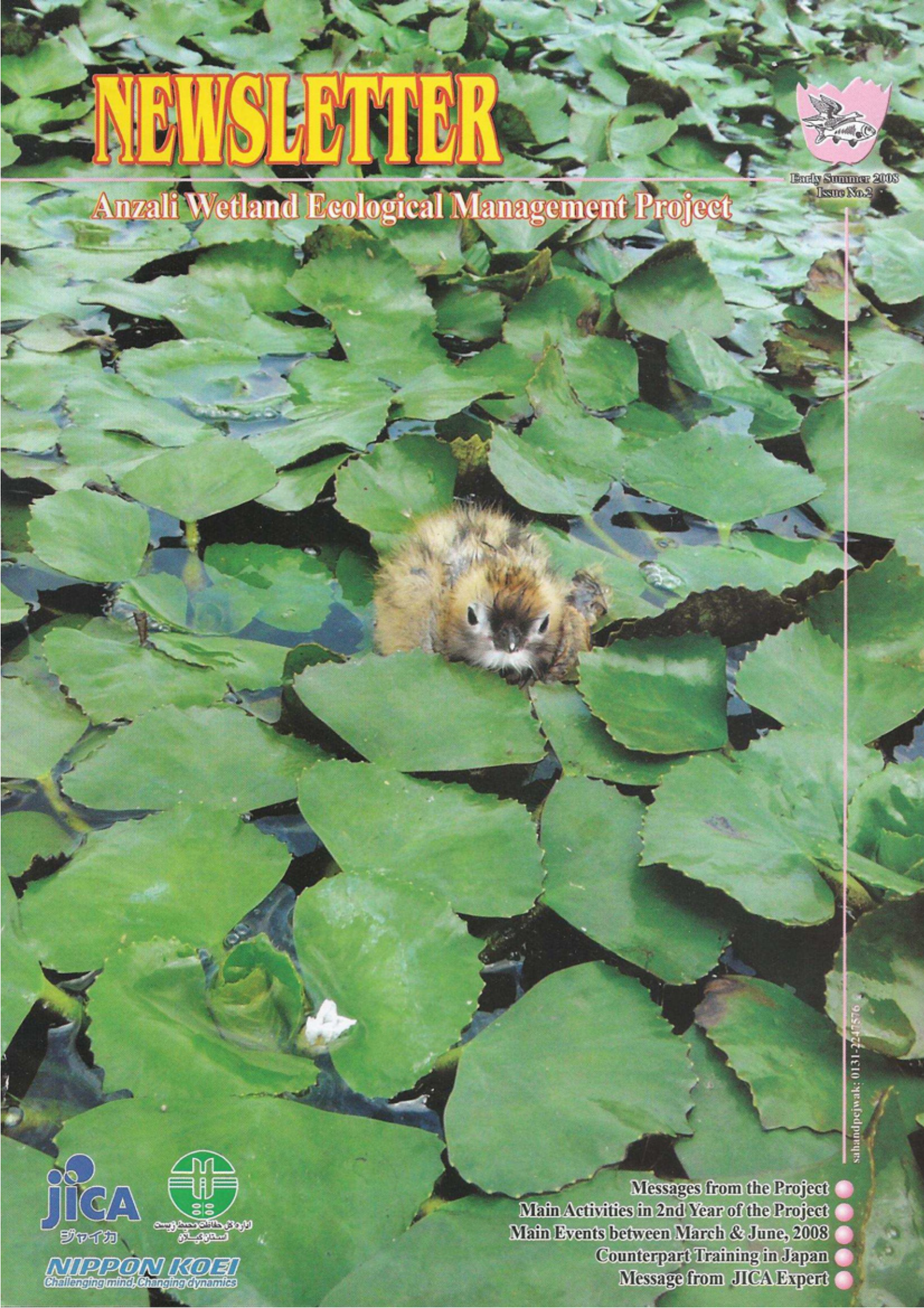


NEWSLETTER



Early Summer 2008
Issue No.2

Anzali Wetland Ecological Management Project



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NIPPON KOEI
Challenging mind, Changing dynamics

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Message from the Chief Advisor of the Project Mr. Tomoo Aoki

The second year of the project started. As shown in the next page, many important outcomes are expected to be accomplished under the project in this year. One of the main outcomes in this year is to establish of the Anzali Wetland Management Committee (AWMC),



attended by various stakeholders of the wetland. Under the AWMC, all important matters will be discussed and decided including some outcomes of the project such as monitoring manual, zoning system, and action plans for the environmental education by utilizing the Anzali Wetland Environmental Education Center and eco-tourism in the wetland. In addition, some measures will be attempted to facilitate more active participation of the stakeholders, especially local residents, in the management of the Anzali wetland through participatory survey and workshop under the project. In order to adequately accomplish the project activities, JICA Expert Team will do our utmost to support DOE counterparts and relevant stakeholders for conservation of the Anzali wetland.

This is a second issue of the newsletter for the Anzali Wetland Ecological Management Project. We would like to continuously disseminate relevant information to the wide extent of the stakeholders and the public on the Anzali wetland conservation and management through the newsletter with combination of various other ways.

Message from the Manager of the Project Mr. Kamran Zolfinezhad

Anzali wetland is a unique ecosystem in our country which always encounters several changes. By wise utilization, these changes can be turned into precious opportunities for the city of Anzali, Guilan province and Iran. In the utilization of the wetland we encounter three types of wisdom. The first is the



local wisdom which always existed along the history and the local communities of the wetland have used it. Although it had sometimes some impacts to the wetland, has been forced to retreat in long-term due to the limitation of techniques.

The second wisdom has tendency to development which desires utilization by the use of technology and in this regard does not care about the ecosystems. By the use of technology, it exposes changes to the wetlands which are sometimes irreparable. Improper understanding of development has caused serious damage.

And the third is the wisdom which I call it Ramsar wisdom. This wisdom introduces a third way by using the local wisdom, the expansionist wisdom and the ecological constraints. It is the only way to sustainable utilization of the wetlands. The Ramsar wisdom is an integration of the sciences which are after to reconcile the local wisdom and expansionist wisdom with ecological sciences. It is the only way to utilize and conserve the wetlands. In the second phase of the project, the Project tries to represent a peaceful coexistence of development and environment by the use of Ramsar wisdom.

Message from the Central DOE

Mr. Amir Abdoos, director of habitat's offices and managed areas' affairs

The Role of Education in Conservation of Wetlands

Imam Ali quotes that: "People are afraid of what they do not know."

It seems that one of the reasons the wetlands are not paid attention enough, refers to the lack of knowledge about the different aspects of wetlands, values and the function of their several components. "If I am to pay for a change of behaviour in a definite affair among people, I divide it into three parts education, education and again education" Confesius says.

Wetlands should be studied not only from ecological aspect, but also from the socio-economic, historical and cultural aspects and the findings should be educated to the others.

In this regard, education can be both formal in the schools, and short-term and periodical for specific target groups. But the best ages to transfer the concepts related to the wetland are the groups of children and teenagers, because naturally human likes the nature and in the initial states of his life the improper educations of the society has not completely penetrated into his soul, and he can be easily fond of the wetland.



Main Activities in 2nd Year of the Project

(mid May, 2008 - mid March, 2009)

The following main activities are planned to implement in 2nd year of the Project, based on the Project Design Matrix and Plans of Operation for each output for the Project.

Output 1: Institutional Development

- Establishment of Anzali Wetland Management Committee (AWMC)
- Regular meetings of AWMC (3-4 times)
- Necessary arrangements on operation of AWMC such as preparation of decree and rules & regulations

Output 2: Wetland Conservation and Monitoring

- Determination of monitoring indicators
- Preparation of a monitoring manual
- Preparation of Training Plan and implementation of On - the - Job Training on monitoring activity

Output 3: Environmental Zoning

- Implementation of Socio - economic survey [Part - 2] by participatory approach
- Deliberation of the zones such as regulation and boundary
- Public consultation meeting on zones

Output 4: Environmental Education by Using Anzali Wetland Environmental Education Center

- Collection and analysis of relevant information
- Preparation of a action plan with implementation of trial activities
- Preparation of a video material on environmental education of wetland

Output 5: Ecotourism in Anzali Wetland

- Collection and analysis of relevant information
- Preparation of a action plan
- Planning and developing a small - scale ecotourism facilities in the wetland



Main Events Between March and June, 2008

2nd Joint Coordination Committee Meeting

5th March, 2008

2nd JCC meeting was held at the Guilan Provincial Governor's office on 5th, 2008, with attendance of Mr. Rouhollah Ghahramani, Guilan Provincial Governor. In the JCC, progress of the Project in the 1st year was reported and establishment of the Anzali Wetland Management Committee was explained. In the conclusion of the meeting, the formation of an Anzali Wetland Management Committee (AWMC) was agreed by the Governor of Guilan Province and other participants.



2nd Wetland Specialists Meeting

3rd March, 2008

2nd Wetland Specialists meeting was held at DOE guest house in Ghalm Godeh of Anzali on 3rd March, 2008. In the meeting, various topics on the wetland management were presented and discussed based on experiences in both Anzali wetland and the other wetlands of Iran.



2nd Secretary of Japanese Embassy visited the Project

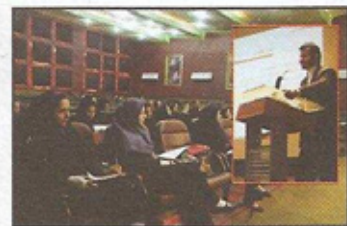
3rd and 4th March, 2008

Mr. Hitoshi Nagata, 2nd Secretary of Japanese Embassy in Iran visited the Project on 3rd and 4th March, 2008. During his stay, he had a courtesy call to Mr. Zolfinezhad, General Director of DOE Guilan, and visited the Anzali wetland by boat as well as the Project office in Anzali City.

2nd Ecotourism Workshop

8th June, 2008

As an opening event of the environmental week, the 2nd ecotourism workshop was held under the Project on 8th June, 2008. After introducing a concept of ecotourism, the Project explained tentative results of activities for ecotourism development such as natural and social resources, tourism market and current tours in the Wetland. The Project also introduced good practices of ecotours and utilization of visitor centers in Japan. In a discussion program, the participant, Mr. Zolfinezhad (Project Manager and General Director of DOE Guilan) and JICA Expert Team frankly exchanged their opinions. The workshop was a good opportunity to develop mutual understanding among stakeholders. Some 60 participants attended in the workshop in total, composed of such various stakeholders as hotel managers, travel agencies, NGOs, leaders of local residents, etc.



Presentation of the Project in 2nd Conference and Exhibition on Environmental Engineering in Tehran University

21st May, 2008



Attendance of the National Workshop on Wetland Protected Areas (1st June, 2008)

JICA Experts participated in the National Workshop on Wetland Protected Areas under the Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project (UNDP/GEF), held in the Central DOE, Tehran. In the workshop, it was not only good chance to know on-going activity in the central level on wetland conservation, but also exchange opinions with the UNDP/GEF project which has similar issues on the wetland conservation.

Counterpart Training in Japan, 2008

The counterpart training in Japan was conducted under the Project in April and May, 2008. The following counterpart personnel of the DOE Guilan Office were participated in the training as trainee.

In the training, the trainees visited some different wetlands in Japan, including Ramsar wetland sites, to see present activities of wetland management including environmental education and ecotourism, which would be applied to the Anzali wetland, with having some lectures on the wetland management. Main visits during the training are shown below.

| Name | Title (Position in the Project) | Training Period |
|------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Mr. Kamran Zolfinezhad | General Director of DOE Guilan (Project Manager) | 22 - 27 April, 2008 |
| Mr. Mahmoud Farajpour | Manager of Public Relation, DOE Guilan (Leader of Environmental Education Team of the Project) | 22 April - 10 May, 2008. |



Impressions of Training in Japan by the Trainees

In April 2008, we visited Japan to investigate experiences in Japan on wetland ecological management. In the training course, we visited 6 Ramsar sites out of 33 sites in Japan and its main purpose was to understand how to attract citizens and their participation in utilization and conservation of wetlands. In the trip, we met different university professors who sometimes do some activities for conservation of the wetland as a volunteer. In Japan, the governmental organizations have relative small roles in



administration of the wetland management such as preparing the guidelines. In fact, conservation activities in most of the wetlands and Ramsar sites in Japan have been implemented by non - governmental organizations and citizens.



During the training course, we familiarized with conservation activities in Japan. We hope we can adapt these activities to the circumstances of Anzali Wetland to suggest an appropriate process for conservation. We also hope the similarity of wetlands in Japan and Iran, can make it possible.

We deeply appreciate that JICA and JICA Expert Team supported us a lot during the training course.

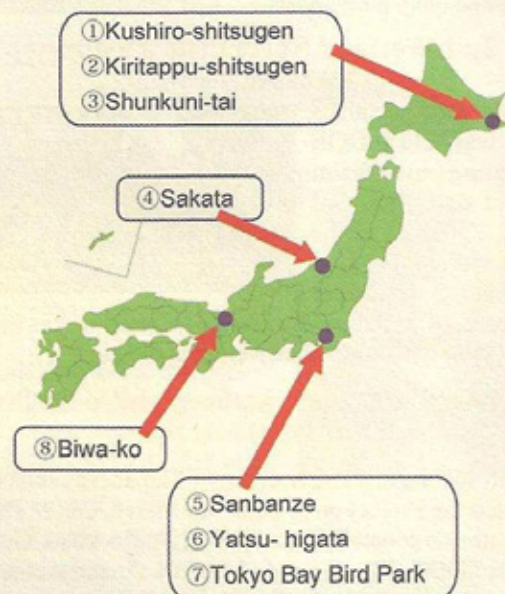
Lectures of Wetland Management

The following are the main lectures during the training. In addition, both indoor and outdoor lectures were conducted in the site of visits shown in the right page.

Title of lectures: **Lecturers Organizations**

| |
|--|
| "Wetland conservation policy in Japan with Ramsar convention": Ministry of Environment |
| "Wetland conservation in Asia and activities of the Ramsar Center Japan": Ramsar Center Japan |
| "Theory of Establishment and Operation of Facilities for Environmental Education": Eco Planning Research |
| "Participatory approach for waste management (Eco-foster system)": Shiga Prefectural Government |
| "Measures to manage both fishery activity and environment conservation": Shiga Prefectural Government |
| "Environment in Shiga Prefecture - Toward Restoration of Biwa Lake": Shiga Prefectural Government |
| "Sakata Natural Environment Conservation Plan": Niigata City Government |

Maps of Main Visited Wetlands



Main Visits During the Training in Japan



1. Kushiro-shitsugen

(Low moor, fresh water lake, river/18,000ha)

Kushiro - shitsugen, the largest marshland in Japan, is located in eastern Hokkaido, accumulating peat commencing 3,000 years ago developed into the marshland. 600 plant, 26 mammalian, and 170 bird species have been observed at the wetland. Among them are the globally endangered Japanese Crane, Blakiston's Fish-owl, White-tailed Sea Eagle, and Steller's Sea Eagle. Subsequent to the enactment of the Law for the Promotion of Nature Restoration in 2003, the Kushiro - shitsugen Nature Restoration Committee was established by administrative bodies, the local community, and NGOs to restore the ecosystem of the wetland.



Board Walk, Kushiro-shitsugen Visitor Center



Kushiro Wetland Observation Platform



Kushiro Wetland Observation Platform

2. Kiritappu-shitsugen

(Salt marsh, brackish lake, river, moor/3,168ha)

Kiritappu-shitsugen is situated along the coastline, facing the Pacific Ocean. In spring and autumn, large numbers of migratory birds stopover the site. The marshland is an important habitat for the red-crowned crane. Most areas surrounding the wetland are privately-owned. In 1986, an NGO was established



Kiritappu Wetland Visitor Center



Discussion in Kiritappu Trust Office

by locals to conserve the marshland by renting properties. Such unique approach attracted much public attention, resulting in increased membership. In 2000, the NPO "Kiritappu-shitsugen Trust" was established to create a wetland trust to purchase private properties.

7. Tokyo Bay Bird Park

Tokyo Bay Bird Park is located in the Ooi reclaimed area of Tokyo bay with area of 24.8 ha. The area of the park became suitable sites for birds with pond and green field after the reclamation in the late 1960's. The park was established in 1989 with various restored nature as a famous bird-watching place as well as suitable observation place for the shore creatures in urban area.



Bird Observation Deck

4. Sakata

Freshwater lake / 43.6 ha

Sakata is a freshwater lake with marshland on its shores, without inflowing river, but fed from groundwater running under the dune. Functioning as an agricultural reservoir, it irrigates downstream rice paddies. Sakata is a wintering site for waterfowl such as swans, geese and ducks. Using the Waterfowl and Wetland Center in Sakata as a base, the local community, NGOs, and the government are collaborating to consider ways to build a modern relationship with Sakata. For example, starting in 2003, the "Sakata Clean-up Activity" was introduced as a revival of the "Gatabushin" where cleanups, dredging, and waterweed control is conducted by the local community, volunteers, and NGOs.



Sakata Visitor Center

5. Sanbanze

Tidal flat, shallow sea area/ 1,800 ha

As many other tidal flats and shallow sea areas of Tokyo Bay, the Sanbanze area, located at the far end of Tokyo Bay, was filled to reclaim lands during the period of high economic growth. To conserve remaining nature, the prefectural government of Chiba called off its reclamation plan for the area. The Funabashi Sanbanze Seaside Park is a precious site for various water recreations for the people in the Tokyo bay.



Funabashi Sanbanze Seaside Park

6. Yatsu-higata

Tidal flat / 40 ha

Yatsu-higata, a tidal flat of sand and mud, located approx. 2 km inland of Tokyo Bay, once was one of the largest tidal flats in Japan. However, most of the area was reclaimed during rapid industrialization. Yatsu-higata as an exceptional example of a tidal flat that has survived this process, now is situated between housing complexes, schools and an expressway. The site is very important stopover area for migratory birds. 10% of plovers and sandpipers migrating to Japan annually have been observed in this area.



Yatsuhigata Nature Observation Center

8. Biwa-ko

Freshwater lake / 67,033 ha

Biwa-ko is Japan's largest freshwater lake located almost at the center of the island of Honshu. The lake that sustains the livelihood of 14 million people is the third oldest lake in the world which was formed approx. 4 million years ago. The lake area is not only an important water source and wintering site for ducks and geese and is a part of the East Asian Anatidae Site Network, but is vital for waterway transportation, fishing, tourism, and culture.



Water Monitoring Submarine

Reed Cutting Event in Boujagh National Park

Reed cutting event was conducted on June, 2008 as series of events in the environmental week hosted by DOE Guilan Office. The idea of event was derived from the "Gatabushin" which is traditional participatory practice of local residents in Sakata wetland in Niigata, Japan. This was immediate application learnt from the training in Japan.



3. Shunkuni-tai

Seaweed bed, sandbar / 600 ha



Shunkunitai Nature Center

"The Ramsar Sites in Japan, Ministry of Environment, Japan, 2005" was referred for the explanatory description for the visits.

Message from the JICA Expert (No.1)

A Plan of Anzali Wetland Conservation

Mr. Shinichiro Tanimoto
Wetland Conservation/ Monitoring Expert

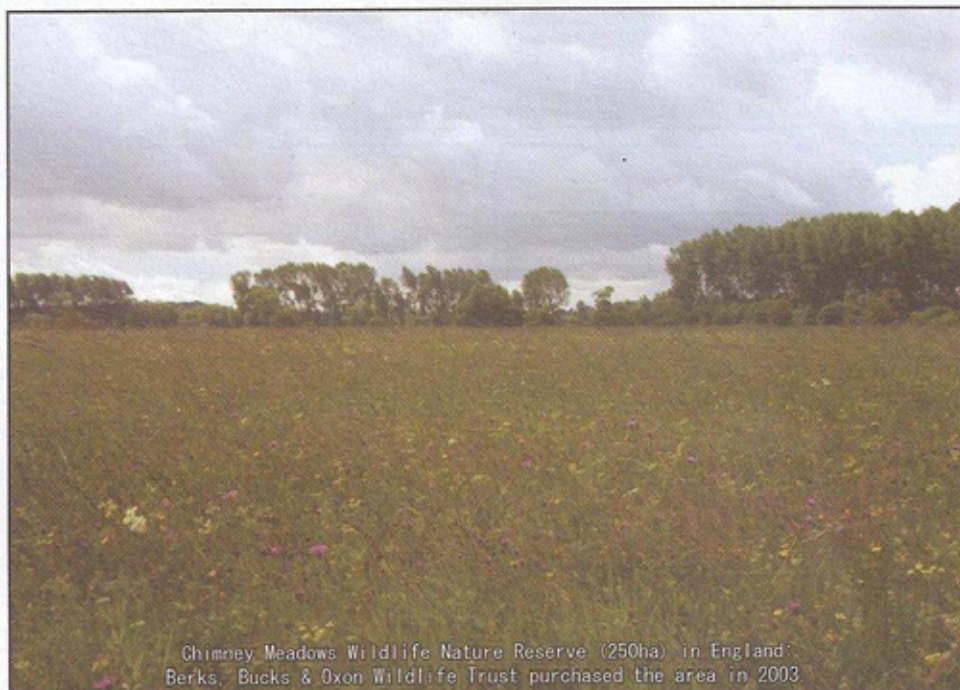
One of the wetlands where Mr. Farajpour visited during the counterpart training in Japan was Kiritappu-shitsugen in eastern Hokkaido, facing the Pacific Ocean. Most areas (1,200 ha) are privately-owned out of the total area (3,168 ha). An NGO that manages the wetland is called "Kiritappu Trust". This NGO has so far purchased approximately 350 ha in cooperation with enterprises and Hamanaka City, and proceeded with conservation activities.

Thus, the conservation activities by means of the purchase and donation of the historic structures and threatened nature, that are privately-owned properties and difficult to maintain with some economical reasons, are called "National Trust Campaign". The National Trust Campaign was originated by the English voluntary organization "The National Trust" in 1895, in order to conserve the historic structures that the economically declined aristocracy had possessed. The concept has been prevailing all over the world. The charity mind has been active in England. In 1912, "Wildlife Trust" the objective of which is the conservation of wildlife and its habitat was launched, and has been working for the nature conservation with more than 500,000 membership.

Japan National Trust was set up in Japan in 1968 (membership is 2000, in 2008), following the structure of "The National Trust" in England. The national trust

campaign has been developed by NGOs afterwards in Japan. The policy of this campaign is to conserve the natural and historical properties that are desirable to handover to future generations as public treasures but difficult to maintain because of the ownership, regulation, economy and so on, and properly handover to the next generation.

The concept of the national trust seems not to be developed in Iran. However, I am wondering if Anzali Trust can be set up for Anzali wetland, taking account of that ownership of the wetland is one of the constraints of the conservation of Anzali wetland in which there are a number of private lands. The people or NGOs that are



Chimney Meadows Wildlife Nature Reserve (250ha) in England. Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust purchased the area in 2003

interested in the national trust campaign!, please get in touch with our project.

Disclaimer

This newsletter is produced by the JICA Study Team to keep stakeholders in the Study informed about news and progress. The views in this newsletter are those of the Study Team and must not be taken to reflect the views of the Japanese Government and the Department of the Environment.

Radio Program of Anzali Wetland

A radio program on the Anzali Wetland started in Economy of Guilan local channel in the middle of June, 2008. The 5-minute program is being broadcasted between 10 am and 11am on Thursday and Saturday for around 3 months. The JICA Expert Team provides articles on various aspects of the Anzali Wetland for this program.

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