



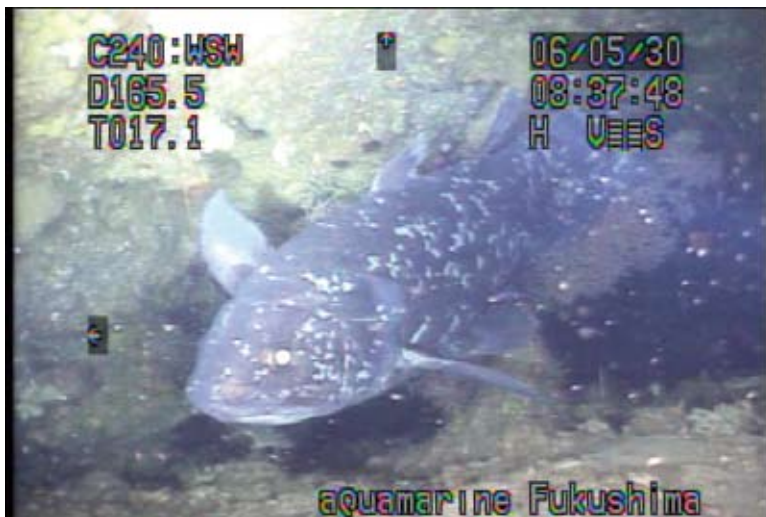
GREENEYE PROJECT aquamarine Fukushima

# The Coelacanth, Fathom the Mystery

By Yoshitaka Abe, Executive Director of Aquamarine Fukushima

## Raja Laut, Indonesian Coelacanth

Indonesian Coelacanth was found in the waters of Sulawesi Island in Indonesia more than 10,000 km far from Comoros archipelagos. It was on September, 1997. Dr. Mark Erdmann, American ecologist who traveled in Sulawesi Island, found a big fish at the fish market in Manado. He recognized it the coelacanth and took pictures, but the specimen had promptly been chopped up. After that he continued to collect information on the coelacanth from fishermen and finally found the second coelacanth specimen next year in 1998. It was identified different species from African one mainly clue to the DNA analysis, and named *Latimeria menadoensis*.



Totally 5 individuals of Indonesian Coelacanth were filmed by ROV during from 30th of May to 4th of June, 2006.

## Aquamarine Fukushima and Long Term Coelacanth Project

The Aquamarine Fukushima's prologue is "Evolution of the Life in the Seas". Fossil of coelacanth carries leading role in the floor.

Aquamarine Fukushima positioned the Coelacanth biological investigation as a long-term project to strengthen the scenario of the facility and has conducted the following activities.

- 2000. July Grand Opening. Established Long Term Plan.
- 2001. March Held 1st Coelacanth Committee Meeting.
- 2001. July- Held the temporary exhibit, "The Coelacanth, Fathom the Mystery"
- 2002. February Held 1st International Coelacanth Symposium.
- 2002. December Florida Symposium on Coelacanth in Marathon.
- 2003. December Attended Coastal and Ocean Exploration Conference hosted by the African Coelacanth Programme.
- 2004. November Approved application of the survey submitted to LIPI.
- 2005. April Made survey with ROV and deep sea diving at Manado, Sulawesi Island, Indonesia.
- 2006. May **Succeeded in filming the coelacanths off shore Buol, Sulawesi Island, Indonesia.**

## Mysteries are deepening fathom by fathom

Meanwhile, Gombessa, African Coelacanth, *Latimeria chalumnae* were found along the east coast of South Africa extending Tanzania and off Madagascar. Range of distribution of the Raja Laut, Indonesian Coelacanth *Latimeria menadoensis* is enlarging in the seas of Indo-Western Pacific? Where is the boundary of distribution for both species? African Coelacanth is known given birth about 30cm juveniles. However, habitat of the juvenile and their life cycle has not known. Moreover, very little is known on the Indonesian Coelacanth. Mysteries are deepening fathom by fathom.



ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) is controlled on the boat and capable dive 300 m deep.



Cooperation with Indonesian Institute of Science (LIPI)



Cooperation with African Coelacanth Ecosystem Programme (ACEP)



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<http://www.marine.fks.ed.jp>