

NEWSLETTER



Research Seeds Special Edition

【October Edition】 APU Research Seeds now in Japanese and English!

Fall and the chilly weather have arrived!

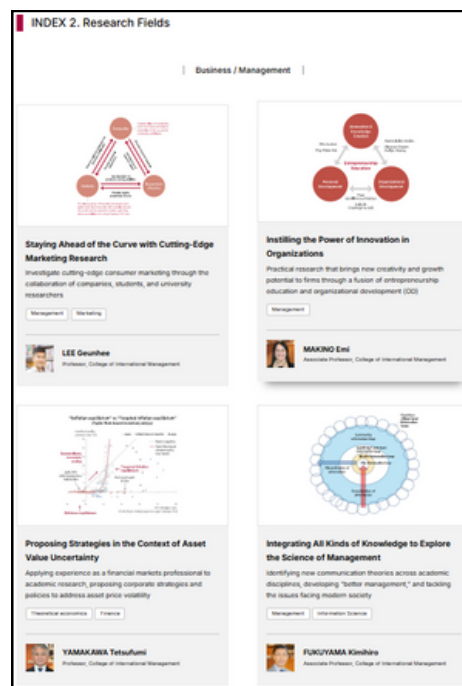
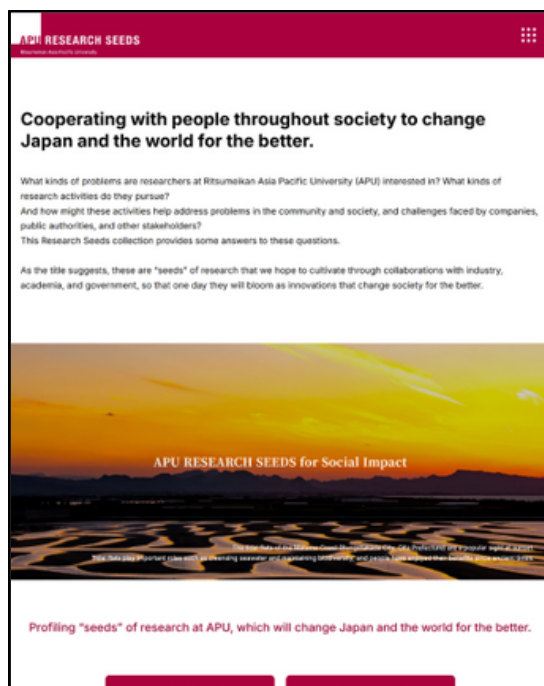
Following suit with the Japanese version, APU's Research Seeds is now available in both Japanese and English, so this month's newsletter is a special edition on Research Seeds!

Generally, "research seeds" refers to publicly disclosing information about research results and outcomes of patented technologies to promote industry-academic coordination, with the aim of practical application in society. In other words, "research seeds" introduce specialized scientific technologies or inventions from science-based fields that have the potential to transform society.

So, does this mean APU's social sciences and humanities research can't bring value as "research seeds" to society? Of course not! We visited APU professors' laboratories to chat about their research, and we saw how enthusiastic they were about contributing to solving social issues; and to what extent they confront these social issues in their own unique way in this complex modern era.

These professors' research achievements without a doubt bring value as research seeds and have the potential to bring positive impact to society. However, much like the effective use of specialized technologies, APU's research seeds can't contribute to society without coordination and collaboration with the broader community.

With this new edition of Research Seeds, we want to showcase some of the research being done at APU that seeks to grapple with current social issues from social science and humanities perspectives.



Toshiyuki Kuriyama, Deputy Director of Social Outreach

※Former (Until September 2025)

Thank you for always supporting the advancement of research at APU.

With the cooperation of the featured researchers, we have begun publishing “Research Seeds”, which clearly organizes research, research outcomes and their impact on society.

In AY2024, the APU Connection Hub was established to spearhead social and regional coordination. As the name suggests, the organization is on a mission to open up the university's diverse educational initiatives, research, and student activities to society, connecting them with an array of stakeholders including actors in the industry space, the local community, and government. The Hub aims to go beyond “connections” however, and seeks to develop human resources, problem-solving capabilities, and community engagement, which will ultimately enhance APU's value, and the value of society as a whole.

The Japanese government enacted the Basic Act on Science and Technology in 1995, and every 5 years the Basic Plan for Science and Technology is put forward. In 2020, this plan was revised to become the Basic Plan on Science, Technology, and Innovation which emphasizes the inclusion of a multitude of disciplines— integrating social science and humanities with science and technology— in order to address societal challenges from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Set to begin in 2027, discussions on the creation of the 7th Edition of the Basic Plan for Science, Technology and Innovation are currently underway, with particular emphasis on the following 3 points:

1. Promoting creative and original research based on researchers' intellectual curiosity, particularly fostering an environment where young researchers can take on international challenges.
2. The development of research networks that transcend organizational and disciplinary boundaries and opening research platforms that highlight the characteristics of research institutions.
3. Enhancing strategic international expansion, with particular emphasis on joint research with India and ASEAN, and other developed countries

APU's multinational and multicultural environment and research networks are major strengths that align with the three points listed above.

To realize its role as a hub for domestic and international networks, and in order to establish APU's distinctive research areas, research visibility and dissemination are essential.

We hope this edition of Research Seeds marks one step towards this goal.



Related websites

APU Connection Hub Website

[APU Connection Hub | 立命館アジア太平洋大学](#)

Basic Plan on Science and Technology & Basic Plan on Science, Technology, and Innovation

[Basic Plan on Science, Technology, and Innovation](#)

Formulation of the 7th Edition of the Basic Plan on Science, Technology, and Innovation

[【資料1】第7期科学技術・イノベーション基本計画策定に向けた動向について](#) (Japanese only)

Comments from Featured Researchers in Research Seeds



Associate Professor
FUKUYAMA Kimihiro
College of International Management

Research Seeds Article Title:
Integrating All Kinds of Knowledge to Explore the Science of Management

[Reflections on contributing to Research Seeds]

I'm truly grateful that the writer was able to articulate my research in a concise manner for this Research Seeds edition. The interview was about my research, so I rambled a bit about the topic, but the interviewer was able to skillfully pick up the main ideas and made the layout and figures of the article visually easy to understand and read. I really admired their work and thought "This is the work of a professional!"

[Reactions from external stakeholders to your research]

After receiving several copies of Research Seeds from the Outreach and Research office, we quickly distributed the magazines to local economic organizations and it had great reception, with some saying, "APU and the teachers at APU seemed intimidating which made it difficult to reach out to them, but this magazine makes it easier to request instructors, so it's really helpful!" In fact, I have also received requests to do lectures, so having something for people to hold onto and read holds significance and has a big impact.



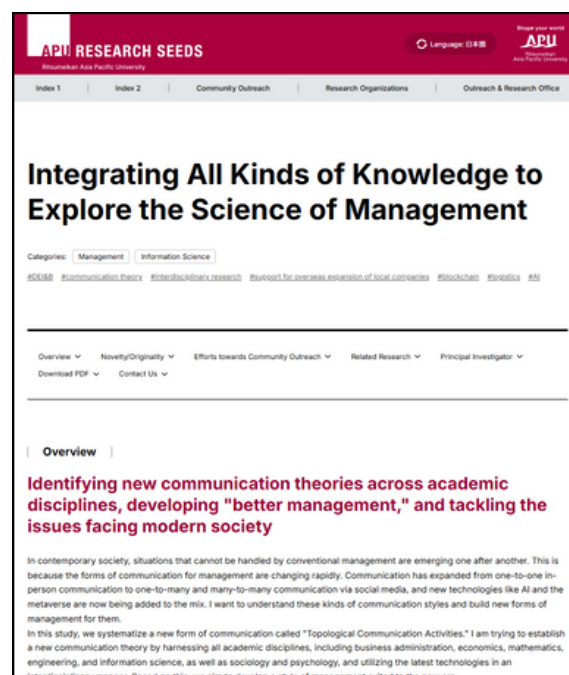
Read the summary [here](#)

[Hopes and aspirations moving forward]

Having local economic and industrial organizations be made aware of the research being done at APU inspires exchange opportunities between us, as well as creates research opportunities that benefit local communities. APU has both a global and local presence, therefore it aims to bring positive social impact to local economies and communities through these initiatives.

Since doing the Research Seeds interview, my research has progressed even further, so I'd like to be able to periodically share those updates, as well as showcase various research outcomes from different viewpoints.

Read Assoc. Prof. Kimihiro Fukuyama's full Research Seeds article [here](#)





Professor
YAMASHITA Hiromi
College of Asia Pacific Studies

Research Seeds Article Title: Contributing to Future Cooperative Decision-Making by Residents and Governments

Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University is renowned for offering a unique international educational environment. At the same time, APU is home to many researchers and students who strive daily to accumulate the knowledge necessary to make the world a better place. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Contributing to Future Cooperative Decision-Making by Residents and Governments

Analyzing consensus-building processes for a coastal embankment project following the Great East Japan Earthquake and establishing better cooperative decision-making models for residents and governments

In many of the public works projects carried out on coastal areas in Japan, attention has been placed on the process of consensus-building between residents and governments, particularly in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake. In this research, researchers from various fields perform interdisciplinary analysis of the consensus-building process for a coastal embankment project in Kesennuma City. Knowledge from research performed on domestic and international coastal public works projects up to this point is applied to a cross-sectional analysis of multiple case studies to address the question of how dialogue between residents and the local government proceeded and how challenges were resolved. This research aims to establish cooperative decision-making models for the future.



Principal Investigator
YAMASHITA Hiromi
Professor, College of Asia Pacific Studies
Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University

"My hope is to do my part to create systems for better consensus-building while repeatedly engaging in careful dialogue with members of the community and local government."

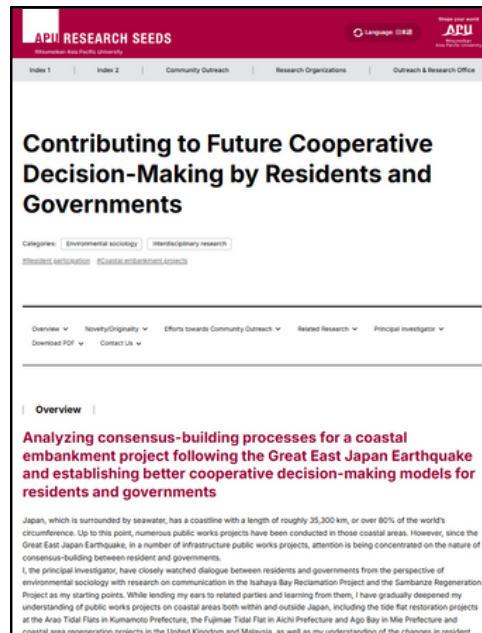
Novelty / Originality
Aiming to capture new knowledge using the research method of performing cross-sectional and interdisciplinary analysis on multiple case studies



Efforts towards Community Outreach
Working towards establishing cooperative decision-making models that positively serve future infrastructure public works projects

Knowledge in this research is scheduled to be disseminated as it is an integral part of the consensus-building process for different coastal public works projects across Japan. The "knowledge" of the decision-making process is disseminated in particular. First, the study research has shown that an accumulation of consensus-building, from an objective to the recognition and interpretation of information depending on one's action. During situations where dialogue proceeded in chapters and the points of attention and judgment of concepts in various positions should open

the doors to validity on due to more constructive dialogue. Considerable efforts for the utilization of research results include workshops for residents and training programs for technical staff belonging to the local government. Careful analysis will be conducted to bring into focus elements that can be used as a reference, even within each of the various contexts and circumstances, in discussion of future infrastructure projects in Japan.



Read the summary [here](#)

Read Prof. Hiromi Yamashita's full Research Seeds article [here](#)

AP Conference 2025 Information



APU 25th Anniversary
Asia Pacific Conference 2025
"Rediscovering Cooperation in a Fragmenting World"

Date: Saturday November 29 & Sunday November 30, 2025

Location: APU Campus, Green Commons (J-Building)

The APU Conference is an international research conference held annually at APU. The conference covers a wide array of research themes including social and international issues, business, economics, sustainability, D&I, and language studies. While registration for presenters is closed, we welcome students, staff, and community members to join us as participants free of charge. Advanced registration is also not required.



For more details
[AP Conference Website](https://www.apu.ac.jp/conference)