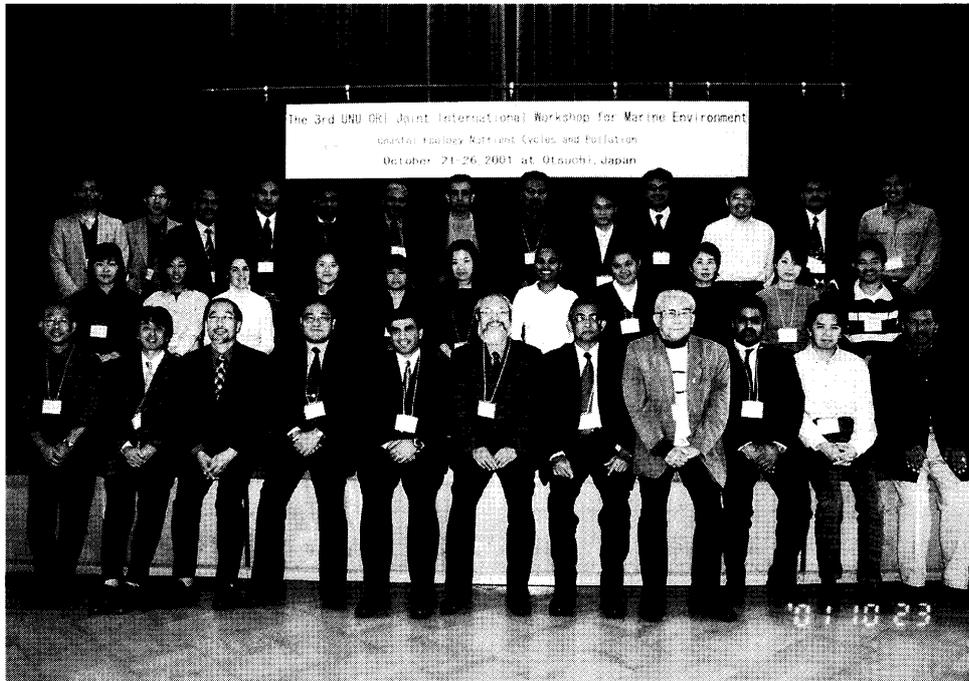


sea water temperature salinity etc.) are automatically recorded at a meteorological station.

To clarify the coastal marine ecosystem, the global marine pollution of man-made chemicals, the oceanic-atmospheric relationship and so on, several scientific symposia are also annually held at this research center under cooperation of many visiting specialists. The research areas of OMRC include the

following:

- Coastal marine ecosystem;
- Marine pollution;
- Biology of marine mammals;
- Physiological study of salmon; and
- Physical oceanography.



Conservation of East Asia's Coastlines— The Role Played by the United Nations University

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There is a complex set of relationships between human activities and the various coastal environments. A number of human activities and economic ventures have a strong reliance on the resources present in the coastal areas. Conversely, coastal zones the world over—approximately 40,000 km in total—are strongly impacted by human influences. In the East Asian region, the fastest urban growth is occurring around coastal areas leading to excessive stress on the natural resources. Encroachment of human activities by way of building, changing land-use, tourism, and pollution from both industry and agriculture strains the natural coastal ecosystems. These problems are exacerbated in this region due to the relatively uncontrolled population growth and limited infrastructure, financial and manpower resources.

The UNU focuses on critical ecosystems and regions—these include coastal zone ecosystems as a high-priority area.

Historically, a number of activities undertaken by UNU have addressed the issues relevant to the coastal ecosystems; these include coastal resource management in Indonesia, coastal mercury pollution in Minamata and its impacts, monitoring pollution levels in mussels within the Asia-Pacific region, and examining human impacts on mangrove ecosystems. Currently, the UNU Programme “Environmental Monitoring and Governance in the East Asian Coastal Hydrosphere” focuses on three key aspects. First, monitoring the coastal waters in the region to determine the pollution levels—particularly for endocrine disruptors or environmental hormones. Second, conducting research and training on ways to conserve and protect the region's precious mangrove ecosystems. Third, building partnerships between research groups in the region, international organizations and individuals working on coastal issues.