

I would like to offer my congratulations to Kagoshima University on the occasion of its restructure of KURCPI. Over the last decade KURCPI has been a leading research center in Island Studies and has been inspirational for researchers in Island Studies in Japan and internationally. I especially value the support the Center has shown for SICRI (The Small Island Cultures Research Initiative): the 2004 Kagoshima conference and 2009 Sado conference were very successful and productive events. On a personal level, I have engaged in rich and stimulating research in the Amami and Tokara islands with Kagoshima University researchers and will be returning for further projects in early 2011. I truly appreciate the support, encouragement and collegial commitment of KURCPI staff and my visits to Kagoshima have been a high point of my academic career.

The restructure of KURCPI and the introduction of a Masters degree in Nissology are impressive moves that will position the Center at the forefront of regional research. I welcome these ventures and hope that I can continue to contribute to them and support the Center in its new phase. In particular, I am working with Pattimura University in Ambon (eastern Indonesia), trying to set up an regional island research hub there and hope that the new Center can assist and collaborate in this project. *Shima*, the refereed research journal I edit, www.shimajournal.org, would welcome further contributions from researchers from the Center and I also hope there is more regular traffic of researchers and projects between Kagoshima and Australia over the next decade.

I applaud and admire Kagoshima University's inspirational commitment to Island Studies and wish the Center every success over the next decade.

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