

PASSING OUR WORDS TO A NEW ERA

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The current issue of The Bulletin of The Marine Biological Station of Asamushi is a period to our effort for the last 52 years to communicate with the marine biologists of the world. The Bulletin was started with only 4 pages of a small hand written oceanographic report under the title of "The Marine Biology Chronicle of Aomori Bay (Aomori-Wan Kaiyo-Seibutsu-Jiho), The Imperial University of Tôhoku" on January 1 in 1941. The first issue was Japanese and reported on the earlier-than-normal-snow-fall of the year and on the sign of a good cod fishing season.

By the last issue of 1947 the Chronicle expanded rapidly to a 10-page issue with more scientific flavor shown by detailed analysis on the oceanographic data. The title of the Chronicle assumedly changed to the current name in 1948. Only the very issue alone has never been discovered not only in our library but also in any other assumedly related Marine Biological Stations we have pursued, but the presence of the issue is clearly stated in 15-page 1949 issue. In the issue, although the text was written in Japanese, the Title, Contents, Tables, and Summary were written in English. In 1952 the entire 64-page issue was stuffed with full papers and they were all written in English. The golden age of the Bulletin continued through 1960s and 1970s shown by a typical 264-page volume 13 issue. During the period, the Bulletin was used to nurture many active scientists, and the station hosted numeral "Asamushi Symposia". The Bulletin was full of the papers submitted by numeral marine biologists from all over the country. The Bulletin played a role of the leading scientific journal in the marine biological community, and contributed a lot not only in Japan but in the world.

From 1980s to the present, the Bulletin publication became sporadic. Sometimes no issues had been published in a year or two. This period well reflects the blossoming of the various international scientific journals in the world with easier access to the papers for the foreign scientists. Understandably, the majority of Japanese scientists seeks wider publicity by submitting their papers to those journals, and gladly to say they became more competitive in the world scientific community. Inevitably, the role of our Bulletin faces the change of the era.

We are gladly announce that our mission is accomplished, and with a lot of sentiment we farewell to all our colleague with this issue.

Thank you for your enormous contributions to our Bulletin for such a long time!

Hideki Katow
Director
The Marine Biological Station
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