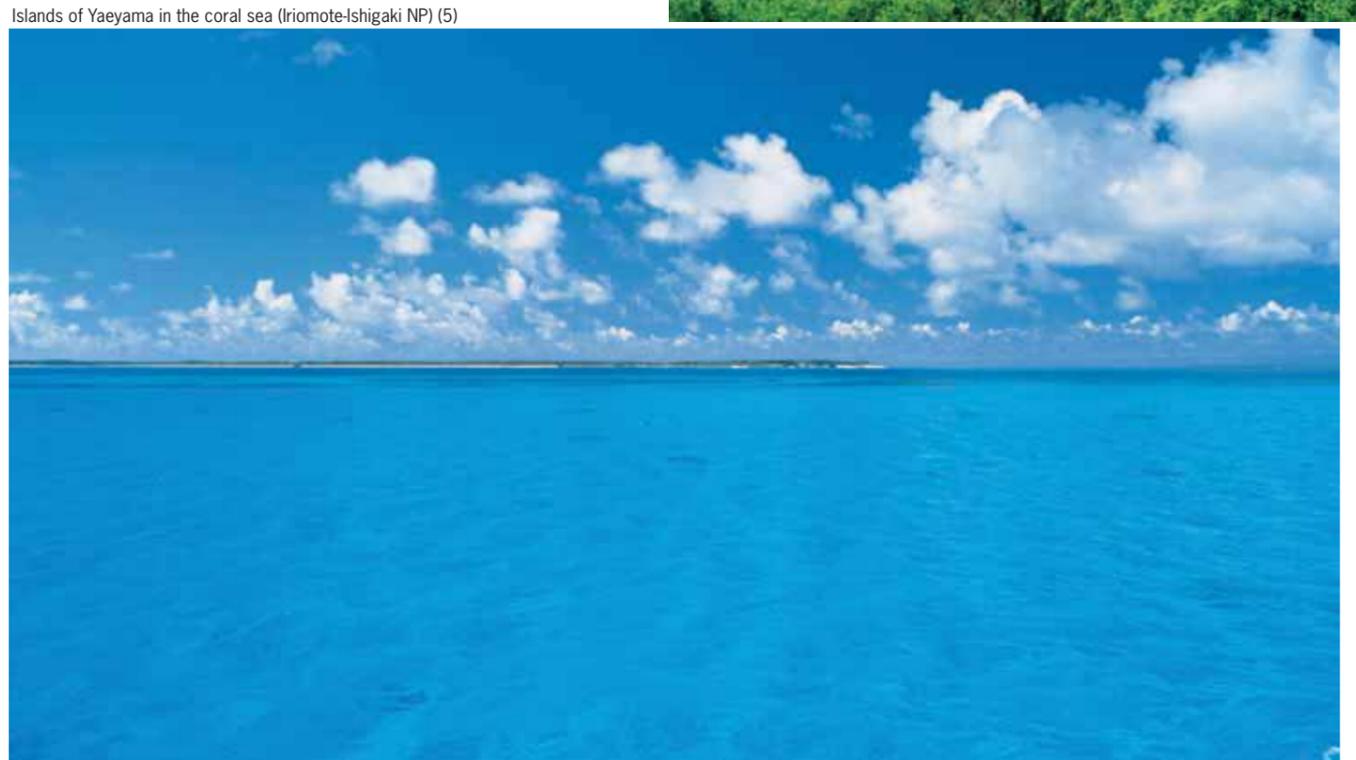
The bountiful clear ocean in Kerama Blue. (Keramashoto NP) (1)



The summer of the archipelagic sea (Setonaikai NP) (3)



Kushiro River, flowing through the wetlands (Kushiroshitsugen NP) (4)



Islands of Yaeyama in the coral sea (Iriomote-Ishigaki NP) (5)



A flower carpet spreading over near the summit of Mt. Hakuba-dake, the Japan Northern Alps (Chubusangaku NP) (2)

## COLUMN

### A mountain high paradise —The garden of wildflowers

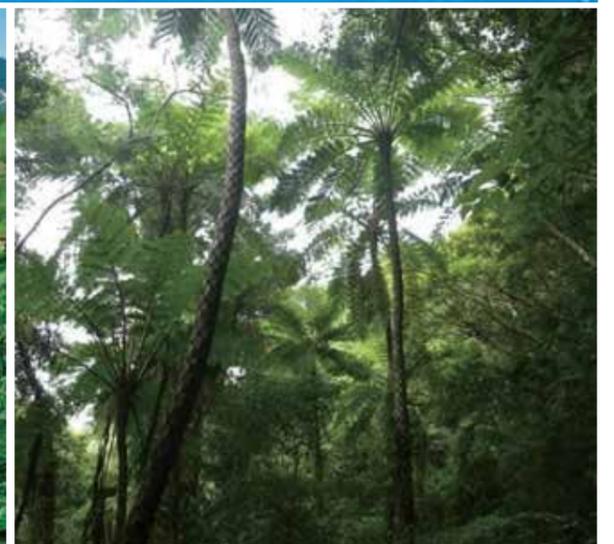
Summer is the season for mountain hiking. The mountains in north of central Japan offer an amusement for hikers to spot fields of wildflowers. As climbing a mountain trail patiently, where trees become sparse, hikers will find the garden of colorful alpine flowers spreading like a carpet. Alpine plants are adapted to harsh alpine environments such as low temperatures, strong wind and prolonged periods of snow pack. Most species bloom all at once in the short summer. The lovely and healthy life forms determined to survive in such severity is a remarkable view, etched into hiker's memories.



Komakusa (*Dicenta* sp.)



A flower garden on a major ridge of Asahi Mountain Range (Bandai-Asahi NP) (6)



Kinsakubaru of Amami Oshima Island (Amamigunto National Park)