

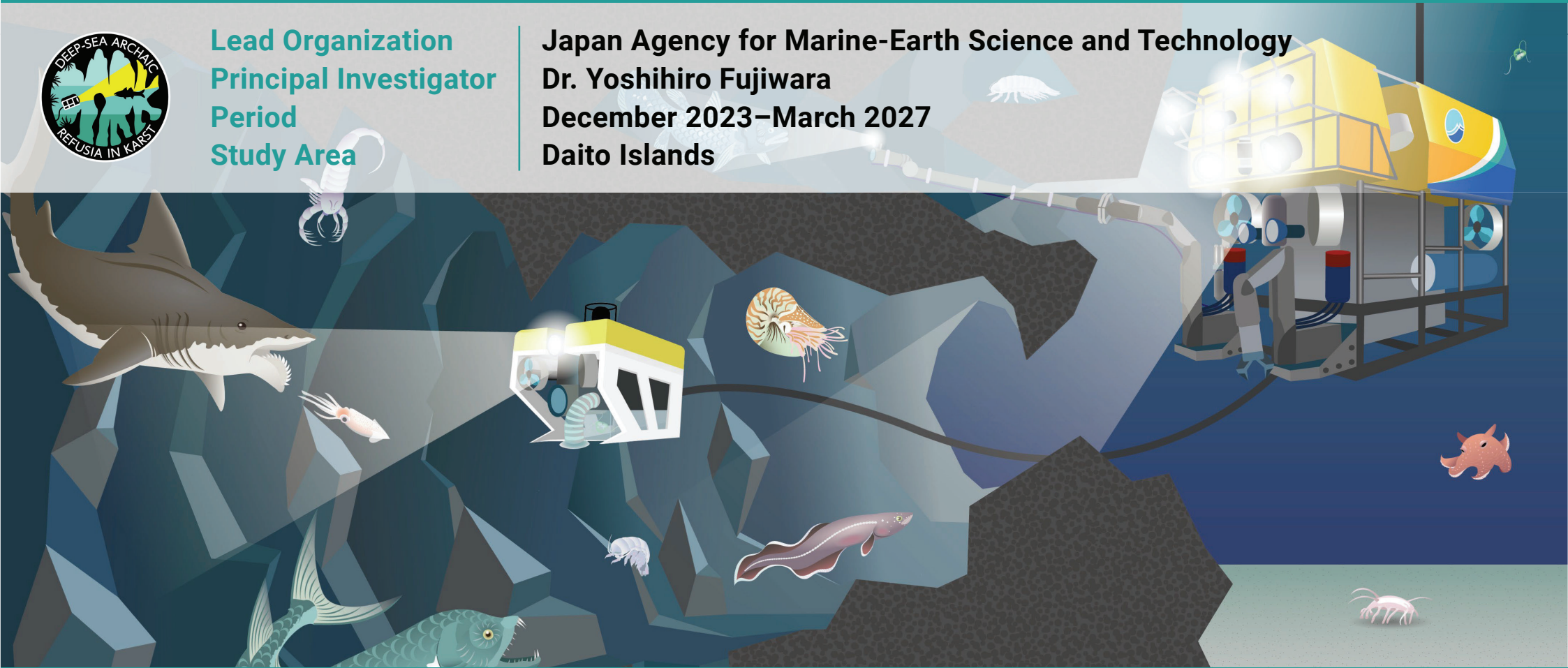
# 1

# Deep-sea Archaic Refugia in Karst (D-ARK)



**Lead Organization**  
**Principal Investigator**  
**Period**  
**Study Area**

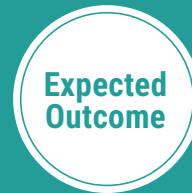
**Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology**  
**Dr. Yoshihiro Fujiwara**  
**December 2023–March 2027**  
**Daito Islands**



**Objective**  
Biodiversity research in deep-sea limestone cave  
Development of mini ROV, Cave Cam & deep-sea endoscope



**Method**  
Deep-sea research using mini ROV, Cave Cam & endoscope  
Species description, eDNA analysis & video analysis



**Expected Outcome**  
Discovery of “living fossils” inhabiting deep-sea limestone caves  
Understanding the factors that drive the presence of relict species in caves