

FOREWORD

This is the report of the third research expedition of Kagoshima University on the State of Yap, Federal States of Micronesia. An interdisciplinary research team composed of 30 professors and students from various faculties of the university visited Ulithi Atoll of Yap State, from October to November 2001 using the training ship *Keiten-maru* of the Faculty of Fisheries. The expedition was aimed at: 1) looking at geological, ecological, bioproductive, hygienic and socio-cultural features of natural and human environments in Ulithi Atoll, and 2) in some way contribute to the development of agriculture, fisheries and the actual daily lives of the people of Yap, as well as promote international exchange between the State of Yap and Japan.

The expedition has three research teams. The first team produced three reports, which surveyed on human activity in Ulithi Atoll such as its traditional culture, tourism and social change, the politics of dancing, and the migration of islanders. The second team has nine reports, which investigated on aspects of the physical geography like the coastal waters, genetic diversity of coconut, agriculture and food supply, tuber proteins, influence of wave action on shell shape and oil spill, using satellite data in monitoring and analyzing shore environment, biogeography of insect fauna, RAPD (random amplified polymorphic DNA) analysis of yams, and ciguatera fish poisoning. The third team has five reports, which looked at the people-nature interactions such as aroid agriculture on atolls, classifications of citrus species, soil conditions, contamination of soil with parasite eggs, and the mosquito fauna.

We are truly grateful to several persons and institutions in Japan and the State of Yap, for their direct and indirect contribution and assistance during the research expedition. We hope that this report will provide information, understanding and appreciation of the Ulithi Atoll dwellers and their environments, as much as we have learned from and enjoyed that wonderful experience.

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PREFACE

We are pleased to announce the publication of the official report of the research project “Social Homeostasis of Small Islands in an Island-Zone” conducted by the Kagoshima University Research Center for the Pacific Islands (KURCPI) in the years 2000 and 2001.

This multi-disciplinary research project was started in 1999 as a three-year project by the four members of the KURCPI with the collaboration of more than forty researchers from other faculties of Kagoshima University. The term “homeostasis” describes, as its biological origin suggests, the actual and potential ways in which the stability, not necessarily static but also dynamic, and the sustainability of a society are achieved, without forfeiting its interaction and interdependency with the outside world. The goal of the project is to obtain an understanding of how social homeostasis may be achieved in a society on a small island. The term “island-zone” indicates that an island, though insulated by the sea, needs to be understood in the context of a group of islands, where networks of people, things, and information are formed and interaction between islands take place.

As the main research fields for the project, we chose the Satsunan Islands in Southern Japan and the island-zone of Yap in Micronesia. Both are island-zones consisting of a group of small islands with biological, social, and cultural relationships among themselves, and they share common difficulties, typical of small islands. The main difference between them is that the Satsunan Islands are a peripheral part of one of the most developed economies in the world, whereas the island-zone of Yap belongs to a modest island nation. This contrast enabled us to make a comparative approach to the studies on small islands.

The present report represents results of the research project in its second and third years. It consists of two parts, each forming an individual volume in the KURCPI Occasional Paper Series. Part One, in volume 38, is a collection of papers which involve the researches carried out in Japan in 2000 and 2001. These researches concern a variety of topics relating to island-zones and small islands in Southern Japan. Part Two, in the present volume 39, contains papers based on the researches carried out in 2000 and 2001 in Yap, Micronesia, including the research conducted by the Survey Party in Ulithi Atoll in 2001. The drafts of the papers in Part Two were reviewed by the Council of Tamol (traditional chiefs in the Outer Islands of Yap) and by the Council of Pilung (traditional chiefs in the Yap Islands) to ensure accuracy before publication. Reflecting our multi-disciplinary approach, both Part One and Two are subdivided into sections on human activities, physical geography, and people-nature interactions. Each section involves, (1) history, society, culture, education, tourism, and human movement, (2) geology, geography, and ecology, and (3) agriculture, fisheries, public health, and the impact of natural disasters.

Please note that, following a recommendation by the Japanese Language Council, we have adopted a new practice in this volume that in accordance with Japanese practice the family name of a Japanese author precedes the given name.

We hope this two-volume report will bring benefits to the people of the local communities with which the research was concerned. We also hope this provides us with an insight into the present conditions of the two island zones in the Northwestern Pacific and that it will further encourage studies on the small islands in this part of the world, so that researchers can exchange ideas and information and develop general theories on small islands in the future.

AOYAMA Toru
NODA Shinichi
Editors
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The Titles were correct at the time of the survey in 2001.

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We thank the following people for the invaluable help while we stayed in Yap. The titles were correct at the time of the survey in 2001.

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Abbreviations

COM	Community College of Micronesia, Yap Campus
FA	Faculty of Agriculture
FE	Faculty of Education
FF	Faculty of Fisheries
FLEH	Faculty of Law, Economics and the Humanities
GSSS	Graduate School of Social Sciences
JOCV	Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers
KU	Kagoshima University
KURCPI	Kagoshima University Research Center for the Pacific Islands
TMU	Tokyo Metropolitan University
UG	University of Guam
UGSAS	United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences
UR	University of the Ryukyus
YSG	Yap State Government

The Route of the *Keiten-maru* for the 2001 Survey of the Research Project 界Social Homeostasis of Small Islands in an Island-Zone

Arrival and Departure Dates at the Ports

Ports	Arrival Dates	Departure Dates
Kagoshima		10 October 2001
Colonia	16 October 2001	18 October 2001
Ulithi Atoll	19 October 2001	27 October 2001
Colonia	28 October 2001	31 October 2001
Kagoshima	6 November 2001	







