



A monthly newsletter featuring updates and highlights related to J-PEAKS.

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7

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REPORT

[July 10, 2026] Niigata University and Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology Hold Joint Symposium

On July 10, 2026, Niigata University and Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, both selected under the J-PEAKS program, jointly hosted the symposium “Can Japanese Rice Become a Winning Strategy for the World?” at the Fuchu Campus of Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology.

Under the theme “Next-Generation Rice Farming Beyond Borders and Convention : A Challenge Taken on by Two Universities,” the symposium examined opportunities to expand Japanese rice into international markets while promoting sustainable agricultural models that address climate change. Approximately 100 people attended.

Following opening remarks by President Nobufumi Nakamura of Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology and a video message from President Toshiyuki Someya of Niigata University, researchers from both universities presented their work. Topics included upland rice cultivation in Hawaii, rice breeding in Hokkaido, research on high-temperature grain ripening, overseas rice production, supply chain development, industry collaboration, and projects focused on climate resilience and environmentally conscious sake rice varieties.



The event also featured a panel discussion involving university researchers and rice producers from different regions of Japan. Discussions addressed topics such as the diversity of rice production across regions and how universities can better communicate the value of rice cultivation. The exchange was highly engaging and continued beyond the scheduled time.

The symposium concluded with closing remarks by Trustee Taiichiro Ookawa of Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology. While this inaugural joint symposium was held at Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, both universities plan to further strengthen their partnership and continue the initiative, including a future symposium in Niigata.

FEATURE

Niigata University and Oisix's Joint FoodTech Innovation Program Selected for NEDO Support

The FoodTech Innovation Program (tentative title), a new graduate degree program being jointly developed by Niigata University and Oisix Inc., has been selected for NEDO's Program for Establishing Large-Scale Industry–Academia Collaboration Hubs in the Era of Convergence between Science and Business.

Scheduled to launch in April 2028, the program aims to cultivate highly skilled professionals who can address food-related challenges such as food security, health, and climate change while driving innovation. It is also positioned as a leading example of the Contract-Based Academic Program System promoted by Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

The initiative is closely linked with the research, education, and social co-creation activities of the Center for Food & Health Innovation and Social Co-Creation (FHI), established in January 2026.

As a core organization under Niigata University's J-PEAKS initiative, FHI supports both world-class research and regional industry development. This selection marks an important step toward accelerating talent development and social implementation through industry-academia collaboration and creating the societal impact envisioned by J-PEAKS.



This September: Niigata University J-PEAKS WEEK 2026 – Latest Updates

J-PEAKS WEEK 2026: A New Knowledge Ecosystem Driven by Every Aspect of Life

J-PEAKS WEEK is Niigata University's flagship event showcasing progress under its J-PEAKS initiative. The event highlights achievements from multiple perspectives and promotes collaboration and co-creation through dialogue among university members and external stakeholders.

Schedule	Events
9/7 (Mon)	1. University Management Talent Summit @Tokyo Convention Hall
9/8 (Tue)	We also plan to introduce the new centers and other initiatives aimed at enhancing the research environment.
9/9 (Wed)	
9/10 (Thu)	
9/11 (Fri)	
9/12 (Sat)	
9/13 (Sun)	
9/14 (Mon)	
9/15 (Tue)	(FLAGs Symposium @Tokimate)
9/16 (Wed)	[16:00-18:00] Research Centre on Emerging Technology and Governance International Symposium @Yujin Memorial Hall
9/17 (Thu)	• [10:00-12:30] Research Support Symposium of the Research Centre on Emerging Technology and Governance @Yujin Memorial Hall • [Afternoon] BDA/ADIC×Chubu University@ART HOTEL Niigata Station
9/18 (Fri)	• [Morning] iRICE Sakura Science Program Report Meeting @Faculty of Agriculture, Ikarashi Campus • [15:30~] 2. J-PEAKS Leading Research Forum @Co-Creation Lounge, Ikarashi Campus

【September 7, 2026】 University Management Talent Summit 2026: Strengthening the Nexus of Industry-Government-Academia Innovation Ecosystems

As the opening event of Niigata University J-PEAKS WEEK, the University Management Talent Summit 2026 will bring together university presidents and senior leaders from leading universities across Japan.

The summit will focus on university management talent, a key driver of university reform, and provide a platform for sharing best practices in institutional leadership. Participants will discuss new approaches to strengthening university management and explore opportunities for collaboration with industry and local communities, offering perspectives on the future of higher education.

We look forward to welcoming your participation.

[Program]

Part 1 (Plenary Session): National policy updates, international case studies (BCG), and short talks on leading practices at Japanese universities

Part 2: Poster session and networking reception

Date & Time : Monday, September 7, 2026, 14:00-18:20

Venue: Tokyo Convention Hall (3-1-1 Kyobashi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo)

Details & Registration:

<https://www.niigata-u.ac.jp/j-peaks/news/1190434/>

Registration Deadline: Monday, August 24, 2026, 17:00

※Schedules are subject to change. Any updates will be announced on the university's J-PEAKS website.

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

Can Japanese rice become a global success story? My answer is yes. I was deeply impressed by the commitment of the producers to delivering the highest-quality rice to their local communities. Their dedication is a key force supporting the sustainable development of regional agriculture. Japan's strength lies not only in rice itself, but also in the technologies, expertise, and quality control systems behind it. By transferring this knowledge abroad and utilizing it as intellectual property, benefits can be returned to local communities. This circular model is already common in industry. Japan's rice sector can evolve beyond exporting rice to exporting knowledge. Connecting research outcomes with practical expertise and delivering their value to the world is one example of the social implementation that J-PEAKS seeks to achieve. [YF]

● 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/2PLWiy>

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 scan the QR code.

