

はじめに | FOREWORD

大気海洋研究所の果たすべき役割

The role of the Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute at the University of Tokyo

大気海洋研究所は、2010年に海洋研究所(1962年設立)と気候システム研究センター(1991年設立)が統合して設立されました。地球表層を覆う海洋と大気の構造や変動メカニズム、および海洋に生きる生物に関する様々な基礎的研究を推進するとともに、地球環境の変動や生命の進化、海洋生物群集の変動など、人類と生命圏の存続にとって重要な課題の解決につながる研究を展開しています。また、大気海洋科学に係わる全国の研究者のための共同利用・共同研究拠点として、本所(柏キャンパス)と附属国際沿岸海洋研究センター(岩手県大槌町)において世界最先端の研究施設・機器、充実した研究環境を提供するとともに、海洋研究開発機構の所有する2隻の学術研究船「白鳳丸」と「新青丸」を用いた共同利用・共同研究を企画・運営し、世界の大気海洋科学を先導することを目指しています。さらには、大学院教育や様々なプロジェクト研究の推進などを通じて、次世代の大気海洋科学を担う若手研究者の育成にも力を入れています。



地球温暖化や海洋酸性化、生物多様性の低下、水産資源の減少など、様々な地球環境問題が顕在化し、それらの対応策が急がれる中、私たち大気海洋研究所の果たすべき役割はますます重要かつ明確になっています。長期的かつ複合的に様々な形で顕在化する諸問題に対応するためには、地球環境や海洋生物群集に関する十分な理解がきわめて重要であり、基礎的知見の蓄積とともに、現状の科学的知見に基づいた方策の提示が必要とされています。

岩手県大槌町の国際沿岸海洋研究センターは、2011年の東北地方太平洋沖地震によって壊滅的な被害を受けましたが、皆様のお陰をもちまして2018年2月末に新しい研究実験棟と宿泊棟が竣工しました。今後も震災後の海洋生態系の変化を総合的に記録し続けるとともに、沿岸海洋生態系の理解に向けた学際的フィールド研究拠点としての発展を目指しています。さらに今後は、地域の未来を形作る拠点としても機能し、次世代の人材育成等を通じて三陸地域の復興・発展に貢献したいと考えています。

今後とも皆様のご支援・ご協力を賜りますよう、お願い申し上げます。

The Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute was founded through the merger of the Ocean Research Institute (founded in 1962) and the Center for Climate System Research (founded in 1991) in 2010. The institute promotes a variety of basic research on the structure and dynamics of the ocean and atmosphere, which cover the surface of the Earth, as well as the organisms that live in marine environments. The institute also develops research leading to progress in solving important issues for the survival of humans and the biosphere, such as global environmental fluctuations, biological evolution and changes in marine biological communities. In addition, as a joint usage/research center for scholars across Japan engaged in ocean and atmospheric sciences, this institute (Kashiwa campus) and the International Coastal Research Center, AORI (Iwate Prefecture, Otsuchi), provide the most advanced research facilities and equipment in the world and a fully enhanced research environment. The institute also plans and operates a joint usage/research center that utilizes the two research vessels “Hakuho Maru” and “Shinsei Maru” of the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC), and aims to be the global leader in atmosphere and ocean sciences. Furthermore, through the promotion of graduate school education and various research projects, efforts are made to train young researchers who will represent the next generation of atmosphere and ocean scientists.

A variety of global environmental issues are surfacing, such as global warming, ocean acidification, a drop in biodiversity and a reduction in aquatic resources, and responding to these issues is becoming urgent. At the same time, our role at the Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute is becoming clearer and more important. In order to respond to these multiple problems that are variously manifesting over the long term and in a combined manner, it is very important to fully understand the global environment and marine biological communities. Consequently, in addition to the accumulation of findings from basic research, it is necessary to design policies based on current scientific results.

The International Coastal Research Center (AORI) in Iwate Prefecture, Otsuchi experienced destructive damage from the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, but with the assistance of all colleagues a new experimental research building and dormitory were completed at the end of February 2018. In the future, the center aims to continue to comprehensively record the changes to the marine ecosystems following the earthquake disaster, as well as developing as a center for multidisciplinary fieldwork towards understanding coastal marine ecosystems. Furthermore, the center will evolve towards functioning as a base for shaping the future of the region, and will contribute to the revitalization and development of the Sanriku region through training the young people who would lead the next generation.

We humbly request your continuing support and cooperation for these future plans and ambitions.

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