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## Preface

The International Workshop on the Oceanography and Fisheries in the East China Sea was organized under the umbrella of an academic agreement among four universities: Cheju National University, Shanghai Fisheries University, Nagasaki University and University of the Ryukyus, surrounding the East China Sea. The Workshop has been held in every two years since 1997 and workshop aims to establish a cooperative relationship among the four universities and to encourage the research in the fields of oceanography and fisheries. Very successful, fruitful and productive discussions were held on a variety of topics in these fields of oceanography and fisheries.

The fourth workshop was hosted by University of the Ryukyus, Okinawa, Japan, on November 8 and 9, 2003. Taking advantage of the geographical location, our university aspires to be an international institution open to the Asian and Pacific regions. This workshop is one of the important academic activities in our university and is expected to contribute by giving an incentive to graduate and undergraduate students to conduct intensive research. Many papers in several different fields including biology, chemistry, sedimentology and environmental science, were presented in this workshop, which is quite appropriate to modern times as because integrated science is currently encouraged in many fields.

We sincerely hope that our understanding and the outcome of this workshop will contribute both to the development of science in these areas and further collaboration among our four universities. This workshop is open to any colleagues in appropriate fields and we have been discussing the possibility of inviting other universities to join our group. We also hope that this workshop will develop future collaboration with many institutions, for which the planning of our cooperative research is strongly recommended, based on the discussion at the workshop.

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