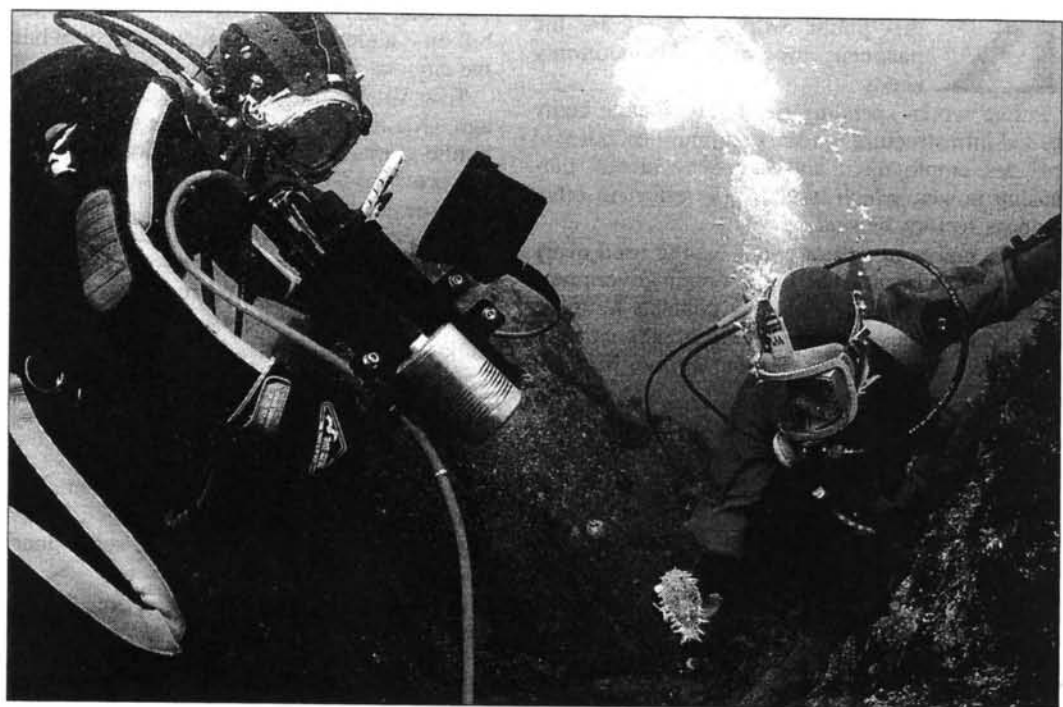


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Above: Abe introduces underwater creatures to students via the Internet.



Left: Students of Shirayurigakuen Primary School, Morioka, watch live images taken underwater.

Students experience undersea cyberworld

Yomiuri Shimbun

MORIOKA—Students at five primary schools in Iwate Prefecture learned about the marine environment last week by watching live images of the underwater world on the Internet. The event, which took place on Sept. 29, involved the networking of five schools in Morioka and Mizusawa by computer to Sanriku Kaigan seashore in Sanrikucho.

The experimental class was a joint project by the prefectural government, the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies and NTT Science and Core Technology Laboratory Group.

Fujio Abe, a teacher at Morioka Shirayurigakuen High School, dived to a depth of eight meters in the sea off Sanrikucho with divers carrying underwater cameras. He then introduced the students to marine creatures, such as octopuses, abalones and sea urchins.

Students seemed impressed with the dynamic live images.

"I felt like I was diving into the ocean myself," said Anna Ota, a fourth-grade student at Shirayurigakuen Primary School in Morioka.