



# Niigata Univ. J-PEAKS NOW

Inaugural Issue

## MESSAGE



### From the Region to the World — Shaping the Future through “Brain and Life” and “Food and Health”

Niigata University has been selected for the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology's FY2024 "Program for Forming Japan's Peak Research Universities (J-PEAKS)." The university will promote two priority research areas—"Brain and Life" and "Food and Health"—which integrate its internationally competitive strengths and unique fields of excellence. With research and innovation driving our efforts, and with the active contributions of researchers, advanced professionals, and administrative staff, we aim to generate innovations that benefit both our region and the world.

This monthly newsletter highlights the progress and achievements of the project, as well as upcoming events. J-PEAKS initiatives continue to expand beyond specific research areas, reaching across the entire university, the local community, industry partners, and the global stage. We hope this newsletter deepens your interest in Niigata University's J-PEAKS activities and inspires new opportunities for collaboration and challenge.

USHIKI Tatsuo, President

## REPORT

### The J-PEAKS support team conducted a site visit (Sep. 26).



A site visit was conducted on Friday, September 26, 2025, as part of the J-PEAKS hands-on support initiative.

The visit included an in-person meeting with President Tatsuo Ushiki and executive leaders to exchange views and gain a clearer understanding of the university's progress.

Thirty-one participants—from the J-PEAKS support team\*, MEXT, and JSPS—visited the Asahimachi Campus. President Ushiki and Executive Vice President Kazushige Kawabata presented the university's vision under J-PEAKS to establish a research hub that advances innovation in "Brain & Life" and "Food & Health." A productive discussion with the support team followed.

Participants then toured the newly opened "Brain & Life Innovation Hub (BIH)" and the Brain Research Institute. Professors Akiyoshi Kakita and Mari Tada outlined past research achievements and future directions, and the UA introduced recent cases of industry-academia-government and international collaboration, which drew strong interest from the attendees.

<https://www.niigata-u.ac.jp/j-peaks/news/956949/>

\*Hands-on Support: This JSPS initiative provides advice and recommendations to help universities effectively advance their efforts and meet key KPIs. The support team includes specialists from diverse fields—such as Professor Isao Sato, Specially Appointed Professor at the Office of Institute Strategy of the Institute of Science Tokyo, who serves as Niigata University's designated supporter—along with liaisons from other selected institutions.

## EVENT

### "BIH" Inaugural Symposium & Opening Ceremony to Be Held on December 18

The Brain & Life Innovation Hub (BIH)—developed under the FY2022 facility development program for industry-academia-government collaboration—was completed in August 2025. The BIH serves as an open-innovation hub for the Health and Life Sciences, including the J-PEAKS priority area "Brain & Life." To mark its completion, we will hold a symposium and opening ceremony on Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 2:00 p.m., under the theme "From the Region to the World: Creating Health & Life Innovation Through Industry-Academia-Government Collaboration." Please visit our website for further information. A guided tour will also be provided.

<https://www.niigata-u.ac.jp/j-peaks/news/972278/>

“脳といのち”のイノベーションハブ(BIH)  
設立記念シンポジウム開所式

地域から世界へ

産学官で創る  
ヘルス・ライフ  
イノベーション

会場:オンラインともに  
事前申込が必要です

申込期限  
令和7年 12.10\*

参加費  
無料

新潟大学は、文部科学省令和4年度第2次補正予算「地域中核特色ある研究大学強化促進事業」の選定による新学部設置・共同研究拠点の施設整備事業の支援を受け、「脳といのち」のイノベーションハブ(BIH)を開設いたしました。

本施設は、令和6年度新潟市「地域中核特色ある研究大学強化促進事業」(J-PEAKS)における重点分野「脳といのち」の「新規医療技術の開発」を柱に、ヘルス・ライフサイエンス分野のオープンイノベーション環境として構築されました。

この度の開設記念式典として、地域から世界へ産学官で創るヘルス・ライフ・イノベーションハブとして、シンポジウム・開所式を開催いたします。本イベントを通じて、産学官および地域の皆さまと協創を実現し、さらなる共創と発展をお評ねください。

多数の皆様からの御来場をお待ちしております。

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参加申込・会場MAP等 詳細はこち  
<https://www.niigata-u.ac.jp/j-peaks/news/972278/>

## PROJECT

## Advancing the Establishment of New J-PEAKS Centers and Hubs

Niigata University is currently developing two innovation hubs and four new centers under the J-PEAKS plan. By opening these facilities to priority research areas as well as a wide range of disciplines and industry partners, we aim to accelerate research outcomes and innovation. This issue highlights the planned locations and key features of these new centers and hubs.

### Asahimachi Campus

#### 1 Center for Human Brain Resource Initiative (ChBRI)

[Opening April 2026 on BIH 3F–4F]

We manage world-class human brain specimens and related biospecimens, integrating them with clinical data and promoting their use by research institutions in Japan and abroad.

Through strong basic–clinical collaboration and advanced technologies, we advance globally leading neuroscience research.



### Ikarashi Campus

#### 2 AI and Big Data Science Integration Research Core (AB-Core)

[Opening on Former Education Bldg. 9F]

We are developing a smart home research facility to support cross-cutting research.

#### 3 Food & Health Innovation Center (FHI)

[Opening April 2026 on Collab Research Bldg. No. 2 1-2F]

Building a cross-disciplinary research structure centered on food science and information science researchers.

#### 4 International Rice Co-Creation Innovation Center for Climate and Environmental Resilience (IRICE)

[Opening April 2026 on Agriculture Mechanical Eng. Bldg.]

The new speed-breeding facility enables 3–6 generations of growth in a single year.



## NEW

### Launching a University-Wide J-PEAKS Fund! (Call opens April 2026)

Under J-PEAKS, Niigata University will develop newly established centers and facilities into university-wide shared research hubs. Using their resources, equipment, and joint labs with domestic and international partners, we will solicit research proposals that advance top-level outcomes and strengthen industry–academia collaboration.

To support these efforts, we are establishing the J-PEAKS Fund.

Details on upcoming calls will be announced on the J-PEAKS website.

## NOTICE

### J-PEAKS Faculty & Staff Survey — Deadline Nov. 28

MEXT has requested all J-PEAKS institutions to conduct a survey to assess the project's outcomes from the perspective of faculty and researchers by examining their research and workplace environments.

We have already asked all faculty and staff to complete the survey, but those who have not yet responded are kindly requested to do so by **Friday, November 28, at 5:00 p.m.**

Survey form (for internal users only)

<https://app.cais.Niigata-u.ac.jp/shurl/fw/QkDKOg>

### ● J-PEAKS Mini Column—Voices from the Field ●

Thank you for reading this inaugural issue. We created this column to share firsthand perspectives on our ongoing J-PEAKS efforts, with monthly contributions from colleagues involved in the program. As a member of the task force that prepared our J-PEAKS application, I was appointed liaison when the program launched in April. Each participating university designates one liaison to serve as the primary point of contact with JSPS and to help coordinate communication and collaboration across campus and with partner institutions. The feedback I receive is wide-ranging—sometimes quite candid—but it has helped strengthen cooperation across departments. I am committed to building on this positive momentum and contributing to the university's continued reform. [SH]

### ● Contact & Website ●

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#### ○ Niigata Univ. J-PEAKS Website

<https://www.niigata-u.ac.jp/j-peaks/>

Updates on J-PEAKS-related events and activities are available here.



#### ○ Niigata Univ. J-PEAKS Internal Website

<https://app.cais.Niigata-u.ac.jp/shurl/fw/QkDKOg>

To support timely information sharing and ensure transparency, materials such as the program's overall design, budget allocations, and meeting documents are available to internal users. For more detailed information, please access the site here.

