

はじめに | FOREWORD

2011年3月11日に発生した東日本大震災では、地震、津波、原子力発電所の事故による未曾有の被害が生じました。尊い命を失われた数多くの方々に深い哀悼の意を表しますと共に、被害に遭われた皆様に心よりお見舞い申し上げます。

今回の震災は、我々人類の地球に関する知識が現在もなお不十分であることを如実に示すと共に、防災科学の観点からも多くの厳しい教訓を残しました。岩手県大槌町にある当所附属国際沿岸海洋研究センターも、壊滅的な被害を受けました。我々が今まず行うべきは、個人としてまた研究所として被災地の救援や復興の支援に力を尽くすことだと思います。その上で、マグニチュード9.0という巨大地震とそれに伴う地殻変動や誘発地震、津波で破壊された生態系の回復過程、大気や海に放出された放射性物質の拡散とそれにもとづく大気・海洋の循環や物質循環過程の解明など、この災害に遭遇した我々が後世に残すべき重要な課題に真摯に取り組むことが、我々科学者に課せられた責務であると思います。

大気海洋研究所の特徴は、大気と海洋、そしてそこに育まれる生物、これらすべてに関する専門家が揃っていることです。当研究所の使命は地球の誕生から現在に至る海洋・大気・地球生命圏の進化や変動のドラマ、そしてこれらの複雑なメカニズムを解き明かし、地球環境と人類・地球生命圏の未来を考える科学的基盤を得ることですが、今回の震災によって生じた新たな研究課題に対しても、当研究所の特徴を活かした貢献を行うべきと考えています。もちろん、これらの課題への取り組みは所員だけで達成できるものではありません。学術研究船「淡青丸」「白鳳丸」を始めとする様々な施設や数値モデルの共同利用・共同研究を通して、国内外の多くの研究者の皆様と連携しながら、これらの重要な課題の解明と将来を担う人材の育成に取り組んでいきたいと考えています。皆様のご支援・ご協力をお願いいたします。

The unprecedented Great East Japan Earthquake of 11 March 2011 caused a huge tsunami and a serious nuclear power plant accident, perhaps Japan's worst ever disaster. We would like to express our deepest regrets at the loss of the precious lives, and offer our sincerest condolences to those affected by this tragedy.

The disaster clearly demonstrated there are still many things about our earth of which we still know so little, and has left us many severe lessons regarding disaster prevention.

This disaster also seriously damaged one of our critical research facilities, the International Coastal Research Center (ICRC) located in Otsuchi town, Iwate Prefecture. The first action that we must take, both as individuals and as an institution, is to commit to the recovery of the damaged areas. As a leading scientific institution, however, it is also our responsibility to commit ourselves to investigating and solving the mechanism that caused such a massive earthquake of magnitude 9.0 with crustal changes and aftershocks. We must also consider the processes of the ecosystem recovery, as well as the processes of the dispersion of radioactive materials into the atmosphere and oceans.

It should be noted that we have a cadre of scientific experts at the Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute (AORI) already actively involved in researching a wide variety of issues related to the atmosphere and the oceans, and to the living organisms who make the atmosphere and the oceans their home.

AORI's mission is to clarify the evolution of and changes in the atmosphere, oceans and biosphere from the birth of the Earth to the present, to understand their complicated mechanism, and to obtain a solid scientific base for considering the future of the global environment, human beings, and biosphere in general. In addition to this mission, AORI contributes to fully utilizing our expertise to addressing the new research issues created by this disaster.

It is clear that the challenges for solving these scientific issues cannot be accomplished only by the members of AORI. We want to collaborate with researchers both in Japan and around the world, through joint-usage of various facilities including research vessels Tansai Maru and Hakuho Maru, and through sophisticated numerical models to solve these important issues and to grow qualified researchers who will contribute to the world of tomorrow.

Your support and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

新野 宏



東京大学大気海洋研究所・所長 新野 宏
Director of AORI NIINO, Hiroshi