

Editorial

[Special Feature] Island Ecology: Ecosystem Conservation and Human Adaptation in Asia-Pacific Region

Island ecological geography is one of pattern and process of human adaptation to marine environment. Cultural uniqueness of islands reflects cause and consequence of multi-functional relationships between man and maritime systems. Compare to that of continent, ecological responses on environmental change in island are different in the context of climate and natural disaster in oceanic matrix and they affect the unique geological and biological diversities. Island ecology, therefore, had significant influence on the development of the theory of island biogeography. The theory had the role of building blocks to construct conservation biology and future of landscape ecology. Relating to global change, island treated still as emerging ecosystem in global societies. Island, space of people's living, moreover, is suggesting direction of human sustainability through diverse indigenous knowledge depending on limited nature resources. This special feature includes 8 papers concerning issues of biology, ecosystem, humanity and nature in island and maritime ecosystems in Asia-Pacific region (J. Ecol. Field Biol. Vol. 33 No. 1 and 2, 2010). Several papers are presenting ecological issues on ecosystem conservation through biological and ecosystem analysis. Four papers in Vol. 33 No. 1 are concerned with ecological evaluation on island ecosystem from population to landscape scale. Kun Xin et al. reports the importance of ecological function of Mangrove wetland in China through ecosystem analysis of coastal soil. Quan Nguyen Van et al. introduce landscape and human activity to conserve the Cat Ba Island, Vietnam. Cat Ba Island of UNESCO Biosphere Reserve shows the way of sustainable development balancing man and nature systems in island. Dae-Hyun Oh et al. reports human activities on home range size and habitat use of the Tsushima leopard cat on Tsushima Island, Japan. Chang-Yong Choi et al. presents the invasion of exotic seed by migratory bird. Five papers in Vol. 33 No. 2 are about ecosystem service for sustaining island and island conservation by ecosystem approach. Rho presents the landscape characteristics of uninhabited islands in Korea relating to species richness. Heon-Jong Lee et al. present the vision and goal of Shinan Dadohae Biosphere Reserve, the third Biosphere Reserve in the Republic of Korea in view of interdisciplinary study perspective. Nagashima Shunsuke summarized the importance of island ecosystems in Micronesian Archipelago in humanities perspective. Finally Sun-Kee Hong remarks the academic importance of island as seascape component coexisting cultural diversity and biological diversity. Although this special feature is the first time treating island ecosystems in the Ecological Society of Korea, I hope that papers in this special feature will be helpful information to learn island ecosystems and island landscapes in ecologists. This work was supported by the National Research Foundation of Korea Grant funded by the Korean Government (NRF-2009-361-A00007).

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