



Sustainability of the Aquarium: Suffering and revival of the Aquamarine Fukushima

By: Yoshitaka Abe Director

Institution: Aquamarine Fukushima, Marine Science Museum, Fukushima Prefecture, Japan

Aquamarine Fukushima suffered serious damage when the earthquake and tsunami submerged part of institution. The accident at the Fukushima nuclear power plant seriously obstructed restoration activities and we had to completely stop aquarium activities for a while. In April 2011, we slowly started restoration work, encouraging our staff with the slogan: 'Revive! Our Oceans'. Miraculously the main building covered with glass experienced little damage and the seawater intake pipeline survived. Thanks to volunteers, many kinds of support, and encouragement from all over Japan and abroad we re-opened on 15 July 2011 – our twelfth anniversary. We should like to express our deep and sincere appreciation to all our colleagues.

Restoration means to repair what was destroyed. True revival, however, involves creation. The re-opening of Aquamarine Fukushima is becoming the driving force of local revival. We have learned from the disasters the value of our black pine forests to protect the coast from tsunamis. We are reviving the aquarium to resist future disasters, and are strengthening our international network, sharing information on disaster prevention and continuing to spread the message of ocean conservation. We aim to conduct a sustainability expo in the future.