

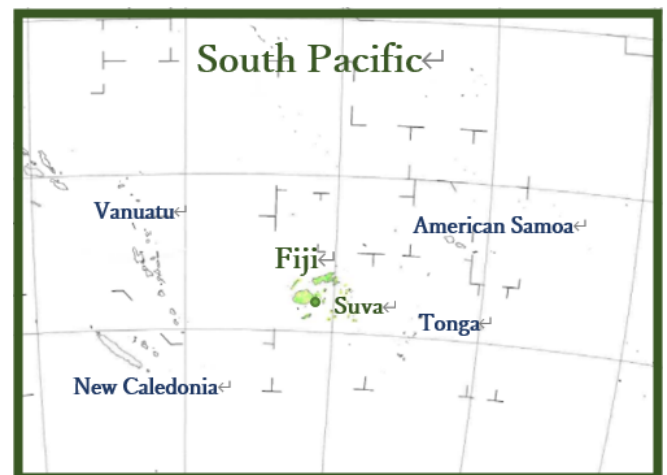
CORAL Restoration, OISCA Way

In 2002, OISCA began a highly challenging new activity in Fiji Islands in the South Pacific. It is a restoration of corals by means of artificially planting their fragments in the sea. From the very beginning, Fijian graduates of agricultural training course at OISCA training centers in Japan had been involved in this new experience.

There are beautiful coral coasts in Fiji. The Fijian graduates could not tolerate to see their naturally clean and beautiful sea coasts spoiled by people, not those from within Fiji. They were motivated to involve themselves in the unknown and in what seemed like an unattainable task. Thus, a very rare mouth-watering project emerged. OISCA Tokyo decided to support Fijian youths as much as it could.

[Coral, home to 25% of marine life](#)

Coral is an important living being in the sea widely known to be providing homes to more than one-fourth of marine living beings, mostly fish, even if it occupies as little as about 0.2 percent of the seas on the aqua planet earth. Corals in Fiji coasts did not have any natural enemies for thousands of centuries, until the second half of the 20th century when humans emerged as their potential enemies. There are scientists who claim that corals are facing an “existential crisis”.



Like trees on the ground, corals cannot move around on their own. They are categorized as an animal species though. They actively absorb carbon dioxide and so they are very useful to sustain not only marine biodiversity but also the atmospheric environment. Corals form forests in the sea just as trees on the ground do.

[Pentagonal layers are protecting human life](#)

In fact, natural pentagonal layers of ① in-the-sea (corals)-② interface seashore (mangroves)-③ on-the-ground seashore (pines)-④ above-ground-plain-area-trees and ⑤ mountain and hill side trees, have been protecting the lives of human beings and all other living beings. At the same time, above-ground-trees and mountain/hill side trees have been protecting corals and mangroves by means of preventing sand,

soil and other harmful particles flowing into beaches and seas. They also provide the source of foods to marine living beings such as planktons and microorganisms. Above-ground-trees are supporting natural mechanisms of biodiversity and marine food chain too.

Corals grow also by absorbing energy and light from the Sun. So, they live in the shallow zone of the sea, not far from beaches. They are very sensitive to temperature and water quality. Because they are visible to human eyes, they attract visitors most of whom are tourists. These visitors are very often careless to the life of corals, which nonetheless maintain the environment globally. Corals have become a target of illegal poachers, too, because of their natural beauty and commercial value.

Corals are victims of human greed

Entrepreneurs are attracted to build hotels and resorts on the coral beaches in Fiji, very often, illegally discharging poisonous water and debris to corals' living "territories". Corals cannot run away from the places they are growing. Their voiceless cry cannot reach the ears of selfish human beings either. OISCA-trained Fijian youths were able to hear the voiceless cries of corals. Here, OISCA style skill training matters.

Why corals are whitened?

Corals are very sensitive to warmer water. When they are exposed to warmer water, they expel the colorful algae that are living in their tissues, and turn to white color as the photo on the right side shows. It is called a bleaching phenomenon. Global warming mainly caused by human activities is making the life of corals critical.

Presence of a human resources training center in Fiji

There is an agriculture training center in Fiji, jointly managed by Fiji's National Ministry of Youth and Sports and OISCA-International (ref: Bulletin Board No.125, page 5). OISCA trained Fijians who took actions to plant coral fragments in 2002. They are brave, indeed!

They have devised a method; i.e., place hooks on the rocks in the coral habitat area and plant fragments as the photo on page 3 shows. This planting in the sea is never easy. It requires experience and tolerance. But young Fijians have been challenging this practice. OISCA is proud to have such Fijian young challengers to restore corals.



Natural Corals



Whitened Coral

OISCA's challenge for biodiversity

It was in 1980 when OISCA-International commenced the LOVE GREEN movement (ref: Bulletin Board No.122, page 3) to plant trees on mountains, hills, plains and seashores (mangrove), and at last came to the sea in 2005. The LOVE GREEN movement has reached 37 countries and territories as in 2020. Planet Earth which we respectfully call "Mother Earth" is a tiny being in the solar system and much smaller being in the grand Universe. But she is a very vast and large being for human eyes. Today, she accommodates more than 7500 million human inhabitants.

Combating a global warming, that is the by-product of human greed, is a huge task of present-day human beings to transfer environmentally sustainable Mother Earth to coming generations. OISCA believes, planting trees on mountains, hills, on the ground, seashores and in the sea is the first step in which every human being should be involved. OISCA style Children's Forest Program (CFP) (ref: Bulletin Board No.134) can be a model for action. Not the least of which is the OISCA style LOVE GREEN movement. Most likely, OISCA-International is the only NGO/CSO in the world that has been involving itself in all the pentagonal layer reforestation projects as of 2021.

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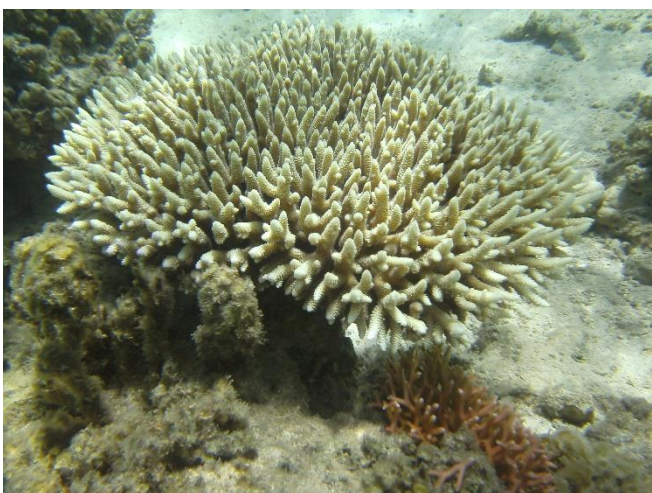
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A coral fragment at a hook



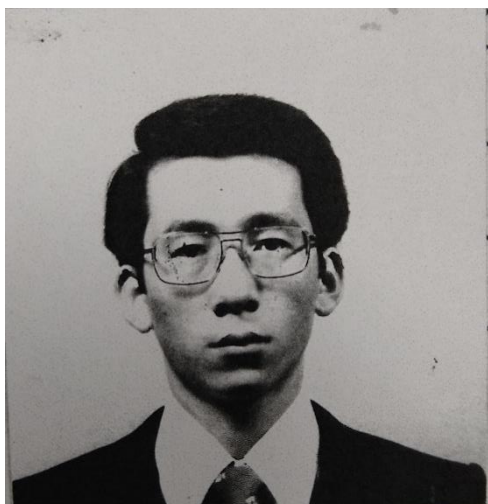
Survey by Fijian OISCA training graduate



One of the fragments, planted soon after the project began in Fiji in 2005, has grown like this as of 2014.



Mr. SEKIYA Takao



Mr. KATAOIKI Kenji



Mr. SAWAI Katsuyuki

OBITUARY

OISCA-International is going to reach 60th of its foundation on October 6th 2021.

During the past 60 years, OISCA has lost three dedicated Japanese volunteers while they were serving at the front line of its international development cooperation activities. With sincere appreciation, OISCA President, executive staff, and head office staff in Tokyo would like to pay a tribute to them.

1. Mr. SEKIYA Takao was called to the heaven on November 26, 1976 at the age of 28 while serving in Sri Lanka. Malaria took his life. Before going to Sri Lanka, Takao served in India and in the Philippines with OISCA projects.
2. Mr. KATAOKA Kenji lost his life while serving in Indonesia at OISCA training center on November 20, 1990. He became the victim of a traffic accident. Earlier, he served in the Philippine with OISCA projects. He was 36 years old
3. Mr. SAWAI Katsuyuki was called by the Lord of the Sea in Fiji, South Pacific, on January 15, 2011, while participating in coral restoration project. When he sacrificed his life, he was 53. Katsuyuki's life was with OISCA. A graduate of OISCA College for Global Cooperation. He was one of the core staff at OISCA headquarters secretariat before assigned to Fiji.

God bless them!