

August 25, 1996
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Mr. Hidenori Sekiguchi
Director, Japan Bekko Association
W.T.C. Bldg., Rm. No. 0407
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Minato-ku, Tokyo 105, Japan

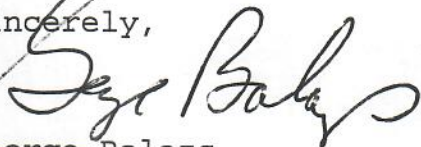
Dear Mr. Sekiguchi:

The Executive Committee of the IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group is very pleased to learn that the Japan Bekko Association will hold it's next symposium on hawksbill conservation in Bali during February 1997. You are to be commended for continuing to sponsor these important annual meetings. The meetings have served to promote the exchange of valuable biological information, to advance the improved global management of hawksbills, and to strengthen international cooperation and understanding. Having the symposium in Bali will wisely provide emphasis on a part of the world where more work is critically needed on behalf of sustainable sea turtle management.

We also extend our congratulations to the Japan Bekko Association for being able to plan the 1997 symposium at such an early date. This action will make it possible for the sea turtle scientists that you invite to have sufficient time to make arrangement congruent with their busy schedules.

We look forward to hearing from you with information on the details of this important forthcoming symposium, including the list of invited scientists.

Sincerely,



George Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle
Specialist Group

cc
Karen Bjorndal, Chairman
Executive Officer
Executive Committee