The International Center for Research and Education on Mineral and Energy Resources (ICREMER) was established in October 2009 as part of the general body of Akita University, aiming to create an educational and research hub that contributes to sustainable resource supplies in Japan and the world. ICREMER’s activities are global in scope and they are directed towards a variety of goals including enhancing international cooperation in education and research, and generating research opportunities by means of collaborations with academic and research institutions in Japan and overseas.

Despite the limited number of its academic staff, ICREMER has made a significant contribution to its partners in resource-rich countries through lectures, technical guideline and field surveys among other activities. Working together with the Faculty of International Resource Sciences of Akita University, ICREMER has developed partnerships with research and governmental organizations in those countries, which have contributed to the important role in connecting Akita to the global community. To promote alliances with institutions in resource-rich countries, ICREMER has developed exchange partnerships with strategic partners such as Bolivia, Mongolia, Myanmar, and Kazakhstan, among others. This includes activities, such as organizing international symposiums on a regular basis, and conducting an 8-week short-stay course in Akita for international students. Currently, ICREMER is strengthening its activities with South East Asia and with the Western world, including countries such as Australia, Canada and Sweden.

ICREMER completed the initial phase of its establishment, it is now time to work on our new objectives, which include further strengthening our program and actively sharing our gained knowledge and global connections with society. In this context, and aiming to make Akita University a leading hub for resource studies, we ICREMER therefore declare the on-going exciting educational, research and international expansion initiatives.

April, 2017
Prof. Yukihiko Kawai
Chair
ICREMER
Background of ICREMER

Located in Akita

Akita University is the successor to the National Akita Mining College, established in 1910, and has been a center of excellence in the field of resource science and technology. As such, Akita University is regarded as a premier institution where a series of skills related to mining operations are taught, ranging from prospecting, exploration, mining, to environmental conservation.

Resource-related Diplomacy

As an island nation, Japan has long been dependent on imported resources due to resource scarcity. In these circumstances, in order for Japan to retain a leading role in the global manufacturing sector, the securement of mineral resources has become an urgent item in the national agenda. Due to this demand, the establishment of friendly and cooperative relations with resource-rich countries has been a key to the sustainable development of the Japanese economy.

Fostering Human Resources

Resources have always been seen as key elements to development and growth, and those who are skilled in the management and utilization of these resources are expected to contribute to this process. In this context, educational institutions as the highest level of education and research, have an undeniable responsibility to produce human resources who will contribute to the future, and address the issues of abundant resources and environmental hazards for nearby local people. To prevent negative impact of past mining operations have often become serious health issues, ICREMER, in its educational and research activities, promotes highly advanced resource studies and research while promoting health education and research.

Recent Achievements of ICREMER

Training on Sustainable Resource Development ("Shinmin-Nogyo Program")

Since 2011, practice-oriented training courses on resources in mining, geology, and resource-related industries have been held in Tokyo. Researchers from Akita University and Akita University's partner universities made presentations. Given the meeting-place theme and interest in issues, these events called the "center of the mining industrial sector in Tokyo" or "Tokyo Entrepreneurial Area." (Shin-Min Nogyo Project)

Collaborative research, with international partner universities.

With the aim of promoting sustainable development of mineral resources, students participating in field research activities around the world, have engaged in projects related to ICREMER's exchange program with EKSTU, East Kazakhstan State Technical University, as part of "Fostering Human Resources for Mineral and Materials Science". (Domestic/International Cooperation Program)

Cooperation with a technical cooperation project of JICA (Management of Mining Waste: Tailing Dump in the Bongkaj Region, Senegal).

As part of "Fostering Human Resources for Mineral and Materials Science," students participating in field research activities around the world, have engaged in projects related to ICREMER's exchange program with EKSTU, East Kazakhstan State Technical University, as part of "Fostering Human Resources for Mineral and Materials Science". (Domestic/International Cooperation Program)

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Organization and support system of ICREMER

Mission

Vision

Distinctive Features of ICREMER

1. ICREMER works with universities and research institutions engaged in the field of resource studies in resource-rich countries, providing assistance to the formulation of their programs to enhance education and research capabilities and their human resource development.
2. ICREMER provides practice-oriented, post-graduate level education, which is characterized by participation of graduate students from resource-rich countries and Japan's resource-related business sector, educational institutions and research institutions, and field practices on resource-related sites in and around Japan.
3. ICREMER's educational activities are basically conducted in English to enable education and research opportunities in the international standard of resource studies.
4. ICREMER provides highly qualified resource studies education in close cooperation with the Faculty of International Resource Sciences, Graduate School of Engineering and Resource Sciences, Tohoku University's partner universities, and University of Yangon.
5. ICREMER, in its educational and research activities, promotes cooperation with graduate companies which are based in Akita and other prefectures and engaged in development and utilization of resources, which are contributing to resource assessment and development in Japan.

Activities and Support of Overseas Cooperation Universities of ICREMER

Activities to fulfill Organizational Mission of ICREMER

1. Provide practical training courses on mining and resource-related industries.
2. Joint research activities with research institutions in resource-rich countries.

Overseas Cooperation Universities of ICREMER

Activities

Skills development of resource-related personnel in resource-rich countries

Joint research activities with research institutions in resource-rich countries

Advancement of resource sciences

Graduate School of International Resource Sciences

International Center for Resource Management

International Exchange Center

ICREMER Graduate Program

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Development Strategy of ICREMER

Vision

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Mission

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