

Welcome to the Leadership for ASEAN Marine Environments and Resources (LA MER) Program



Okinawa – a group of more than 60 subtropical islands surrounded by the warm Kuroshio Current, with numerous coral reefs. The humid subtropical climate is dynamic, with cool winters and long hot summers punctuated by typhoons. Although Okinawa is part of Japan, and Japanese is the language spoken by Okinawans, the culture of the islands maintains unique traditions in many aspects such as festivals, dancing, music, craft work, cuisine, and language. Okinawa also has a vibrant and international community, and is an exciting location to conduct marine research on the edge of the Pacific!

[*Information on Okinawa - Nature of Okinawa \(eBook\)*](#)

The University of the Ryukyus (UR)- established in 1950 by the American administration, UR became a national university upon Okinawa's return to Japan in 1972. UR has numerous faculties covering a wide range of fields, many research and student support facilities, and among the 8200 student population almost 300 international students from 48 countries, giving the university a diverse atmosphere. UR also has academic exchanges with numerous universities across the Pacific and beyond.



[*Information on UR*](#)

The Graduate School of UR has a global reputation for excellence in marine sciences, and has run English-language graduate courses in marine science since 1998. Our diverse staff offer the opportunity to conduct cutting-edge marine science research in biology, chemistry, and geology.



[*Information on the Graduate School*](#)

The LA MER Masters and Doctoral courses are constructed to focus on your research. While classes and seminars are also required for graduation, the course loads are not heavy, allowing you the chance to conduct world-class research together with faculty members. Japanese language classes are also available if you wish to work on your language skills.



LA MER Program

Leadership for ASEAN Marine Environments and Resources (LA MER) Program



Mentoring new leaders and strengthening marine science networks between ASEAN, Oceania, and Japan (Okinawa)

Goals

- 1) Marine environmental conservation and economic development based on marine bioresources in ASEAN and Oceania countries
- 2) Strengthening international marine research networks between ASEAN-Oceania-Japan (Okinawa, Univ. Ryukyus)

Univ. Ryukyus

- World University Rankings SDG14 Ocean ranking 101-200
- English-language graduate courses in marine sciences since 1998
- Okinawa Research Core for Highly Innovative Discipline Science (ORCHIDS) for Marine Science

ASEAN + Oceania + East Asia

- Sustainable and resilient economic development
- Marine environmental conservation
- ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris
- Reef ecosystem degradation
- Declining biodiversity and marine resources

SDG 14 Oceans

"Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development"

LA MER Program@U. Ryukyus Subject overview

