

## **Introduction to JBIF and its connection with other biodiversity informatics-related organization**

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GBIF (Global Biodiversity Information Facility) is an international organization collecting and making a great numbers of biodiversity record freely available through the internet. The activity of GBIF is based on 6 regions, and Japan belongs to Asian Region. As the majority of the data in GBIF is originated from Europe and North America, contribution of Asia is badly needed.

The regional activity of GBIF depends on Nodes (countries or institutions). Japan joined GBIF at its foundation (2001), and Japan Node of GBIF (JBIF) was established. Since COP10 was convened in 2010 in Nagoya, the governance of the activities in terms of biodiversity was transferred to the Ministry of Environment (MOE) from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). Due to this change, stabilization and consolidation of the activities in the Node was required. To streamline the action items, National Strategy was composed. We published an 8-paged brochure to introduce the activity and significance of GBIF, and to increase the popularity of JBIF. New national portal was launched. MOU and GBIF Strategic Plan were translated into Japanese, which are available through the portal. Being funded by the “National BioResource Project (NBRP)”, a program called “Science Museum Net (S-Net)” has been established based on the domestic network of 56 natural history museums and universities, and the data are provided to GBIF through the National Museum of Nature and Science (NMNS). The collected information is also available in Japanese through the S-Net homepage (<http://science-net.kahaku.go.jp/>) for domestic researchers.

Asian Region of GBIF has proposed two scientific activities, (1) Making species checklist at national level, including invasive, Red List, endemic species and migratory birds; 2) Updating fish databases to assess fish biodiversity loss and risk in Asia. To promote the former, a workshop was carried out in March, 2013, and survey and collection of data of these lists was done for South Eastern Asian Countries (Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam). The information is being integrated by the courtesy of ESABII (East and Southeast Asia Biodiversity Information Initiative), which aims to achieve goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) based on 14 countries in Asia, and initial version is expected to be presented soon.