

2 Supporting Energy and Environmental Education at the Onagohata Power Station Dam Area

Environmental education coordinated by the educational institutes, local communities and companies is becoming more and more important, due to the increased social awareness of environmental issues. Given this situation, Kyushu Electric Power supports educational efforts on energy and the environment conducted at the company's Onagohata Power Station dam premises in Amagase Town, Oita, which boasts rich natural resources. By listening to the opinions and advice of experts from outside the company, Kyushu Electric Power organizes various programs on nature watching, understanding nature and hands-on forestry experience in order to support citizens' activities and school education on energy and the environment. Such support programs are conducted through cooperative efforts with citizens' groups composed of nature-lovers.

◇ Introduction of efforts through Field Guidebook and company website

The Onagohata Power Station dam area has been the site of a hydroelectric power station since the early 20th century, and has been spared unnecessary development, while proper environmental preservation efforts have been made. As a consequence, the area is blessed with a rich natural environment, and is a habitat for many birds, insects and rare plants. A forestation project was launched at this site in Fiscal 2000 to restore the forest to its original state with the cooperation of citizens and the guidance of Professor Emeritus Akira Miyawaki of Yokohama National University. The company compiled efforts being made for the project into the Onagohata Forest Field Guidebook to be utilized in the support programs for environmental education. These efforts are also made available on the company website, through which application for participation in the program can be made.



Onagohata Forest Field Guidebook

■ Program outlines

Program	Detail
Nature watching	Enhance interests in nature close to us through nature watching in Onagohata.
Lecture on Forestation	Deepen understanding on roles and differences of natural and artificial forests.
Nature conservation activity, hands-on forestry experience	Deepen understanding of harmonious coexistence of human and nature through picking wild edible plants and growing mushrooms; promote forestation and its management for such coexistence.
Workshop on woodwork	Experience the joy of handmade products. Raise understanding of building recycling-based society by using natural materials.
Workshop on energy	Deepen understanding of resource-saving and energy-saving through visiting hydroelectric power generation facilities as well as learning about natural energy.

■ Organizations accepted to the programs (as of Aug. 31, 2003)

Date	Organization (program)	No. of participants	
Trial basis	Jun. 15, 2002	Fukuoka University of Education (nature watching)	26
	Jul. 28, 2002	Shuyukan High School, Fukuoka (nature watching)	13
	Aug. 3, 2002	Kokura High School, Fukuoka (nature watching)	29
	Aug. 12, 2002	Kokura High School, Fukuoka (nature watching)	25
Nov. 30, 2002	Opening event (nature watching, lecture on Forestation)	100	
Apr. 29, 2003	Fukuoka troop 27 Girl Scouts of Japan (nature watching)	16	
	Fukuoka troop 29 Girl Scouts of Japan (nature watching)	35	
	Fukuoka Group No.15, fukuoka Council, Scout Association of Japan (nature watching)	60	
	Kamishirouzu Children's Association (lecture on Forestation)	51	
	Shuyukan High School, Fukuoka (lecture on Forestation)	10	
Jul. 13, 2003	Shuyukan High School, Fukuoka (nature watching, lecture on Forestation)	16	
Jul. 27, 2003	Shuyukan High School, Fukuoka (nature watching, lecture on Forestation)	13	
Aug. 11, 2003	Kaisei High School, Fukuoka (nature watching, workshop on woodwork, workshop on energy)	23	
Total (13 organizations)		417	



Lecture on nature



Nature watching

Considering Maebaru Green Center (tentative name) as a greening and environment theme park

In Fiscal 2003, based on the experience of Onagohata and other foresting activities, Kyushu Electric Power began to consider utilizing the company's Research Laboratory Bioresour-

ces Research Center Maebaru Office (Maebaru City, Fukuoka) as a greening and environment theme park. Feasibility of the operation of the theme park will be studied into the future.