

NEWSLETTER

 **April/May Edition: AIRO (APU Integrated Research Organization) Opens!**

Launching AIRO

The APU Integrated Research Organization (AIRO) commenced operations in April 2026 as the core body responsible for advancing research at APU. In AY2025, APU formulated the Research Enhancement Plan (2025-2030) with the following goals: establishing distinctive research areas unique to the university, promoting research with social impact, and improving the research environment whilst strengthening the foundation of research capabilities. AIRO is positioned as a platform to materialize these goals and will be responsible for the integrated promotion of research activities.

AIRO will continue the planning and management of AP Conference that was previously overseen by the Ritsumeikan Center for Asia Pacific Studies (RCAPS). It will also support the research activities of the 5 research centers and provide opportunities to present their research findings. AIRO will also strengthen cooperation with other universities, research institutions, and organizations domestically and abroad to expand interdisciplinary and internationally collaborative research, while also serving as a hub for attracting outstanding researchers from outside the university. Furthermore, it is expected that AIRO will also accelerate the practical application of research findings, through empirical research with businesses, collaborative research with local governments, and industry-academic-government projects. In particular, activities to establish “research hubs” under AIRO will begin in AY2027! Through these activities aimed at establishing APU’s unique research areas, we will support the formation of research teams in priority areas, nurture early career researchers, and foster the next generation of research leaders. Additionally, we aim to make the most of APU’s strength as a multinational and multicultural research environment and, by encouraging collaboration with researchers from diverse backgrounds, create new knowledge grounded in global perspectives.

The establishment of AIRO marks a new step forward in further strengthening APU’s research infrastructure and enhancing our presence as a university that possesses internationally competitive research capabilities.

By leveraging APU’s unique educational and research environment, we aim to further accelerate highly original insights that contribute to solving global challenges, as well as research findings of international standing.

We are grateful for your support of AIRO’s research activities!



Professor
Hidetaka Yoshimatsu
Integrated Research Organization Acting Director

We are now accepting applications for the new research support system, the Research Hubs Program!

The Research Hubs Program, one of the key features of the APU 2025-2030 Research Enhancement Plan, is now accepting applications!

Through the creation of this research hubs program, we hope to contribute to solving societal issues by applying research findings to real-world contexts and fostering research talent, thereby enhancing APU's reputation and presence domestically and abroad.

For more information, please visit the Research Support page for [the application guidelines](#).

(Application Deadline) Monday July 20th, 2026

*Materials from the guidance session are shared on One Drive

If you're interested in applying, feel free to contact the Research Office if you have any questions! (reo@apu.ac.jp)

Rice Ball (Research) Seminar

On Thursday May 7th, a Rice Ball (Research Seminar) was held!

The aim of the Rice Ball (Research) Seminar is to foster a research culture and encourage research activities by promoting exchange opportunities between researchers at APU and sharing information with graduate students and early-career researchers.

This time, the seminar focused on the 2025 US National Security Strategy, which featured a panel discussion with Asst. Professor Barbara Kratiuk from Vistula University in Poland and APU Vice-President Professor Okamura Yoshifumi. The panel was moderated by Prof. Sato Yoichiro from APS.



At AIRO, we have established a support system known as the 'Rice Ball Seminar' to assist faculty in organizing research seminars. We encourage you to utilize this system!

For more information, check out the PDF below!

[Rice Ball Seminar Support - Application Guidelines](#)

The research web page has been renewed!

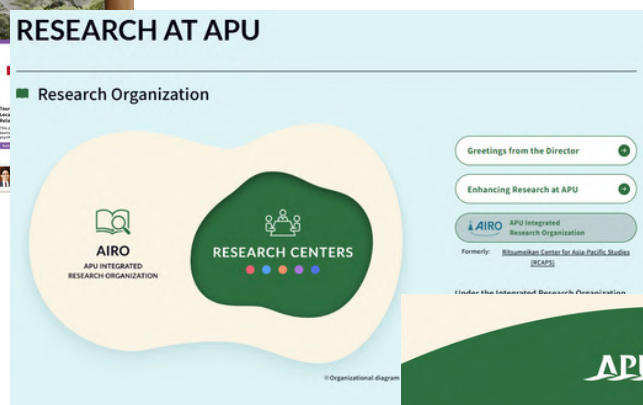
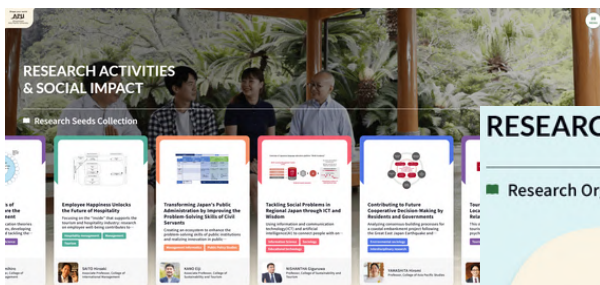
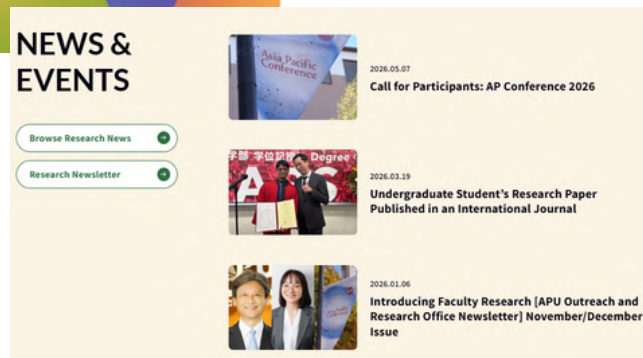
We have revamped our research page to better showcase our academics' research activities and achievements to the wider public! We have designed the page to be user-friendly and engaging, so please do take a look and let us know what you think.

Going forward, we plan to further enhance our content by introducing new features that will allow us to present our faculty's research achievements in a comprehensive manner.

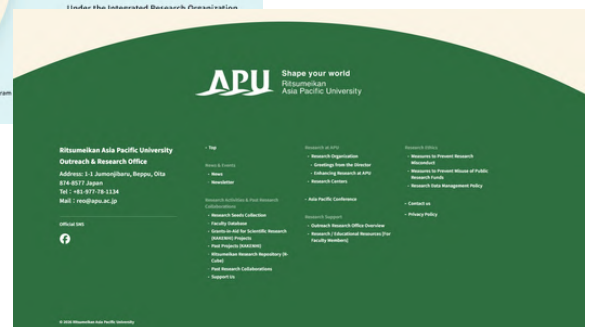
If you have any research activities or findings you would like to share, please do not hesitate to contact the Outreach and Research Office.



The header combines imagery representing APU's research in the social sciences and humanities with multiculturalism!



The footer image is APU on top of a mountain!



We are also accepting research-related photos, books/literature, papers, etc. on an ongoing basis. We look forward to your continued cooperation and sharing more about Research at APU through this [new website!](#)

Introducing the AIRO logo!

The AIRO logo is based on the APU logo and was designed with the onsen mark to symbolize Oita Prefecture and Beppu City. Furthermore, by associating the letter 'A' (in AIRO) with the image of a guidepost, and combining this with an image inspired by a lighthouse, we have sought to express that AIRO is the 'light' and 'guidance' that supports researchers.

If you would like to use the AIRO logo in PowerPoint presentation, or similar materials, please don't hesitate to contact the Outreach and Research Office.



AP Conference 2026

We are pleased to announce that applications are now open for participation in the international academic conference "AP Conference 2026," hosted by the Advanced Institute for Research Organization (AIRO).

■ Conference Overview

Date: Saturday, November 14 – Sunday, November 15, 2026

Theme: Beyond Fragmentation: Charting Pathways for Shared Futures

Venue: APU Green Commons (Building J)

■ Registration Period

Presenters: Deadline – Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Audience: Registration expected to open in Fall 2026

Further details and updates about the conference will be posted on the official website below:

<https://en.apu.ac.jp/apconf/>

We look forward to your participation.



Sincerely,

AP Conference Secretariat

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Publishing: APU Outreach & Research Office (Research PR)

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