

Flexible research structure

Human mobility leads to interdisciplinary research outcome



Six on-going research domains Exercising RCAST's dynamism

In order to achieve the aforementioned research objective, RCAST abolished the previous super-department system (2004). It now has a horizontal research structure, where each laboratory is a unit for research activities, and each lab has equal status. The maneuverable use of labs, which are small units, enables RCAST to maintain a high degree of mobility among its affiliated researchers, quickly and flexibly adapt its research structure and system, and respond to occasional changes in social conditions. Currently at RCAST, eponymous labs for a wide variety of specialized fields are developing dynamic research activities in the areas of Information, Biology, Environment and Energy, Material, Barrier-Free, and Society.

Four research centers Expanded by interdisciplinary fusion

Before the full abolition of the divisional system, between 2001 and 2006, RCAST has started Open Laboratory-type Research Project under the Strategic Research Center "Open Laboratory of Advanced Science and Technology for Human and Society" Plan. This is to invite researchers from inside and outside of the university to organize a research team (i.e.laboratory) headed by RCAST researchers. The above mentioned plan has concluded in March 2006, however some research projects that has developed are conducting research as a new open laboratory-type research units.

Open Laboratory-type Research Projects (as of April 2009)

- Barrier Free System
- Advanced Environmental Energy and Technology
- Systems Biology and Medicine
- Advanced Contents

Four keywords showing RCAST's character

Since its founding, RCAST has pursued interdisciplinary research activities in a wide range of research areas based on four principles (mottos): interdisciplinary approach, mobility, international perspective, and openness. RCAST's research objective is to contribute to the development of scientific technology by responding expeditiously to the challenges pertaining to the advancement of learning and social change, as well as by pioneering new fields of advanced scientific technology for humanity and society.



Two categories for specially appointed researcher system Contributing toward a rigid human system

RCAST has started the specially appointed researcher system, in accordance with the beginning of the above mentioned open laboratory-type research. Those specially appointed researchers are paid by external funds with tenure, which allows strategic and flexible employment of researchers free from the constraints of the personnel quota set by the university. At present, there are two types of specially

appointed researchers. While the so-called "Category 2" researcher belongs to a certain research project, the other "Category 1" researcher has got the same status as those conventional professors funded by the government (management expenses grants for national university corporations) which enables them to have his/her own independent lab and start up a new research project on his/her own.