



NORANEKO PROJECT REPORT

EXPLORATION PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

R7

15 MAY, 2025

PROJECT

KAGOSHIMA GYOKURYU HIGH SCHOOL SEAFLOWERS LEARN IN TANEGASHIMA

In the 2024 academic year, this project was launched with the aim of expanding activities that involve high school students from outside the island, led by Professor Shinichi Okuda (Takushoku University) and Teacher Yumiko Nagano (Kagoshima Gyokuryu High School), who have connections to Tanegashima. In the summer of 2024, 11 volunteer members of "SeaFlowers" from Kagoshima Gyokuryu High School visited Tanegashima. University students originally from Tanegashima also returned to their hometowns and engaged in discussions on environmental issues as well as participated in the International Coastal Cleanup. Additionally, high school and university students set individual research themes, conducted fieldwork, and presented their findings.



PICKUP

EVENT HELD IN KAGOSHIMA CITY

On February 1, 2025, the event "Teach Me About Microplastics" was held at the Kagoshima Environmental Future Center. This collaborative event with Kagoshima Gyokuryu High School's Sea Flowers began with a screening of the documentary Microplastic Story, followed by activity reports from Sea Flowers and Noraneko.



As part of the "Kirikindi Project," Sea Flowers proposed integrating microplastic collection into beach cleanup activities. Through their research, they recognized the severity of the issue and emphasized the importance of preventive measures such as waste collection and reducing plastic use. The members of Noraneko were impressed by the quality of the materials and activities. Following the event, a panel discussion was held where representatives from high schools, universities, and local government (Kagoshima Environmental Future Center) exchanged their perspectives.

Anna Kozono, Second-Year Student at Kagoshima Gyokuryu High School

I originally did not have a strong awareness of environmental issues, but through interactions with various people, I developed my own perspective. Through this activity, I was able to connect with members I wouldn't normally meet and work together, which was the most enjoyable part.



Mao Imamura, Second-Year Student at Kagoshima Gyokuryu High School

I used to think environmental issues were complicated, but I realized there are many things I can do in my daily life. This experience has inspired me to encourage positive changes in those around me. In the future, I hope to continue engaging in activities that connect my academic studies with environmental initiatives.



SUMMARY

THE RICHNESS OF THE OCEAN MAKES THE VALUE OF LEARNING VISIBLE.

For Noraneko, this was the first time hosting activities with high school students from outside the island, providing a valuable opportunity to recognize the importance of cross-regional learning among peers. Students from Fukui Prefectural Wakasa High School and Kumamoto Prefectural Ashikita High School participated in fieldwork and discussions, and we also visited Okinoerabu Island in Kagoshima Prefecture to engage with the Ujiji Kirei-dan family, who regularly conduct beach cleanups.

If we were to express this initiative in one phrase, it would be: The richness of the ocean makes the learning experience visible. In our exchanges with people of different backgrounds, affiliations, and generations, the central theme has always been the richness of the ocean. While the value of learning can be difficult to see, through this project we hope that students who develop even a small interest in environmental issues will take action, experience the ocean's richness firsthand, and continue expanding these efforts in the future.