

Global Circus

**Integrating Trailblazing
on the Research Frontier
with the Expansion of Graduate Education
Beyond Borders**

The term "circus" in ancient Latin means a "forum" or a "circle." Niigata University's Global Circus Program provides a round table for international collaboration of scientific research advancement and integration of it into graduate education in order to contribute to prosperous social development in Asia and around the world.



**What are you waiting for? Join the Global Circus!
To become a partner**

Website:

<http://www.gs.niigata-u.ac.jp/~gsweb/gs/english/>

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**NiiGATA
UNIVERSITY**

The Graduate School
of Science and Technology
Niigata University

The Graduate School of Science and Technology Niigata University

Join the Global Circle of Excellence

In ancient Latin, the word "circus" means "circle". Global Circus is thus defined as an arena of knowledge. More specifically, it is an international learning and research mechanism shared by partner universities to which each contributes the skills and specialties in which it is particularly proficient. It is a new framework, which we intend to establish in Asia in the 21st century, patterned after "Studia Generalia," an experiment in academic exchange between scholars and students across Europe, initiated by the Holy Roman Empire in the 14th century. Global Circus unites Niigata University with other world-class institutions especially in East Asia. Since our research activities have gained an excellent reputation as a resource for internationalization, we aim to base our graduate research and education on the foundations of the collaborative research that our faculty members are conducting with foreign scholars.

The research on the world trend shows that in past decades faculty members' involvement in international research projects became more vital not only for our competitive position, hence it reflects on the quality of graduate education. Thus, what we desire to achieve in our program is not to try to echo the fads of commercialization present in higher education nowadays, but to create a new twist on higher education based on the timeless values of tradition.



Our Goals

This program will build and enhance international intellectual networks based at Niigata University by

- fostering mutual educational and research exchange with our overseas partner institutions
- integrating more powerful, advanced research into our graduate education program
- sharing academic endeavors with international scholars and graduate students
- realizing the intellectual excitement of seeking knowledge and the possibilities for cross-disciplinary innovations.



Our Research Fields

The core foundation of Global Circus exists in our faculty members' international collaborative research activities with foreign research partners.



Examples of Global Issue Themes

- Environmental preservation
- Agricultural production and food security
- Reconstruction after severe natural disasters
- Human protection technology

Examples of Contemporary Frontier Research

- Nano science and technology
 - Biotechnology
 - Quantum science
 - Information science
- ...many other scientific fields.

Indicators of Excellence

Niigata University's competitive edge is found in our internationally recognized faculty research achievement. According to the Asian University Ranking 2009 conducted by QS (Quacquarelli Symonds), UK, our faculty publication activity is ranked as the 41st among Asia's top 200 universities (Score point 90 out of 100).

It is particularly worth noting that the score on citations per paper is 96 out of 100, which raises our status to the 17th among universities in Asia and places us right after such prestigious institutions in Asia as the University of Tokyo, Kyoto University, the University of Hong Kong, Osaka University, and so on.

Global Circus Faculty Member Snap Shot

Dr. Kodama received his Ph.D. degree in Science from Tokyo Institute of Technology in 1994, and won numerous awards and grants for his research projects.

His professional expertise is high-temperature solar chemistry for converting solar heat to chemical fuels, solar thermochemical water splitting cycles, solar reforming of natural gas, and solar gasification of



Educational Programs

coal. He and his research team are well-known as the most leading scholars, i.e. "Hi-Ci" scholars in the fields.

Mutually benefiting graduate education between partners that shares the cost and work, and maximizes learning experiences

Our concept of exchange should be distinguished from programs which simply receive or dispatch scholars and graduate students. Graduate students participating in Global Circus are expected to pursue their study and research under a certain theme related to these projects and to be mobilized among institutions around the world. Various forms of academic experiences and professional involvement are provisioned. Examples include

- Research Camps (short term exchange visits for research between partner institutions)
- A series of Joint Lectures (at both Niigata University and partner institutions)
- International Research Internships (for our double degree programs)
- Graduate Research Symposia
- Double Degree Program as a more formal opportunity that leads to a master or doctoral degree in science, agriculture, and engineering

Niigata University provides financial assistance for the highly qualified doctoral students, and exchange programs.

