J-PEAKS

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

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* Linked webpages are available in Japanese only unless otherwise noted.

REPORT

J-PEAKS WEEK 2026 Successfully Concludes

We are pleased to report the successful conclusion of J-PEAKS WEEK 2026. Over the two-week period, about 1,000 participants joined the events held both in person and online. We sincerely thank everyone for their participation and support. The week provided valuable opportunities for new connections and learning through exchanges among participants from universities, industry, government agencies, and other sectors, contributing to research enhancement and co-creation with society. We will continue to build on these relationships and work together with our partners. In this issue, we highlight the major events from the first half of J-PEAKS WEEK 2026. Events from the second half will be featured in the next issue. Stay tuned!

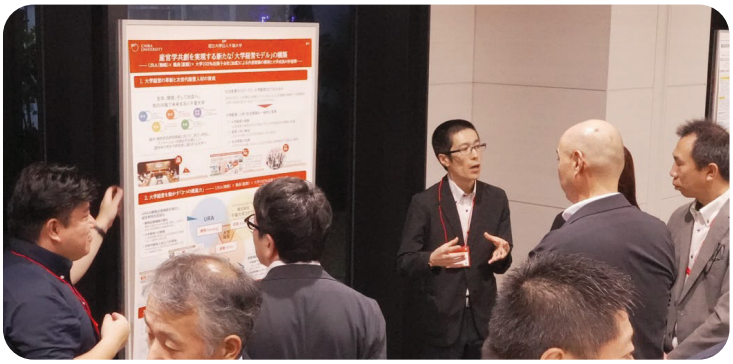
University Management Talent Summit 2026

On September 7, 2026, the University Management Talent Summit 2026 was held at the Tokyo Convention Hall in Tokyo. Focusing on university management professionals who support institutional development and collaboration with society and industry, the summit attracted 316 participants from universities, industry, financial institutions, and government agencies in a hybrid format.

The second part of the summit included poster presentations and discussions by 15 universities. Participants exchanged views on the competencies required of university management professionals, approaches to talent development, and cross-organizational collaboration. The importance of connecting stakeholders within and beyond universities to support sustainable reform was also emphasized.

The summit provided a valuable opportunity to share knowledge on talent development and organizational reform while strengthening networks among universities, industry, and government. The next summit is scheduled to be hosted by Okayama University. Through J-PEAKS, Niigata University will continue to advance research excellence, co-creation with society, and nationwide collaboration on university management and reform.

The plenary session featured keynote presentations on the importance of funding acquisition, management capabilities, and talent mobility, as well as the need for joint development of university management professionals across institutions. Case studies from U.S. universities and presentations by Okayama University, Ritsumeikan University, Tohoku University, and Niigata University highlighted organizational reforms and talent strategies for strengthening research capacity and promoting university-industry-government collaboration.



ChBRI Tour Highlights Cutting-Edge Brain Research

On September 9, 2026, a ChBRI Tour: Exploring the Frontline of Brain Research Innovation was held at the “Brain and Life” Innovation Hub (BIH) on Niigata University’s Asahimachi Campus, attracting 12 participants. Guided by a University Administrator (UA), the tour introduced the Center for Human Brain Resource Initiative (ChBRI), its role within J-PEAKS, and its research strategy, followed by a facility tour and Q&A session.

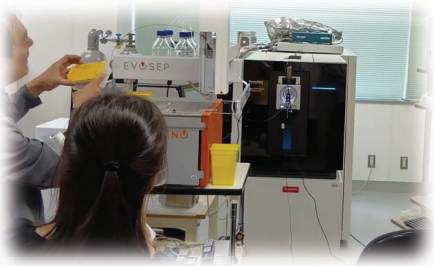
Participants explored world-class research resources and advanced microscopy facilities, and engaged in discussions on AI-driven data analysis and research aimed at extending healthy life expectancy. The tour provided a valuable opportunity to deepen understanding of ChBRI and is expected to encourage future collaborative research and use of its facilities.

Asahimachi Open Lab 2026 Opens Doors to Advanced Research Facilities

On September 9, 2026, Asahimachi Open Lab 2026 was held at Niigata University's Asahimachi Campus, with around 10 researchers and related participants attending. Organized by the Center for Collaborative Research Facilities (CCRF), the event showcased shared research equipment and facilities to promote their use in advancing research activities at the university.

Participants toured a range of shared instruments, including flow cytometers, a laser microdissection system (LMD), an electron probe microanalyzer (EPMA), and mass spectrometers, as well as the shared laboratory space (Open Lab). Demonstrations highlighted high-precision cell sorting and sample collection techniques, while examples of elemental analysis using EPMA were also presented.

The event also included consultations on the use of shared research equipment, providing opportunities to discuss sample preparation and instrument selection for specific research needs. Through the Open Lab, CCRF demonstrated its role not only as a provider of research facilities but also as a hub supporting researchers from project planning through data analysis.



RESOURCES J-PEAKS Drives University Process DX

As part of J-PEAKS, Niigata University is promoting University Process DX to streamline administrative procedures and secure more time for researchers and administrative staff. This article introduces the Administrative DX System implemented under this initiative, along with projects designed to create more time for creative and research activities.

Microsoft 365 Copilot Accelerates Administrative DX

As generative AI becomes increasingly widespread, its potential use in university administration is attracting growing attention. As part of its administrative DX efforts, Niigata University introduced Microsoft Copilot in FY2025 and has promoted its use to improve efficiency and enhance administrative work. The university has developed practical use cases such as meeting-note generation and the transcription and summarization of handwritten questionnaires. Building on these efforts, 120 Microsoft 365 Copilot licenses were introduced through J-PEAKS support, enabling more staff to use generative AI seamlessly within the Microsoft 365 services they use every day. By reducing routine workloads, Microsoft 365 Copilot is expected to help staff focus on higher-value activities such as planning and problem-solving. Niigata University will continue to advance administrative DX through generative AI while sharing knowledge and best practices with the wider university community.

Learn more about Administrative DX at Niigata University:

YouTube：http://www.youtube.com/@NU_jimuDX

note：https://note.com/nu_jimudx

TC-Post Launches to Turn Staff Ideas into University Reform

Niigata University is advancing the Creative Activity Time Creation Project, which aims to generate 600,000 hours of creative activity time annually by FY2030. The project seeks to create more time for creative work by improving workflows and organizational processes rather than relying solely on individual effort. A key initiative is TC-Post (Time Creation Post), a platform where faculty and staff can anonymously share workplace challenges, improvement ideas, and successful efficiency practices. These frontline insights help identify opportunities for organizational and process improvements. By transforming staff feedback into organizational action, TC-Post supports university reform and helps create more time for creative activities, contributing to the goals of J-PEAKS.

More information: https://www.niigata-u.ac.jp/j-peaks/news/1219041/

The first submission period runs through September 30, with ongoing implementation planned thereafter.

J-PEAKS Mini Column—Voices from the Field

With J-PEAKS WEEK 2026 now concluded, the two weeks leading up to and during the event were busy with preparations and event operations. At the same time, the week created many opportunities for researchers, companies, and local government representatives to connect and build new relationships. One memorable sight was the lively discussions that continued even after the formal sessions had ended. We were also encouraged by comments from Dr. Sato, President of the Institute of Technologists, a guest at the Leading Research Forum, who praised the enthusiasm of the university's young researchers. These experiences highlighted that the research enhancement pursued through J-PEAKS is not only about increasing research output, but also about fostering connections that inspire new challenges and collaboration. We look forward to seeing how the relationships formed during J-PEAKS WEEK grow into future research partnerships and initiatives. 【TM】

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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.