

Training Course on Methods of Zooplankton Ecology and Identification *Shuhei Nishida, Ocean Research Institute, University of Tokyo, Japan*

As a part of a co-operative project of the Census of Marine Zooplankton (CMarZ), the above Training Course was held at the University of the Philippines, Los Baños, during 6-13 Dec., 2004. The Course was organized by Lourdes Castillo (UPLB), Shuhei Nishida (University of Tokyo: UT), Makoto Terazaki (UT), and Keiichi Matsuura (National Science Museum, Tokyo) and sponsored by the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS: Multilateral Project-Coastal Oceanography [MPCO]) and the University of the Philippines (UPLB).



Students learn techniques of copepod dissection during the training course at the University of the Philippines.

Manila Bay for zooplankton sampling. The latter half was a three-day training in the laboratory on sample processing and species identification for major groups of zooplankton: copepods, chaetognaths, mysids, gelatinous zooplankton, and demersal forms. The participants were separated into three groups for practices with person-to-person instruction, such as dissection techniques of copepod appendages. The last day was for group presentation and discussion on the results from the laboratory practice by each participant-groups.

A total of 34 trainees participated the Course with 10 lecturers (from Japan, Philippine and Indonesia) and the local staffs: 5 trainees from Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam, and 29 from various Islands of the Philippines including 14 participants to the lecture section only. The Course was also much benefited by a free offer of 24 sets of high-quality microscopes by the Carl Zeiss Company (Germany) during the practice section, which made the observation of microscopic animals

The Course aimed at providing graduate students and research scientists in Southeast Asian countries with comprehensive knowledge on the biology, ecology, and taxonomy of marine zooplankton and methods dealing with these subjects, with emphasis on the practical aspects of sample analysis and species identification. The Course started with two days of lectures introducing various groups of zooplankton with reference to their morphology, ecology, diversity, and research methodology, and was followed by a one-day excursion to



Group photo of the training course participants

really exciting. As a by-product of the course, supplemental information was obtained to the list of zooplankton in Southeast Asia, such as new records of copepod species from understudied localities, including discoveries of three species so far unknown. The JSPS-MPCO members are planning to have the next training course in Vietnam during 2005; the details will be announced on the CMarZ website.