



Citizens' Network for Biological Diversity in Okinawa
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In Memoriam: Dr. Kanjanaa Adulayanukosol

It is with great sadness and deep sorrow that we learned of the passing of Dr. Kanjanaa Adulayanukosol on January 10 2015. We lost a great scientist, caring friend, and wonderful human being who crossed borders to show how we can work together to create a better world.

We knew Kanjanaa was struggling with her cancer and we prayed for her recovery. And we know, even in her struggle, she remained true to herself.

We remember Kanjanaa standing up as a scientist for the Okinawa dugong. In 2004, she spoke up for the protection of the Okinawa dugong at the IUCN conference. In 2006 and 2009, she gave lectures in Okinawa, explaining her research on the dugong in Thailand and other parts of Asia. In 2013, she wrote an important letter to Okinawa governor, calling for protection of the Okinawa dugong. When we needed her help, she was always there for us.

We also remember Kanjanaa as our "Thai friend." She always made us feel at ease and welcomed. She told us about her life, work, journey, her friends and families, and her dreams. She made us realize that while we live in different parts of the world, we have so much in common.

We also remember Kanjanaa reading her children's book to Okinawan children and their parents. She wrote the book to educate children around the world about the dugong, their habitats, the environment, and human being's relationship with them. Her warm voice, gentle smile, and her stories captured the imagination of those Okinawan children and of all of us in attendance. It was a moment of learning and sharing that we will cherish forever.

Kanjanaa, we miss you and we thank you.

Members of Citizens Network for Biodiversity in Okinawa

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