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

# Niigata Univ. J-PEAKS NOW Vol.12

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REPORT

## J-PEAKS WEEK 2026 Successfully Concludes

J-PEAKS WEEK 2026 successfully concluded with the participation and support of many individuals and organizations. Over the two-week period, the various programs fostered interaction across disciplinary and organizational boundaries and opened up new possibilities for research collaboration and co-creation. We sincerely thank everyone who participated and contributed. In the previous issue, we featured events from the first half of J-PEAKS WEEK 2026. This issue highlights major events from the latter half and captures the enthusiasm and lively discussions that took place throughout the week.

## Advancing Research Through the J-PEAKS Strategic Leap Program Forum

On September 18, Niigata University hosted the J-PEAKS Strategic Leap Program (SLP) Research Forum at the Co-Creation Lounge on the Ikarashi Campus. Around 70 participants attended in person and 50 joined online to share the vision and future development of the SLP. Researchers from partner institutions, including Chubu University, and other external organizations also took part. The forum was designed to provide an overview of the SLP and promote new collaborations and interdisciplinary networks among selected researchers.









The first session featured opening remarks by President Toshiyuki Someya and a guest address by Isao Sato, President of Institute of Technologists and a member of the J-PEAKS support team. Executive Vice President Kazushige Kawabata introduced Niigata University's J-PEAKS initiatives, while Executive Vice President Osamu Onodera presented the selected SLP projects and their future potential. A special SLP presentation highlighted a project led by Associate Professor Hiroyuki Nakai of the Faculty of Agriculture on next-generation gut microbiota editing technology and its application to human health and disease treatment. The project has been selected to advance from the Core Stage to the Leap Stage.

The second session included a poster presentation and networking event featuring all 33 selected SLP projects. Researchers shared their work and future plans, while exhibits introduced research support initiatives, including shared facilities, Article Processing Charge (APC) support, and the University Research Administrator (URA) system. Active discussions among researchers and research support staff created opportunities for new collaborations and research development. Through J-PEAKS, Niigata University will continue to strengthen research in the areas of "Brain and Life" and "Food and Health," while supporting the further advancement of SLP projects and new research challenges.

## Exploring ELSI Challenges at the J-PEAKS WEEK Symposium

The Research Centre on Emerging Technology and Governance was established under Niigata University's J-PEAKS initiative to strengthen the University's ability to address ethical, legal, and social issues related to human-centered innovation and AI.

On September 16, the center hosted the international symposium "Neurorights and the Future of Consent," bringing together about 70 participants from Japan and abroad. Discussions focused on neurotechnology and its ethical, legal, and social implications. Keynote speaker José M. Muñoz, a leading expert in neuroethics and AI ethics, highlighted advances in brain-related technologies and their growing applications. Participants also exchanged views on topics including workplace brainwave monitoring, neurotechnology education, and the protection of individual rights.





On September 17, the center held a research support symposium, "From Competition to Co-Creation," attended by approximately 65 researchers, URAs, and administrative staff from across Japan. Presentations addressed data and sample sharing, genetic resource utilization, and the future of research collaboration. Discussions from the perspectives of ELSI and Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) emphasized the importance of human resource development, network building, and research support in fostering collaboration across institutions.

The Research Centre on Emerging Technology and Governance will continue to promote cross-disciplinary and inter-institutional collaboration while addressing the challenges associated with emerging science and technology.

## Data Science & AI Symposium 2026 Brings Together Researchers and Innovators

On September 17, the Niigata University Data Science & AI Symposium 2026, organized by the Big Data Activation Research Center (BDA Center), was held at Art Hotel Niigata Station, attracting more than 70 participants.

The symposium featured an invited lecture, “Transforming Healthcare, Health, and Daily Life through Wearable Sensing and Feedback,” by Professor Tsutomu Terada of Kobe University. He introduced the fundamentals of wearable sensing technologies and discussed their future potential. Tatsuya Yamazaki, Director of the BDA Center, also reported on the center’s activities and presented an overview of the AI and Data Science Innovation Center, established in October 2026.



**The BDA Center was reorganized as the AI and Data Science Innovation Center on October 1, 2026.**

## TOPICS Niigata University and Chubu University Launch a New Partnership

Niigata University and Chubu University signed a university-wide partnership agreement on September 1, 2026. The agreement aims to strengthen collaboration in research, education, human resource development, and social implementation while promoting joint initiatives that build on the distinctive strengths of both universities.

Chubu University participates in Niigata University’s J-PEAKS program as a partner institution, and the two universities have been working closely under this framework. The agreement is expected to further advance researcher and student exchanges, joint research, and industry-academia-government collaboration. To commemorate the agreement, Niigata University hosted a networking event on September 30 attended by Chubu University President Masayoshi Maeshima and other representatives. Participants exchanged views on strengthening research capabilities through J-PEAKS, collaboration in AI and data science, promotion of graduate school enrollment, the development of early-career researchers and AI talent, and partnerships with regional industries. Niigata University will continue to deepen its institutional partnership with Chubu University, promoting joint research and academic exchange while contributing the outcomes of these efforts to local communities and industry.




## 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.

## Shindai ID: Simplifying Access to Campus Services

Niigata University’s Digital Transformation Promotion Organization launched an integrated account platform in June 2026 to provide faculty, staff, and students with more secure and convenient access to university systems. Previously, separate accounts were issued for individual systems, requiring users to manage multiple IDs and creating administrative challenges when affiliations or positions changed. The newly introduced Shindai ID is a persistent account that remains valid even when a user’s status changes. By establishing a one-person, one-ID environment, the University aims to centralize account management and improve user experience. Single Sign-On (SSO) functionality allows users to access multiple services with a single login, while multi-factor authentication enhances security. The system has already been introduced for year-end tax adjustment and payroll services, with expansion to additional systems planned.
Although largely invisible to users, the integrated account platform serves as critical infrastructure supporting education, research, and university operations. It also provides a foundation for the future deployment and wider use of digital services across the University.

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

A year ago, as J-PEAKS NOW was being launched, I wondered whether there would be enough news to fill each issue. Now, as we reach Vol. 12, the challenge is quite the opposite: there is more to share than we can fit into the newsletter. This is a welcome sign that faculty and staff are actively using J-PEAKS to pursue new research and collaborative initiatives. J-PEAKS WEEK last month brought together around 1,000 participants and created many new connections, demonstrating how these efforts are steadily expanding within and beyond the University. However, the goal is not simply to hold events. What matters is carrying forward the ideas, partnerships, and challenges that emerge from them and building on the University’s research strengths. We will continue to support and encourage these efforts as new opportunities for collaboration and innovation take shape.【YI】

## 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.