

The 2025 Asian Sea Turtle Conservation Conference debuts in Kaohsiung to discuss transnational protection



Dr. Yoshimasa Matsuzawa, President of the Japan Sea Turtle Society, delivered a keynote speech on "Sea Turtle Conservation: Cooperation, Challenges, and Inheritance". (Provided by the Marine Protection Administration)



The event venue was set up with various work booths. (Provided by the Marine Protection Administration)



Reporter Sun Jianping/Kaohsiung Report

The "2025 Asian Sea Turtle Conservation Conference and Workshop", jointly organized by the Marine Conservation Department and the Chinese Cetacean Association, will be held in Kaohsiung and Xiaoliuqiu for three consecutive days starting today, covering various core topics such as sea turtle spawning habitat management, rescue and shelter, application of individual identification (Photo ID), research on young turtles in foraging habitats, community engagement, and conservation actions.

One of the highlights of this international conference, initiated by an NGO, was a keynote speech by Dr. Matsuzawa, President of the Japan Sea Turtle Society, titled "Cooperation, Challenges, and Inheritance in Sea Turtle Conservation," sharing Japan's years of experience in promoting international exchanges and scientific research, injecting new perspectives into conservation efforts in Taiwan and the Asia-Pacific region.

The conference is also part of the "2025 International Cetacean and Sea Turtle Summit Series", which was held in Taiwan and Hong Kong in September and October in collaboration with the Marine Animal Imaging and Anatomy Research Group of the City University of Hong Kong, promoting the exchange of cross-border experiences. Zeng Zheng-cong, secretary-general of the Chinese Cetacean Association, pointed out: "Compared to other regions, sea turtles can often be sighted in Taiwan, but related research is still in its infancy. We hope that through this international conference, more young students and researchers can gain a deeper understanding of sea turtle ecology and engage in future conservation research."

Lu Xiaojun, director of the Marine Conservation Administration, pointed out that the "Sea Turtle Conservation Plan" announced in 113 has gradually implemented a number of actions in recent years, including: promoting light pollution improvement and ecological street lamp renewal on spawning beaches to create friendly habitats; long-term monitoring of ovipositing mother turtles in Orchid Island, Xiaoliuqiu,

Wang'an and other places, and initiating reproductive ecological surveys on Nansha Taiping Island; establish a "Accidental Catch Reward System" to encourage fishermen to join the accidental catch report; Five sea turtle rescue centers have been set up across Taiwan to develop rescue, medical and long-term containment mechanisms, and continue to monitor migration dynamics through satellite tracking.

In recent years, Taiwan has been actively developing Photo ID and gradually establishing an individual database, which is expected to become an important node in the Asia-Pacific region through data sharing in the future, promoting more people to join the ranks of sea turtle conservation.

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