

'Ocean Science' class as a liberal arts education programme in the University of the Ryukyus

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Earth science education in the University of the Ryukyus in Okinawa Prefecture, located on an island surrounded by the ocean of the subtropical area, is focussed on marine geosciences, including ocean sciences, tropical and sub-tropical meteorology, island-arc geology and coral-reef geology. The faculty staffs are making the most of such a benefit of the geographical characteristics in the Okinawan region for the education of geosciences. Especially, the university has Faculty of Tourism Sciences and Industrial Management, which encourages talent for tourism industry for not only Okinawa but also global trade. Since the ocean is very important resources of the tourism in Okinawa, we are aiming at the right understanding of the sea through the geoscience education for these students. The class is also open to public and high-school students through the university extension programme. In this presentation, the author will report the practice of the 'ocean science' class mainly for students studying human and social sciences and for high-school students who are going to decide their future course of speciality.