

Dye and Medicinal Plants and natural fiber as Sustainable Natural Resources regarding Biodiversity

~To preserve species and sustain production of related goods

Organizer : NGO Earth Network

Joint hosting ; Natural Dye & Pigments Conference

Space : Global Environment Information Centre

December 3-26, 2009, 10:00-19:30 (Sat is until 17:00),

Closed: Sun/Mon/public holiday, the fourth Friday

Utilizing natural plants and animals requires the appropriate methods. Improper methods, like mass production, will cause the extinction of species. We consider such sustainable methods in order to preserve natural resources and biodiversity.

Exposition : poster, dye-plant, dyestuff, fabric, cocoon, silk, herbal medicine, etc.

1 Research Center of Northern Traditional Medicines, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences,

Health Sciences University of Hokkaido

2 Dr. Takayuki NAGASHINA, Laboratory of Insect Technology, Tokyo University of Agriculture

3 Dr. Seiko SUGIMOTO, Faculty of Human Studies, Kyoto Bunkyo University

4 Ujimoto Farm, Iwaishima

On Iwaishima (meaning "Celebration Island") which is located in Setonaikai (The Inland Sea), with a population of 500, Mr. Ujimoto runs a unique farm. He uses abandoned fields for the raising of pigs. His pigs revive the fields by eating weeds and improving the hard soil. They also eat vegetable and fruit wastes. (Iwaishima is famous for loquat.) Their meat is so wonderful as to attract many professionals, for example from restaurants in Tokyo and Mr. Ujimoto's unique venture has often been covered by the media. Earth Network has just started "The Iwaishima Akane Project" in which we cultivate Akane and Ai seen all over the island and use them in order to create an Iwaishima specialty.

Mr. Ujimoto talks about the future of ecological farming and Ms. Shoyama comments on some of the ecological aspects including biodiversity.

We will move to the French restaurant "Epis Kaneko" where we will enjoy pork and vegetables arranged on red tablecloths dyed with Japanese Akane. "Epis Kaneko's" specialty is Ujimoto pork and vegetables.

(Dinner on this day is already reserved but you can enjoy Ujimoto pork any other day.)

Among all the creatures on the earth, insects play a major role due to their diversity and numbers. Nevertheless we neglect them too much or just regard them as something we must exterminate, even though our ecological system can't exist without them. Ms. Sugimoto will introduce Madagascar as a society in which people and insects coexist. Children in villages eat some insects as snacks while they are playing in the forest. Adults get threads from cocoons of wild silkworms and weave clothes in order to be used for wedding ceremonies or presents to their ancestors. Mr. Nagashima is the leading expert in the field of insect natural resources which range from dyeing and medicine to technological developments using various colors of insects. Let's discuss the many possibilities insects offer.

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