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Dynamics of dissolved matters in the Yura River watershed: An introduction to the Kibunka Project

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The Kibunka (the culture nursed in the forest) Project

The Kibunka Project has been launched in 2009, which is based on the linkage of forest, human and coastal ecosystems, by the Field Science, Education and Research Center (FSERC), Kyoto University. The project is implemented in the Niyodo River (Kochi Prefecture) and the Yura River (Kyoto Prefecture) watersheds. In this presentation, the outline of the project and some results of the survey on the river water quality are introduced.

The research on linkage of forest, human and coastal ecosystems

It is usually hard for each conventional research field on field sciences to elucidate the linkage among different ecosystems, such as forest and coastal ones. Moreover, the human dimension, which is continuously affected by the environment, should be taken into consideration as the factor interacting with natural ecosystems. Understanding these interactions would result in the construction of the desirable society in future. The Kibunka Project has been planned to integrate knowledge on the linkage between forest, human and coastal ecosystems.

The Yura River Project in the Kibunka Project

The Yura River Project has been conducted in the Yura River watershed, where the Ashiu Forest Research Station and the Maizuru Fisheries Research Station of the FSERC locate, since 2009, as one of the subproject of the Kibunka Project. In this project, the tree-cutting measure will be implemented in the watershed. Detecting changes in water quality, effects of the measure on the watershed environment will be elucidated. Also, the local situation of the forestry in the northern Kyoto prefecture will be surveyed, in order to estimate the contribution of the tree-cutting measure to the improvement of the forest biomass.

Integrating results obtained in the project will "Yura River model", in which a proportionate relationship between humans and nature will be established.

In this presentation, we will show the preliminary results on the water quality from general surveys conducted in June and October, 2009.

Keywords: Yura River watershed, total nitrogen, total phosphorus