

RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT STRATEGY OFFICE



Director
HASEBE, Mitsuyasu



Vice-Director
YOSHIDA, Shosei



Vice-Director
MANO, Shoji

The Research Enhancement Strategy Office (RESO) was established in 2013 to manage the NIBB action plans proposed by the Director and the Advisory Committee for Programming and Management as an Inter-University Research Institute: (1) promoting internationally top-notch research and (2) providing opportunities for cutting-edge researchers throughout Japan to gather and engage in activities aimed at exploring future academic fields and creating new principles. RESO is composed of six groups with the following missions: (1) planning and evaluation, (2) joint utilization of NIBB facilities and joint research between NIBB members and researchers throughout the world, (3) domestic and international cooperation, (4) promotion of the diversity and education of young researchers, (5) dissemination of information and enhancement of public relations, and (6) collaboration between academia and industry. RESO is mainly managed by University Research Administrators who hold PhDs and have experience in both research and management. RESO cooperates with the mother institute NINS's Research Enhancement Promotion Headquarters. The activities of this office are partly supported by the Program for Promoting the Enhancement of Research Universities of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

PLANNING AND EVALUATION GROUP

Professor:	HASEBE, Mitsuyasu KAWAGUCHI, Masayoshi
Associate Professor:	MANO, Shoji KODAMA, Ryuji
Assistant Professor:	JOZUKA, Katsuki FUJITA, Hironori

This group compiles reports describing NIBB activities for evaluation and budget proposals.

The group's main activities in 2020 were as follows:

- 1) Prepared reports on 2019 NIBB activities for MEXT.
- 2) Prepared reports for 3rd medium-term objectives for the evaluation of education and research.
- 3) Prepared application forms for the MEXT FY2020 third supplementary budget and FY2021 budget demands.
- 4) Prepared reports for the NINS auditors.
- 5) Conducted follow-up investigation of the activity of the Research University Strengthening Promotion project.

6) Summarized 2019 NIBB activities for the annual external reviewer meeting on 29 January 2020, managed the meeting, and published the report (https://www.nibb.ac.jp/pressroom/pdf/NIBBgaibu_19.pdf).

7) Prepared the proposal on mid-term objectives and plans from 2022 to 2027.

8) Published the Annual Report 2019.

PUBLIC RELATIONS GROUP

Professor:	FUJIMORI, Toshihiko
Specially Appointed Assistant Professor (URA):	KURATA, Tomoko
Technical Assistants:	BAN, Misato HOSHINO, Maki UCHIMURA, Ai

This group actively facilitates communication between NIBB and the public, school teachers, and scientific research communities and describes the activities of NIBB to a wider audience.

The group's main activities in 2020 were as follows:

1) Press releases

The group issued press releases concerning NIBB's scientific achievements to newspaper and magazine reporters via leaflets, e-mails and web pages. We also arranged press conferences.

2) Updated and maintained the NIBB web page

3) Edited publications, produced posters and leaflets

We published "NIBB News" (an intra-institutional newsletter in Japanese) and brochures introducing NIBB. We also designed and distributed posters about NIBB events.

4) Managed social media

This group operated Twitter and Facebook accounts to communicate the activities of NIBB to the public. We also created videos introducing NIBB's research that are posted on YouTube.

5) Public relations activities to recruit graduate students

This group organized four graduate school information sessions for prospective students during the year.

6) Organized scientific outreach programs

We organized online outreach events for the public and coordinated science classes for middle and high school students.

LIAISON AND COOPERATION GROUP

Professor:	UENO, Naoto HASEBE, Mitsuyasu NARUSE, Kiyoshi MORITA, Miyo T.
Specially Appointed Assistant Professor (URA):	TATEMATSU, Kiyoshi
Technical Staff:	AKIMOTO-KATO, Ai
Research Staff:	TANAKA, Ayako
Technical Assistant:	TAKAHASHI, Ritsue COWAN, Glen

This group supports and coordinates NIBB's activities related to research collaborations and cooperation with universities and research institutes in Japan and abroad.

The main activities performed by this group in 2020 were as follows:

- 1) **Coordinated the following conferences/symposia:**
 - Cryopreservation Conference 2020. Zoom online, November 26–27, 2020 (p. 102)
 - NIBB-Academia Sinica International Webinar of Aquatic Model Organisms for Basic Biology to Human Disease Models. Zoom online, March 5, 2021 (p. 110-111)
 - The Kick Off (1st) meeting for NIBB-COS Heidelberg International Collaborations Lecture series #1 "Plant Root Development". Zoom online, March 30, 2021 (p. 110)
- 2) **Supported the acceptance of researchers to NIBB from abroad related to the following events:**
 - One young researcher from the Netherlands to be appointed as a specially appointed assistant professor (November 2020)
 - One young researcher from Germany to conduct collaborative research with the Division of Environmental Photobiology (January 2021)
- 3) **Supported the following education-related programs:**
 - NIBB Internship Program 2020 (p. 116)

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH GROUP

Professor:	TAKADA, Shinji SHIGENOBU, Shuji
Specially Appointed Associate Professor (URA):	KAMEI, Yasuhiro
Associate Professor:	UCHIYAMA, Ikuo
Technical Assistant:	ICHIKAWA, Mariko ICHIKAWA, Chiaki

This group acts as a hub to promote collaborative projects among multiple researchers through the exchange of information and the development of new equipment and methods.

The main activities of this group in 2020 were as follows:

- 1) **Hosted 142 collaborative projects.**
- 2) **Operated and managed NOUS (NINS Operation Use System), an online platform to manage collaborative projects.**
- 3) **Developed remote and automated systems to support collaborative research during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as online discussion meetings for the collaborative research projects.**
- 4) **Organized the Genome Informatics Training Course (GITC) and the BioImage Analysis Training Course (BIATC), both of which were held online.**
- 5) **Made public announcements of the Cooperative and Collaborative Research System in NIBB to the basic biology research communities at research meetings and conferences.**

YOUNG RESEARCHER SUPPORT GROUP

Professor:	NIIMI, Teruyuki
Assistant Professor:	KOMINE, Yuriko

NIBB provides PhD courses for graduate students while acting as Department of Basic Biology, School of Life Science, The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI (SOKENDAI is the commonly used name for the university). The Young Researcher Support Group provides support for graduate students (SOKENDAI students and special research students from other universities).

The group's main activities in 2020 were as follows:

- 1) **Coordinated and managed lectures and other activities, including periodical research presentations by students.**
- 2) **Organized NIBB's programs related to PhD courses, such as the orientation program for new students and Open Campus Day for prospective students.**
- 3) **Cooperated the organization of the Freshman Course and the Life Science Retreat as interdepartmental programs in SOKENDAI.**
- 4) **Gathered and provided useful information for both students and faculty members.**

GENDER EQUALITY PROMOTION GROUP

Professor:	HIGASHIJIMA, Shin-ichi
Associate Professor:	TSUBOUCHI, Tomomi

This group manages gender equality promotion activities.

The group's main activities in 2020 were as follows:

- 1) *Managed a multi-purpose room for use by researchers with children.*
- 2) *Maintained two group mailing lists for (1) female researchers and (2) researchers with young children in order to share useful information.*

COLLABORATIVE INNOVATION GROUP

Professor: MINAGAWA, Jun
Associate Professor: KODAMA, Ryuji
Specially Appointed Assistant Professor:
KANAI, Masatake

This group is responsible for activities that bridge the gap between NIBB researchers and the business community.

The group's main activities in 2020 were as follows:

- 1) *Supported the application for JST's A-step, a research grant for practical use.*
- 2) *Supported participation in Innovation Japan, a trade fair for university seeds.*
- 3) *Held a seminar on the support system for industry-university collaboration.*
- 4) *Negotiated a license agreement with a company.*
- 5) *Provided support for joint research agreements between NIBB researchers and companies.*