

Report

Training Course on Methods of Zooplankton Ecology and Identification

Marine Science Research Centre, Universiti Putra Malaysia

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As a part of a co-operative project of the Census of Marine Zooplankton (CMarZ), the above Training Course was held at the Marine Science Research Centre, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Port Dickson, Malaysia, during 20-25 Nov. 2006. The Course was organized by Fatimah Md. Yusoff (UPM), Shuheh Nishida (Ocean Research Institute, University of Tokyo: ORI), Makoto Terazaki (ORI), and Keiichi Matsuura (National Science Museum, Tokyo) and sponsored by UPM, Vice Chancellors' Committee of National Universities of Malaysia (VCC), and Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS: Multilateral Project-Coastal Marine Science).

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 one day lectures on general introduction of marine zooplankton and sampling techniques, followed by a half-day field-sampling practice in the coastal waters off Port Dickson and a half-day lectures on different taxonomic groups. The next three days were for practices in the laboratory on sample processing and species identification for major groups of zooplankton: copepods, mysids, gelatinous zooplankton, fish larvae, 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 24 trainees from various localities of Malaysia and one from Sultanate of Oman participated the course with 9 lecturers (from Japan, Philippine and Indonesia) and 10 local staffs. The whole course was favored with good weather and calm seas; almost everyday with full sunshine in the morning, a little cloudy in the afternoon, and heavy

thundershowers but for a short time in the evening. Both trainees and lecturers were so enthusiastic and the lectures and practices mostly ended up late at night. The field sampling provided excellent materials for the laboratory practices and at least 40 species of copepods were identified from these samples and the trainees' own samples, including 3 species suspected to be new to science and more than 10 species new to the fauna of the Straits of Malacca, representing the potential biodiversity of the area. At one night there was a lecture and demonstration by Jun Nishikawa (ORI) on photographic techniques by using live jellyfish which attracted many trainees. The timetable of the course and comments from the trainees are given in separate files.

The JSPS members are planning to have the next training course in Indonesia in 2007; the details will be announced on the CMarZ website.