

「廃棄物を除去する海上清掃船」

10月21日付当地 Nation 紙は、国際協力推進協会(A P I C)の「太平洋・カリブ記者招待計画」により訪日した同紙エバンソン記者の海洋ごみ問題に関する記事を掲載しているところ、概要以下のとおり。

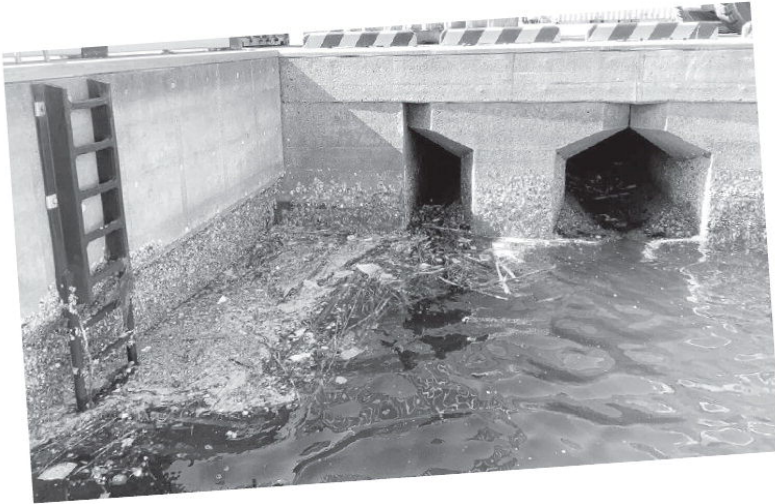
1 ペットボトル、ジュースの容器、ビニール袋、そしてあらゆる形の木の枝が、10分足らずで港の一角から釣り上げる。これは、バルバドスの海洋清掃の話ではない。鹿児島県の錦江湾でも、バルバドス同様に海洋ごみの課題に直面している。

2 この共通課題に関し、バルバドスでは、市民ダイバーやボランティアが手作業で海洋ごみを除去しているが、錦江湾では、清掃船「きんこう」が危険な作業を軽々となしている。「きんこう」は三代目の清掃船で、総トン数(容積)9トン、全長5メートル弱、航行速度9ノットの船である。航行しながら海洋ごみをかき集め、船内の籠に送り込み、海洋ごみが溜まった籠はクレーンで陸揚げされる。

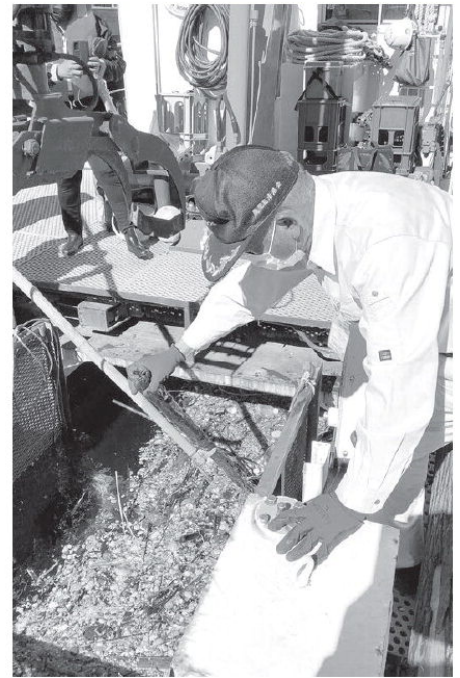
3 昨日、(A P I Cで招聘された)カリブ海及び太平洋地域のジャーナリストたちは、「きんこう」に乗り込んだ。船長は、海洋ごみのありかを知っているかのように、桜島からの噴煙がたなびく湾内の灯台を抜けていった。竿網を持った甲板長が、海洋ごみを鉄籠に入れる準備をしていた。廃棄物量は季節により異なり、台風シーズンに増加するそうだ。収集される廃棄物は、藻類、火山からの浮石、木の枝、ペットボトルなど様々だという。また、廃棄物は満ち潮の時間帯に湾に流入するという。

4 「きんこう」によって、人力では回収不可能な木材廃材や時には家電ごみが海上清掃船で回収されることもあることから、不法投棄の懸念が生じているようだ。合法的に廃棄すると費用が発生するため、不法投棄をする不心得者がいるようだ。不法投棄の現場を取り押さえることは難しいが、「不心得者」を捕らえることにより、警告を発する必要があるという。

5 また、海上及び陸上で回収された廃棄物は、過去6年間で115トンから207トンに達し、海上清掃による回収廃棄物はこのうちの64%から77%を占めるという。



The debris and litter in the bay of Osaka. (hle)



Deckhand Takeo Yoshimoto guiding the litter and debris into the marine sweeper. (HLE)

Marine sweeper clears pollution

Plastic bottles, juice containers, plastic bags along with tree branches of all shapes fished from one corner of the port in less than ten minutes.

No, it's not a marine clean-up in Barbados. It's one in the port of Kagoshima, Japan, which is also dealing with its own marine litter issues.

But they have a marine sweeper which makes the job a little easier. So unlike Barbados, where civic-minded divers and volunteers remove marine pollution by hand, Captain Katsunori Kawano and his deckhands Junichi Maeda and Takeo Yoshimoto have the Kinko at their disposal.

The Kinko, the third in the line of marine sweepers for the port, is a nine-tonne, almost

five-metre-long vessel capable of making nine knots. Equipped with a crane to fish heavy and bulky items like logs of wood or the illegally dumped appliance out of the water, the vessel boasts equipment that captures everything from the surface of the water, feeding it into a basket which is then raised so the garbage can be removed.

It makes light work of what could be, in Barbados, a dangerous task.

Yesterday, journalists from the Caribbean and the Pacific along with Executive Director and Secretary General Shoji Nagatoshi, joined Captain Kawano on board the vessel for their morning outing.

The marine sweeper is deployed Mondays to Fridays from about 8:30

a.m. to 5 p.m.

As they headed out through the guarding lighthouses of the bay, with the gases from volcano Sakurajima trailing lazily in the morning air, Captain Kawano piloted his vessel with the unerring precision of someone who knows where to find his garbage.

Ready to guide

With their pole nets, his deckhand stood ready to guide the garbage into the steel container.

Speaking through an interpreter, Nagatoshi said any day's takings – algae, float stones from the volcano, tree branches and plastic bottles – and the weight of the garbage depended on the time of year.

During the months of May to October –

the country's typhoon season – a lot more garbage was washed into the bay, he said.

"It depends on the day but when the tide is low, it just wouldn't come into the port. But when the tide is high it would go over the tetrapods (break water) and come into the port so there will be more garbage," he said.

He also surmised that there might be a dumpsite somewhere

close and that would account for some of the illegal dumped items.

"There must be a kind of dumpsite somewhere. To dump it legally it would cost money. They would have to pay some amount of money so sometimes they just dump it illegally," he said through the interpreter.

He said, however, it was difficult to catch people in the act of

illegal dumping but should someone be caught they are given a warning.

He explained that between the marine sweeper and land-based garbage collection, they had rid the environment of between 115 000 to 207 000 kilogrammes of garbage in the last six years. The garbage removed from the water accounted for 64 per cent to 77 per cent of that total.