



(Press Release)

The Giant Squid, Captured on Camera in its Natural Habitat for the First Time Ever! Revealed on NHK and Discovery Channel

TOKYO, January 9, 2013 - Japan's public broadcaster NHK, its production affiliate NHK Enterprises, Inc., and the US-based Discovery Channel have succeeded in capturing the world's first-ever video images of a giant squid in its natural deep-ocean habitat.

The giant squid (genus: *Architeuthis*) is among the largest invertebrates on the earth. When fully extended to the tips of its tentacles, it can grow to a length of 18 m. It has been the subject of legendary tales since ancient times. Numerous attempts by media organizations and researchers around the world to capture this live creature on video camera in its natural habitat have been made, but have failed.

For the last 10 years, NHK has been investigating the giant squid and researching ways of capturing this creature on video with the National Museum of Nature and Science of Japan. As a culmination of the 10 year project, NHK made a special provision for deep-sea filming expedition using a manned submersible. A special ultra-sensitive high-definition camera was developed to operate at great depths and uses a special light that has a specific wavelength invisible to the sensitive giant squid eye. The camera was placed on board a state-of-the-art clear-domed submersible, which made about 100 dives totaling 400 hours in the summer of 2012. The first-ever video footage of a giant squid was captured in a dive east of Chichi-jima in the Ogasawara Islands. The two broadcasters were joined by a crew of scientists, zoologist Dr. Tsunemi Kubodera of the National Museum of Nature and Science, oceanographer and marine biologist Dr. Edith Widder, and marine biologist Dr. Steve O'Shea.

During a dive by Dr. Kubodera, NHK cameraman, and the submersible pilot at the depth of 630 meters, they came face-to-face with the giant squid and followed it to a depth of 900 meters. The squid was missing its characteristic two longest tentacles, but nevertheless measured about 3 m in length. If this pair of tentacles had been intact, the creature would probably have measured 7 - 8 m.

Hiromichi Iwasaki, Executive Producer of NHK Enterprises expresses his excitement, "We are thrilled to be able to bring TV viewers the first-ever video images of a live giant squid. It is the result of more than a decade of hard work accumulating details about this creature from research institutes and the local fishermen. It really is a thrilling payoff of the patient work, and we are happy to be able to share it with the world."

NHK will be the first broadcaster to air the stunning images of the giant squid on January 13, 2013 in their primetime documentary slot under the title "Legends of the Deep: Giant Squid". Discovery Channel's broadcast will follow on January 27 under the title "Giant Squid: The Monster is Real".