The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and Hiroshima University organized a symposium to discuss marine (food) resources and the actual state and challenges facing the Seto Inland Sea, on 4 October 2006 at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. About 80 people including marine food experts from around the world joined the meeting.

The symposium was organized as part of a UNITAR training workshop. President Taizo Muta of Hiroshima University made remarks saying "Food security from the seas is a global concern. I hope this symposium can be a place to deepen our understanding of this issue". Professor Emeritus Tadao Ando of the same university coordinated the panel discussion with academic experts from Japan, Hong Kong and the Philippines.

Professor Yasuo Fukuyo from the University of Tokyo reported that eutrophication, which has been a serious problem in the Seto Inland Sea, was also occurring in Asian countries and held that it was necessary to seek an appropriate management system in order to not repeat the same problems. Professor Masahiro Yamao of Hiroshima University pointed out that importing sea food from overseas would lead to the decline of local fisheries and argued that we need to seek fishery methods which ensure a safe and reliable marine product supply.

Marine resources seen from the Seto Inland Sea
UNITAR and Hiroshima University organized a symposium
Experts from different countries discussed challenges