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On going 10 year project after the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011

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Japan is a country with frequent earthquakes, approximately, every 5 minutes somewhere in the country. Although it's not regularly, big tsunami hits coastal area of Japan, approximately, every 20-30 years. Most of them are due to the earthquake occurred in Japan, while some are from other countries, like Chile. On March 11, 2011, the Great East Japan Earthquake hit northern part of Japan, followed by huge tsunami in Tohoku area. Although there have been many reports on the damages to human societies and terrestrial environments, limited information is available for marine ecosystems. For instance, what kind of damages the earthquake and tsunami caused in coastal environments? Any vulnerable environments? Are they recovering? How did it affect bioresources in the area? Because off Tohoku area is one of the three major fishing areas in the world, understandings of effects of the earthquake and tsunami, and ecological processes to make the area productive is important. In order to answer these questions, Tohoku Ecosystem-Associated Marine Sciences (TEAMS) was launched in January 2012 supported by MEXT. Since then, intensive research have been conducted by more than 200 scientists including physics, chemistry, biology, geology, modeling and so on. A part of scientific findings and also its significance to the restoration of fisheries will be shown and discussed. We believe, there has been no case of such an intensive and multi disciplinary investigations right after big natural disturbances. Therefore, this can be an important model for organizing scientific teams for possible future disasters.

Biography

Kazuhiro Kogure has completed his PhD from Ocean Research Institute, the University of Tokyo. He has been working on ecology of marine microorganisms. He is currently the Director of Center for Earth Surface System Dynamics, Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute. Since January 2012, he has been the PI of TEAMS (Tohoku Ecosystem-Associated Marine Sciences) in which more than 200 scientists and students have been conducting research. He also served as the Director of 10 cruises for investigating the area disturbed by the earthquake and tsunami that hit on March 11, 2011. He has more than 120 refereed papers.

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