

FOREWORD

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The study of the determinism of recruitment represents actually one of the main theme of interest in marine biology and biological oceanography. Its final aim is to understand and to try to master the variations of living resources of the ocean. For many species, the mechanism playing a role in the survival of eggs and larvae, including physical and chemical processes, nutritional, physiological and biochemical characteristics, are poorly understood.

But these general themes have shown a great deal of interest recently, in different countries. Canada, Denmark, France, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Scotland, USSR and USA for instance have developed several scientific programs on different aspects of this field of marine research.

In France, since 1986, a National Program on Recruitment Déterminism (Program National sur le Déterminisme du Recrutement=PND R) have been created, integrating the efforts of different laboratories belonging to Universities, to Institut français pour l'Exploitation de la Mer, (IFREMER), to Centre national de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), Museum national d'Histoire naturelle, Institut Français de Recherche Scientifique pour le Développement en Coopération (formely: Office de Recherche Scientifique et Technique Outre-Mer=ORSTOM), Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes (EPHE), between the most important scientific bodies involved in these scientific researches.

Activities of PND R are coordinated by a Committee (Comité Directeur) of seven members belonging the main research organisms (IFREMER, CNRS, ORSTOM, University). The scientific activities are coordinated by another committee (Comité scientifique) of fifteen members, who propose its own recommendations on research programs select the best themes who are proposed by research teams, evaluate results of researches, suggest

meeting and round tables, select budgets to acquire large size research apparatus or of high price. The president is Mr. Paul NIVAL, Professor of Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Université Paris VI.

These organizations play the role of national coordinating system, which is also multidisciplinary and gathers the efforts of the scientists working in the same field in France and overseas Departments and Territories.

In Japan, such a national structure does not exist. Nevertheless, several laboratories and numerous scientists are working in the field of recruitment. In France, the necessity of a pluriannual programs and of international activities has been recognised since an important seminar held in Nantes, 2-4 July, organised by IFREMER. In that context, it appeared interesting to organise a symposium between French and Japanese specialists, in order to make them meeting for the first time on that topic, and in order to exchange their ideas about biological recruitment in the sea.

It is specifically the role of Maison Franco-Japonaise (Nichi-Futsu Kaikan) first of all to promote such exchanges between French and Japanese scientists in that specialized field of research.

We have invited several French scientists working in Recruitment, in order to make them exchanging their experiences, and their knowledges, with their Japanese colleagues.

We are confident that this first France-Japan meeting in that field will be followed by several ones, very presumably with the same scientists in France, in Japan, or in other countries. The exchanges of scientific informations will be very much facilitated as these scientists have already a mutual acquaintance.

The final aim will be to make these scientists working together in common France-Japan

programs of research, in the future.

This is the role of the two Sociétés franco-japonaises d'Océanographie: the French one, settled in Institut océanographique in Paris, and the Japanese one, settled in Maison Franco-Japonaise in Tokyo. We would like to thank respectively their Presidents, Professor Roland BILLARD and Professor Yushio ARUGA, at this opportunity.

The main mission of Maison Franco-Japonaise since long years, remain the same, since more than 67 years and it represent, the better

mean to communicate and to understand not only another country, but also another civilisation. Today, both sides need such a deep understanding. We are very glad to thank specially Professor ARUGA and the editorial board of "La Mer" to publish the content of this France-Japan Symposium.

It is a concrete proof of our scientific cooperation.

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