Water Conservation Activities for the Next Generation in Kominkan

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Reported by the Fujita, Tomiyama and Takashima kominkan of Okayama City
1) Okayama City and Its Water

A city with wide rivers and low rainfall

The waterways stretch throughout the city, ensuring abundant water resources
Local residents in valuable water resources.

Environment created by clear and clean water
1) Okayama City and Its Water

Economic Growth

Urbanization

Industrialization

Development

Lost being interested in clean water
2) Environmental Problems and Kominkan Efforts

During the first half of the 1980s, the water pollution of Lake Kojima continued.
Lake Kojima Pollution Levels

2) Environmental Problems and Kominkan Efforts

COD (annual average mg/l)

Year

1989
1993
1995
1997
2006
2010
2011

COD standard 5mg/l

Source: Ministry of the Environment, Okayama prefecture
2) Environmental Problems and Kominkan Efforts

For better water...

- Appeals to the administration (Request for legislation)
- Citizens' activities
- Lake Kojima
- Kominkan
- Environmental lectures; soap-making by using waste oil
2) Environmental Problems and Kominkan Efforts

Improvement and Expansion

Citizens’ activities

Familiar and easily accessible
A lot of people can learn.
Activities in which many people can participate

Kominkan

Footholds for citizens’ activities

Administration

A place to raise local awareness
What is a kominkan?

One Kominkan within a junior high school catchment area

Staff is resident

A place to learn

Kominkan

Easily accessible

Able to store records

2) Environmental Problems and Kominkan Efforts
Enhanced awareness of local issues among kominkan staffs

Activities for a better environment

Administrative actions
3) Kominkan Environmental Conservation Activities

Activities with Citizens

- Destruction of nature
- Protection of nature
- Biological diversity
- Water
- Environmental pollution
- Waste・Recycling
- Global environment
- Energy
Further Development

“An exciting expedition of our hometown,”
by Takashima Kominkan (since 1997)

Kissing loaches survey

Playing in a riverside area

Kissing loaches (Endangered species)

Bird-watching
3) Kominkan Environmental Conservation Activities

Further Development

Joint Program for the Asahi River by 8 kominkans from 2002 to 2007

Erecting an Asahi River monument.

Summary report

Joint reporting session
3) Kominkan Environmental Conservation Activities

Further Development

Kyoyama ESD Environment Project (KEEP) by Kyoyama Kominkan (since 2004)

Putting Acquired Knowledge into Action

3) Kominkan Environmental Conservation Activities

Enhanced initiative of people

Kominkan supports activity

Continuous study

Nurturing respect for water and river
4) Activities on Citizens’ Initiative

Citizens’ Society to Enjoy the Nature of Tomiyama, by Tomiyama Kominkan

- The meeting member who enjoys nature of Tomiyama
- Discharge of the filthy water
- Take the fish in the river
- Creature investigation
- Water quality survey
- Work on cleaning
- Setting up public awareness banners

Let’s keep Kurayasu River clean.

Map of Okayama City showing the location of Asahi River, Yoshii River, and Tomiyama Kominkan.

Setting up public awareness banners.
4) Activities on Citizens’ Initiative

“Citizens’ Society to Enjoy the Nature of Tomiyama,
by Tomiyama Kominkan

An interview with the president, Mr. Mitsugi Mimura.
4) Activities on Citizens’ Initiative
5) Clear Water for the Next Generation

What we should pass on to the next generation

Importance of environmental conservation

Past and present activities to be explained to the next generation

Encouraging young citizens to take them over
5) Clear Water for the Next Generation

Challenges that we face:

- Aging of those who initiated the activities
- Insufficient active participation of younger generations

Continuation of environmental conservation activities is now at risk.
5) Clear Water for the Next Generation

What we can do now:

Clear water

Once polluted

Clear water returned through our efforts

Our efforts and passion to realize the better water environment to be shared with the next generation

Activities to keep water clear

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A place for information exchange among local residents.

A place to acquire knowledge about the region in which they live.

The flowing water has power to let a person think about a thing.
Thank you very much for your kind attention.