

## DOW Use Promotion Committee 2017 Hokkaido Convention Report

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This year, the Use Promotion Committee held the “Utilization of Deep Ocean Water in Hokkaido” round table meeting of DOW users at the Rausu Town Community Center 2F large hall. Despite the early start of 3pm on October 11 (Wednesday) on the eve of DOWAS, approximately 40 stakeholders gathered. Representatives from Rausu Town, Iwanai Town, and Yakumo Town took part as panelists from the three deep seawater intake areas in Hokkaido with Mr. Akio Nishikawa (Econix Inc.) coordinating.

The first topic, from the viewpoint of DOW utilization, was an overview of the current state of utilization in the field of fisheries. Mr. Hideki Yamashita of the Rausu Town Office noted that currently 90-95% of DOW capacity is used in fisheries. Mr. Kanaya Toyokazu of Iwanai Town reported that 90% of use is by fisheries. With Mr. Tsutomu Kuromaru of Yakumo Town reporting that most is also used in fisheries, it became clear that the main focus of DOW use in Hokkaido today is in fishery. Interestingly, Yakumo Town reported use of seawater in transporting live fish such as scallops in order to maintain freshness, and in Iwanai town, they heat DOW for farming with heat exchangers and the plentiful hot spring water, two methods that advance the nature of DOW utilization technology in Hokkaido. In each region, the use of DOW aside from fishery use is also being actively studied, with discussion of the challenges in making use of the agriculture and livestock characteristic of Hokkaido. In Rauso Town, cultivation of onions in dairy fields, and salt tomato and melon in Iwani Town was conducted. There was also discussion of research carried out in collaboration with local agriculture universities. Yakumo Town reported on the progressing commercialization of “the most expensive pumpkin in Japan” made with DOW. In addition, Mr. Morose Takashi of the DOW User Association highlighted the current situation in use of saltwater in processing of cosmetics, soft drinks, etc.

Finally, in considering issues in the utilization of DOW at the above areas, as there are limits to the efforts that can be made at the town level, it was recognized that active support of efforts made by DOW businesses and support in acquiring demonstration data on the effectiveness of DOW seawater is needed for Hokkaido, which ended the talks in a meaningful way.



Fig. 1. Panel Discussion