Giant jellyfish blooms are a serious problem in the East Asian Marginal Sea, including the East China Sea, the Yellow Sea and the Sea of Japan. The causative species, *Nemopilema nomurai*, which is endemic in the East Asian Marginal Seas, is unique by both its enormous body size and propensity for occasional population outbursts.

As is well known, jellyfish plays an important role in marine ecosystems. It grows very fast and feeds mainly on zooplankton, fish eggs and fish larvae; however, it is preyed upon by few marine creatures. Jellyfish population blooms damage the structure and function of the marine ecosystem, causing many economic and social problems, for example to tourism because of jellyfish stings, to coastal industries by blocking the pipeline of cooling systems, and to fishery resources and fishery activities. Frequent jellyfish blooms would depress fish and other species population, making jellyfish dominant in the ecosystem, which may last for many years. This situation has been observed in several seas in the world, mainly in fishing grounds; however, the causes and consequences of jellyfish blooms and whether they will cause a regime shift of the ecosystem remain largely unexplored.

Many efforts have been made to investigate the causes and consequences of jellyfish blooms, especially the 6 million US dollar jellyfish project which supports more than 40 scientists coming from all over China to work on giant jellyfish blooms. The China Jellyfish Project focuses on the giant jellyfish blooms in the East China Sea and the Yellow Sea, aiming to understand the causes, consequences and the role of jellyfish blooms in marine ecosystems, to evaluate the marine ecosystem status, and to avoid the ecosystem incidents caused by jellyfish outbreaks.

Aiming at the giant jellyfish problem, a series of surveys was conducted for giant jellyfish observation since 2000. According to the life cycle of the giant jellyfish *Nemopilema nomurai*, continuous observation will be conducted from May to October. It is our wish that by conducting this comprehensive observation, we will be able to provide scientific evidence in the mechanism of jellyfish bloom, to understand the ecosystem dynamics in the East China Sea and Yellow Sea under human impacts, and to improve ecosystem management in these areas.