

Press Release

Tokyo Sustainable Seafood Summit 2023 Closed! Human rights due diligence and blue finance boosts sustainability of the seafood industry



(November 13, Tokyo)

Seafood Legacy Co., Ltd. (CEO: Wakao Hanaoka, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, hereafter “SFL”), and Nikkei ESG (Published by Nikkei Business Publications, Inc., Publisher: Masato Hoppo) hosted the Tokyo Sustainable Seafood Summit 2023 from 17th to 19th October, 2023. Approximately 650 people in total attended the event for three days.

SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) were adopted in 2015, and 2023 marks the halfway point towards 2030, which is the goal year for their committed achievement. Therefore, we have chosen the theme of “Achieving the 2030 Agenda: Sustainable Seafood Strategies for Japan and Global Food Security”.

Due to the influence of international circumstances and climate change, food security in the seafood sector has become a crucial issue. At the TSSS, the efforts taken by the international and Japanese companies, NGOs, and various platforms in response to this situation was widely shared.

This year, discussion from the perspective of human rights due diligence, biodiversity, IUU (Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated) fishing, and blue finance were held as crucial elements for sustainability of the seafood industry.

Key takeaways:

- The concept of the SDGs is to "Leave No One Behind," which means paying particular attention to those in vulnerable positions, and ensuring development and progress for everyone including those people. In other words, it requires us more understanding of human rights and fairness for all individuals, whether they are from governments, businesses, NGOs, or consumers. Particularly businesses are needed to trace information in their supply chains, increase supply chain transparency, and use their influence to achieve sustainability.
- In Europe, the United States, South Korea, and Japan that have major seafood markets, there are laws/systems aiming at controlling import seafood to combat IUU fishing. However, there are challenges, such as the digitalization of catch data and gaps in efforts between importing and producing countries. Therefore, it is essential for importing countries to establish traceability systems and work together to address these issues effectively.
- The TNFD (Task Force on Nature-Related Financial Disclosures), a framework for disclosing information related to biodiversity, released in September 2023, represents a new initiative for both seafood companies and financial institutions. It's essential for these stakeholders to utilize TNFD as a common language, and for seafood companies to take action where possible, and promptly disclose information.

Furthermore, this year, TSSS has also become a platform for the announcement of various new sustainability initiatives.

The latest edition of the Seafood Stewardship Index (SSI)

The SSI was published by the World Benchmarking Alliance, and ranks and evaluates the sustainability efforts of the 30 most influential seafood companies globally. The third edition that has been announced at the TSSS revealed that there is still a lack of transparency in these efforts, and business efforts to reduce the impacts on the environment remain insufficient. Seven Japanese companies, including Nissui, Maruha Nichiro, and Kyokuyo, were also among the companies evaluated (For more details, please visit the [SSI's website](#)).

Social Responsibility Journey

This is a report focusing on human rights due diligence in the seafood supply chain. The report provides an overview of human rights due diligence, key points, and more. It was produced and supervised for translation by FishWise and published by Seafood Legacy.

The Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Initiative

This is proposed by five organizations, including the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative. It calls for the support of 14 principles necessary for banks, insurance companies, and investors to make the seafood industry sustainable (For more information, please visit [The Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Initiative's website](#)).

Additionally, on the first day of the TSSS, the 5th Japan Sustainable Seafood Awards ceremony was held, and this year's champions were announced. The Leadership Division champion was "Building a platform to "Enrich the world's oceans from Kita- Sanriku" by Kita-Sanriku Factor, and moova. In the U-30 (under 30) Division, the champion was "Developing future leaders through research projects of unused fishery resources" by Miya

Fisheries High School, Yamasa Chikuwa Co., Ltd., and Aichi Prefecture Freshwater Aquaculture Cooperation. A special award was given to “Sustainable fisheries through complete order-based fishing” by Kunimi-maru. For more details, please visit the JSSA's website: <https://sustainableseafoodnow.com/2023/award/en>



From left: Kita-Sanriku factory, Miya Fisheries High School, and Kunimi-maru.

The Tokyo Sustainable Seafood Summit will celebrate its 10th anniversary next year in 2024, and it is scheduled to be held at the Tokyo International Forum from October 8th, 9th and 10th.

In order to make this 10th anniversary a memorable event, we will continue to make efforts to promote sustainable seafood alongside everyone of you. Finally, we extend our gratitude to all those who have contributed to the success of the summit.

Overview of the TSSS

- Name Tokyo Sustainable Seafood Summit (TSSS2023)
- Theme Achieving the 2030 Agenda: Sustainable Seafood Strategies for Japan and Global Food Security
- Date Tuesday 17th to Thursday 19th October, 2023
- Venue Belle Salle Shinjuku Grand
- Total participants About 650 people (including 70 speakers)
- Exhibitors Eight organizations/ company
- Registration fee Free
- Host Seafood Legacy Co., Ltd. and Nikkei Business Publications, Inc.
- Co-host the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and Walton Family Foundation
- Sponsors Aeon Co., Ltd., Maruha Nichiro Corporation, Nissui Corporation, and Saraya Co., Ltd.

Seafood Legacy Co., Ltd. is a social venture based in Tokyo which provides sustainable seafood consulting and platforming services to Japanese seafood businesses and government. Seafood is a symbol of the connections between marine ecosystems, marine economics, and regional communities, and our purpose is to ensure that it remains abundant for future generations. Seafood Legacy also strategically networks seafood businesses and NGOs to foster pre-competitive platform to solve mutual issues that various stakeholders face in Japan and the world.

About Nikkei ESG:

Nikkei ESG is a premier Japanese monthly magazine that is published by Nikkei Business Publications, Inc and features original articles regarding corporate ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) initiatives and institutional investor trends. Nikkei ESG also runs annual membership forum Nikkei ESG Management Forum and has monthly on-site study programs with respect to domestic and global ESG policies, investor trends, latest corporate strategies as well as new business or corporate governance which aims to achieve SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals).

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