

はじめに | FOREWORD

本研究所は、本年、記念すべき創立50周年を迎えました。長年にわたり本所の活動にご理解・ご支援をいただいていた国内外の大気海洋科学研究者の皆様、本学本部と文部科学省の皆様にご心より感謝申し上げます。

この2年間に、本所は2つの大きな出来事を経験しました。第1は岩手県大槌町にある附属国際沿岸海洋研究センターが2011年3月11日の津波により壊滅的な被害を受けたことです。奇跡的に人的被害は免れましたが、センターの建物は最上階の3階中程まで海水に浸かり、研究施設は3隻の調査船も含めてすべて損壊・流出しました。これまでに2隻の船を新たに調達して、可能な共同利用研究から再開し、今年度は外来研究員30件、共同利用研究集会3件を行う予定です。研究棟に関しても、一刻も早い再建のために所員一同、鋭意努力しているところです。

第2は、共同利用に提供してきた学術研究船淡青丸の後継船についてです。淡青丸は船齢が30年を越え、その代船の建造が喫緊の課題でしたが、平成23年度第3次補正予算により淡青丸後継船の建造が認められました。後継船は、平成24年度8月2日に起工し、平成25年度後半には共同利用・共同研究に供される予定です。

本所の目的は、海洋と大気およびそこに育まれる生物の複雑なメカニズムと、地球の誕生から現在に至るこれらの進化や変動のドラマを解き明かし、人類と地球環境の未来を考えるための科学的基盤を与えることですが、津波で破壊された生態系の実態と回復過程など、震災で生じた研究課題にも積極的に取り組み、社会と科学に貢献する覚悟です。このためには、学術研究船白鳳丸・淡青丸、陸上研究施設、数値モデル等を用いた共同利用・共同研究を通じて、国内外の研究者との連携が不可欠です。また、次世代の大気海洋科学を担う研究者や海洋・大気・地球生命圏に関する豊かな科学的知識を備えた人材の育成にも力を注いで参ります。皆様のご支援・ご協力をお願い申し上げます。次第です。

This year, the Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute (AORI) has celebrated the commemorative 50th anniversary of its foundation. Here, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all the scientific experts engaged in atmospheric and oceanic science at home and abroad, all the staff of the University headquarters, and the people concerned at the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology for their understanding and long-term support of the activities of our institute.

In the past two years, this Institute has experienced two major events. One is the catastrophic damage to the Institute-attached International Coastal Research Center (ICRC) located in Otsuchi town, Iwate Prefecture, caused by the tsunami of March 11, 2011. Although, miraculously, there was no loss of lives of the staff, students, or visiting scientists, the Center was immersed in seawater up to the middle of the third floor, resulting in the damage or washing away of the research facilities including three research vessels. Thus far, we have procured two new vessels, and are scheduled to, while restarting any possible joint-usage/research projects, welcome thirty visiting researcher groups to the Center and hold three joint-usage/research workshops in Otsuchi town this year. With regard to its research building, all the staff of this Institute is making strenuous efforts toward its early reconstruction.

The other major event concerns the construction of a successor vessel to the former research vessel named "Tansei-Maru" which had been provided for joint usage/research. Tansei-Maru was about 30 years old, and therefore, the construction of a substitute vessel was urgently required. In the third revised budget of FY2011, the construction of a successor vessel to Tansei-Maru was approved. The construction is scheduled to begin on August 2, 2012 and be available for joint usage/research in the latter half of 2013.

The aim of this Institute is to clarify the complex mechanism of the oceans, the atmosphere, the living organisms nurtured in them, and their evolution and variations from their birth to date, and to provide a scientific foundation for considering the future of humans and the global environment. We are also determined to contribute to society and science by being actively engaged in new research issues generated by the occurrence of the earthquake on March 11, 2011, such as investigation of the current status of ecosystems devastated by the tsunami and their recovery processes. To achieve this, it is vital to collaborate with researchers at home and abroad by conducting joint usage/research projects using the research vessels Hakuho-Maru and Tansei-Maru, onshore research facilities, and numerical models. In addition, we will also contribute to developing researchers responsible for the next-generation of atmospheric and oceanic science, and human resources with a rich scientific knowledge about the oceans, atmosphere, and biosphere. Lastly, we would like to ask for your continued cooperation with us and support of our activities.



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