

## Land-Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone (LOICZ) and coastal environmental problem in Japan

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LOICZ is a core project of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) and the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP).

LOICZ is an international research project involving scientists from across the globe who have been investigating changes in the biology, chemistry and physics of the coastal zone since 1993. Since 2003, LOICZ has expanded its areas of research to include social, political and economic sciences in order to address the human dimensions of the coastal zone.

The main goal of LOICZ is to provide the knowledge, understanding and prediction needed to allow coastal communities to assess, anticipate and respond to the interaction of global change and local pressures which determine coastal change.

LOICZ aims to provide science that contributes towards understanding the Earth system in order to inform, educate and contribute to the sustainability of the world's coastal zone. Therefore LOICZ seeks to inform the scientific community, policymakers, managers and stakeholders on the relevance of global environmental change in the coastal zone.

Japan has been contributing LOICZ from the beginning i.e. providing Science Steering Committee (SSC) and cooperation of domestic coastal research with LOICZ. However, even after the IHDP became the parent program, only IGBP scientists has participated with LOICZ. Various user groups have vested interests and compete for coastal land and sea resources and goods and services. This often results in conflict eventually causing deterioration of the coastal zone. Better governance is inevitable for sustainable use of coastal resources. Because Japan is surrounded ocean, establishment of the international coastal management framework is needed to solve the global wide problem such as marine litter. Synthesizing natural and social science on coastal environment and send information to international community is important both nationally and internationally.

In this presentation, I will introduce the discussion at the LOICZ SSC meeting held in March 2010. I will also introduce the researches and related activities on coastal environment by academic societies, incorporated foundations and NGOs in Japan