

International Chapter Helps Beach Clean-up

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The high school and middle school students from International Chapter of the Soka Gakkai here participated in the 5th International Coastal Clean-up recently. The clean-up was started by the Center for Marine Conservation in 1989 and has grown each year in size and support.

According to Kenny Ehman, a coordinator of the Okinawa Clean Beach Club: "In the 1970s and early '80s, marine biologists and researchers began reporting an increase in the number of marine life being killed because of entanglement in nets and fishing line and by ingestion of garbage, which was mistaken for food.

"Today it has become a common problem that affects dolphins, whales, seals, turtles, migrating birds and other mammals."

The students, called the Napoleon Group, arrived at Zanpa-Misaki Beach on a beautiful day and set about the job at hand. Before getting started, the vice mayor of the local city thanked the youth members for helping with the environment.

The members collected trash and classified each piece on a data card. The data card will be sent to the United Nations to help pass international laws and work on legislation or treaties concerning pollution.

After hot pizza and cold soft drinks at the local culture center, Rina Monroy, a high school freshman, summed up the feelings of most participants: "It felt so good and helpful."

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