

UN Decade of Ocean Science and Ocean Policy

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Discussions on UN Decade of Ocean Science are proceeding for its start in 2021. At the UN General Assembly in 2017, recognizing the importance of the ocean science, as various efforts are being undertaken at the UN level to achieve the SDGs, the Decade of Ocean Science has been declared. Since the promotion of marine “science” is the main focus, intensive studies are being conducted on how to proceed with marine researches and surveys in the natural science. The goal is to achieve the SDGs, and it is necessary to discuss how to contribute not only to SDG-14, which directly refers to the ocean, but also to many other SDGs, and to understand the social demands in terms of outcomes. The six outcomes of the Decade are not all achieved by natural science alone, and a socio-economic perspective is essential. In particular, in achieving the goals of the SDGs, it is necessary to share the importance of the role of ocean science in making evidence-based policy decisions and SDGs progress assessments. Under these circumstances, when the UN Decade of Ocean Science was viewed from the perspective of ocean policy, researchers and the research communities involved in ocean policy need to deepen their discussions before the Decade begins.

In January 2020, in order to review research areas and measures that should be enhanced and strengthened over the Decade as an ocean policy, Japan Society for Ocean Policy held an open symposium on "Decade of Ocean Science and Ocean Policy" in Tokyo. In this presentation, we will introduce the discussions at the symposium.

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