

Outreach activity of Ocean Research Institute: Lecture and research ship tour for female high school students

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<http://www.ori.u-tokyo.ac.jp/project/shingaku/index.html>

We, female staff and PD/graduate students of Ocean Research Institute (University of Tokyo) conducted a series of lectures and the open house of research vessel Hakuho maru for female high school students and teachers. The purpose of this project is to appeal the wonderful world of ocean sciences and to show that many women are now working in this field to the female high school students. The project consists of two main parts;

1) Delivery lectures

The woman scientists and the graduate students of Ocean Research Institute go out to high school, and give lectures concerning ocean sciences. The contents of lectures ranges from biology, water geochemistry, geology and geophysics. The lectures include both basic concept and the latest result of each field. Young post-doc researchers and graduate students talk about their career, daily research/study life, onboard experience and why they choose this field. We conducted the questionnaire survey after each lecture, and collect the response from students and teachers. Many of those surveyed answered that the impression for ocean science, especially for ocean-going field works, has changed after the lectures.

2) Open house of the research vessel Hakuho maru

Open house of the research vessel Hakuho maru will be proceeded in the Harumi port, March 27th and 28th, 2007, inviting female high school students, parents and teachers. First, at the Harumi passenger terminal the woman scientists and the graduate students explain the outline of the research vessel Hakuho maru and what kind of studies are done using the research vessel. Next, the participant observes the laboratories, cabins, mess rooms etc. on the ship, and experiences the actual place where the woman scientists and the graduate students are working. The questionnaire survey will be also done.

Detailed plans and reports of each activity, and the questionnaire result are released on the web site of Ocean Research Institute (University of Tokyo) (<http://www.ori.u-tokyo.ac.jp/project/shingaku/index.html>). This project is supported by Special Coordination Funds for Promoting Science and Technology, MEXT.