

Kochi University establishes its first international research institute.

The “Center for Marine Core Research”, celebrates its 20th anniversary and announces its reorganization and expansion as the “Marine Core Research Institute”.

**Marine Core Research Institute**

The Center for Marine Core Research has been reorganized and expanded into the Marine Core Research Institute (MaCRI) in April 2023 as a research facility to realize the university's motto, "From the region to the world and from the world to the region."

○ History of the Center for Marine Core Research

The Center for Marine Core Research, established in 2003 as the University's first national joint-use facility, began activities in 2010 as the "Joint Usage/Collaborative Research Center for Earth Drilling Science" under the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan. It has continued its activities as a research center leading drilling science in Japan and abroad, conducting more than 100 joint usage/joint research projects per year. Under a comprehensive collaboration agreement between the University and the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC), the research facilities on the Monobe Campus are nicknamed the "Kochi Core Center" to promote research and education related to Earth drilling science, especially focused around activities of the International Ocean Drilling Program (IODP) and the International Continental Scientific Drilling Program (ICDP).

○ Direction of reorganization

The Marine Core Research Institute (MaCRI) will lead the internationalization of research activities at the University by expanding the joint-use system, strengthening human resource development functions, and enhancing collaboration with the academic community, as well as enhancing its functions as an international research center by strengthening research capabilities through a comprehensive collaboration agreement between Kochi University and the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology, and developing functions to promote international project research based on scientific ocean drilling.

○ Overview of Reorganization and New Program**1. Strengthening international research capabilities through personnel expansion**

The Marine Core Research Institute will strengthen international research capabilities by expanding the number of full-time faculty members from seven to ten. The institute plans to fortify its organizational structure by adding new research coordinators, non-Japanese faculty members, and faculty members who will promote the use of advanced analytical instruments. International research capabilities will be enhanced by inviting concurrent

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faculty members from the Faculty of Science and Engineering, the Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Marine Science, and the Faculty of Medicine, as well as eight new visiting faculty members from the Kochi Core Research Institute of the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology.

2. New international collaboration through the establishment of the Earth Drilling Science Research Unit

The University will promote the Priority Research Project on the scientific themes "Climate and Environmental Change," "Earthquakes and Tsunami," and "Earth and Life Science," which Japan will address through scientific ocean drilling, and the University's inherent research on resources and regional cooperation with related communities.

3. Strengthening the support system for international joint research through new International Joint Research Promotion Unit

The Repository Core Re-Discovery Program (ReCoRD) will be launched to create new science by utilizing not only the core samples collected during the International Ocean Drilling Program (IODP) and its successor programs starting in 2024 and beyond, but also the core samples stored in cold storage at the Marine Core Research Institute. We will also develop a system to support the publication of data through the Kochi University Academic Core Repository in cooperation with related academic communities and the university as a whole.

4. Launch of Repository Core Re-Discovery Program (ReCoRD)

The Repository Core Re-Discovery Program (ReCoRD), which was newly institutionalized in collaboration with the Japan Drilling Science Consortium (J-DESC) under the cooperation of the University and the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology, will start in FY2023. The ReCoRD program accepts several proposals a year from the community on various projects related to climate change, natural disasters, biological evolution, and other earth system changes, and digitally archives them by reanalyzing the stored cores. The ReCoRD program is expected to become a new open science platform in collaboration with the international scientific community by implementing the ReCoRD program in conjunction with the education of young researchers.



(For inquiries, please contact)
Marine Core Research Center,
Kochi University
Director: Yuji Sano, PhD
TEL: 088-864-6714
mail: yuji.sano@kochi-u.ac.jp