CORNUCHUAN PLAINS AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

Shiromi

UNIVERSITY NEWS

University Laboratory Finds Nodule-Like Particles in Dying Shellfish

SHIROMI, Day 41 after Hurricane Yolanda

The University's Aquaculture and Water-Quality Laboratory has tested shellfish, water and sediment brought from Po-Kaya by the Southern Plains Fishers' and Shellfish Growers' Association.

The laboratory found fine, dark, manganese-rich particles in the gills and gut of most of the shellfish and in the sediment. Levels of manganese, nickel, copper and cobalt were several times higher than in reference samples taken by laboratory staff from the shore at Shiromi, where no shellfish have died. The composition of the particles is consistent with polymetallic nodule material.

With the Association's agreement, the laboratory sent its results to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority of Mir yesterday.

"Our sample is small, it comes from one town, and our work has not yet been repeated by another laboratory," said the head of the laboratory. "Our report identifies what the particles are, not where they came from. We will share our methods and data with anyone who asks."

About the laboratory

The Cornuchuan Plains Agricultural University was founded by the councils of the five original peoples of the Plains, which govern it. Its students come from all five states of Mir. The laboratory studies shellfish farming and water quality along the coast of the Plains.

University Communications Office, Shiromi