

# Report of the Activities in Tresreyes

3/10-3/27/2010, IKAW-AKO, Ayaka Kobayashi & Ayaka Hayashi

## I -About Tresreyes Island-



Tresreyes is a small island, located in northeast of Ubay, Bohol. This island has 103 household and more than the half are children in its 450 of the population. Population of this island keeps increasing; several houses have even more than 10 children in a family.

The main livelihood of the people here is fishery, such as catching fish and crab with using net. Some are

planting seaweeds for their extra income. The income from both of fishery and seaweeds planting are not stable because it is strongly depends on the weather and the climate.

Illegal fishing around this island, such as dynamite fishing, causes the crucial overfishing, although the people here have no income resources except fishing. Now, the people in



Tresreyes are facing in difficulties of the shortage of food and water. Because of the shortage of water, this island cannot have agricultural industry in the land. Water for drinking, washing clothes and cooking are supplied from several wells in the island. Usually, drawing water from the well and carrying to the house is the work for the children.

About 80% of children living in the island go to elementary school. However, only 2% of children who graduated from elementary school are able to go to high school in the main land. Although Tresreyes has only one elementary, but there are not enough facilities in the school. The number of the classrooms and teachers are not enough considering the number of the children. Some of the children above 13 years old work away from home to the cities such as Manila and Cebu in order to send money for their

family. Several families even rely on mainly to that resource for their living.

Another problem of Tresreyes is the daily disturbance of a large number of domestic animals such as cattle, goats, chickens and dogs. Sometimes, even classes in the elementary school need to stop because of the untied domestic animals. This problem also effected to growing seedlings and mangrove planting.

## II -Aim of the Mangrove Reforestation Project-

In the past, large area of mangroves surrounded Tresreyes Island was cut down in order to use them as fire wood. Now, only few mangroves are left in the island. Some people told us that after disappearing of the mangrove in the coastal area, they have been facing to the stronger damage of wind and waves, especially in typhoon season.



The mangrove has many important roles to conserve the environment. Windbreak, soil and wave protection are some of them. Being the habitats for marine life, such as fish, crabs and shrimps, is also one of the main function. Planting mangrove helps marine lives to come back to the coastal area and it will lead to increase the income of the people in the island in the future.



IKAW-AKO's aim is not only provide a resource for cash income to local people for mangrove seedling growing and mangrove maintenance, but to be a bridge between people in the island and in Japan, to encourage and to change the attitude of ourselves together for the environment in the future, through planting mangrove in Tresreyes. It is important to include both parents and children together into growing seedling and mangrove planting in terms of environmental education.

### III Activity Report

- **IKAW-AKO Introduction (12<sup>th</sup> March)**



Ms. Mari Kurata (IKAW-AKO coordinator) explained about the mangrove reforestation project in Tresreyes Island in PTCA meeting hold in elementary school of Tresreyes.

- **Counting & Selecting the Seedlings (13<sup>th</sup>, March)**



Nursery of mangrove seedlings were owned by 5 local person and groups; Ms. Alma Abay-abay, Group Tawid (Ms.Lolita Reyes, Ms.Ruel Reyes, Ms. Marlyn Garcia), Group Taurd (MS.Demetria Avenido, Ms.Erlinda Fungarap), School Group1 (Ms. Karin Vicente & her students), School Group2 (Ms.Clistine Amb & her students). We visited each nursery, selecting and counting the number of seedlings which were able to plant for 1<sup>st</sup> planting program in 15<sup>th</sup> March.

- **Fence constructing for Planting Area (13<sup>th</sup>& 15<sup>th</sup> March)**



*Number of participants: 10*

To protect the planted seedlings from being eaten by goats, bamboo fences were set up around the new planting area. The surrounded area is 0.2ha, in the northeast part of the island before the first mangrove planting program in 15<sup>th</sup>.

- **Welcoming Visitors from Japan (15<sup>th</sup>, March)**



7 students from Japan visited Tresreyes in 15<sup>th</sup> March during 55<sup>th</sup> IKAW-AKO Mangrove study tour. The visitors enjoyed swimming in the sea, lunch which was full of local fishes, and dinner. After attending the ceremony, they planted mangrove together with local people.

- **Project Launching Ceremony (15<sup>th</sup>, March)**

*Number of participants: 100*

To commemorate launching the mangrove reforestation project, the ceremony was hold in Tresreyes Elementary School. In the program, we had messages from Ms. Mari Kurata (IKAW-AKO, coordinator), and presentation both from elementary school and visitors from Japan.



● **Mangrove Planting (15<sup>th</sup>, March)**



*Number of participants: 100*

1084 seedlings of mangrove (local name of the species: Bungalon, Pagatpat) were planted by elementary school students and their parents and 7 Japanese visitors in the coastal area. Students and Children from both countries enjoyed planting with full of

laughter and hope for the future. The entire participant refreshed by drinking juice after the planting.

- **Group Organizing for Mangrove Reforestation Project (19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> March)**



*Number of participants: 30 for the each district*

For the more efficient mangrove reforestation project, groups for mangrove reforestation project were organized in the two districts of Tresreyes; Tawid(Group I) and Tang-tang(Group II). Each group is composed of a president, a vice president, a treasurer, an auditor, and ordinary members. The group members will take the responsibility of the seedling growing in the nursery of the each district, and the maintenance of the planted mangrove trees after coming mangrove plantation program. Alma and Bienvinido Abay-abay will take a responsibility of the maintenance of the mangrove planted in March 2010, as a special group.

- **Fence constructing for Seedling Nursery (21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> March)**



The biggest problem for the first mangrove planting program was that each nursery was located separated and almost all of them were apart from the planting site. The owner of the nursery had a difficult for watering, and need to keep the seedling away from domestic animals, so that they would not damage the seedlings. Moreover, transporting the seedlings to the planting area also took a time. To solve those problems, the nurseries of the mangrove

seedlings for coming plantation were set at the coastal area near the two districts in the island, so that group members will be able to access the nursery easily, and also for the less problem for watering. To escape the damage from the goat and other domestic animals, bamboo fences were set around the nursery. The members of the groups worked voluntary for the construction.

- **PTCA Mangrove Reforestation Program Meeting(23<sup>rd</sup>, March)**



*Number of participants: 100*

To commemorate the two groups for the mangrove reforestation project have founded, “Parent Teacher Community Association Mangrove Reforestation Program Meeting” was hold at the elementary

school of Tresreyes. In the program, we had a message from Mr. Alpjos Delima (CRM Ubay, coordinator), oath taking of the groups(Mr. Bonifacio Cutanda, CRM), the message from the president of each group, and the experience sharing by Mr. Bienvinido Abay-abay, who already grew more than 1000 seedlings for the previous planting. After the program, benignit(rice soup with mungo and coconut milk)and sospas(rice soup with chicken and egg) were served for children as a feeding program.

- Guide Line for Mangrove Planting (23<sup>rd</sup>, March)



To share the basic but important tips for mangrove planting, we IKAW-AKO volunteers provided “Guide Line for Mangrove planter” posters for each group, and a “Guide Book for Mangrove Planting” picture book for the elementary school.