

Call for applications: Joint Research & Conference Programs, Institute of Nature and Environmental Technology, Kanazawa University

The Institute of Nature and Environmental Technology, Kanazawa University (K-INET), which consists of four research divisions (Atmospheric Environmental Studies, Marine Environmental Studies, Terrestrial Environmental Studies, and Integrated Environmental Studies) investigates environmental issues of the Trans-Japan-Sea region. K-INET supports the joint research programs and research conferences organized in collaboration with K-INET research staff.

1) Purpose

To promote joint research activities particularly addressing the Trans-Japan-Sea region and to support young researchers in this specific research field, K-INET supports "joint research programs" and "conference organization."

Successful applications must specifically examine the establishment of core world-leading studies of environmental issues (e.g., elucidation of Earth environment system, pollution, human impacts, ecosystems) and take advantage of global joint research networks, international observation networks, and research resources established in K-INET.

2) Research Targets

Basic and applied research topics related to the Trans-Japan-Sea region are encouraged.

- a) Understanding environmental pollution, environmental fluctuation, and their respective controlling factors
- b) Effects of environmental change on human health
- c) Human society and ecosystems
- d) Prediction of local environments
- e) Topics related to sustainable development

3) Funding categories

Applicants choose one of four funding categories to prepare proposals.

Program members must include K-INET research staff. A domestic or international program exists for each funding category. Applicants to the international program must belong to overseas institutions. The International Joint Research Program supports K-INET research staff visits to the applicant's institution for collaborative studies, as well as research activities in K-INET by program members. International conference grants support conferences held at or near an applicant's institution.

a) Key Joint Research Program (domestic/international)

Two applications will be accepted. Up to 1 million JPY is available per application. The fund can cover travel expenses to Kanazawa University and consumables necessary for laboratory and observatory work.

Successful applications must cover more than two research targets. More than five researchers must contribute to the research program.

b) Joint Research Program (domestic/international)

30 applications will be accepted. 100–300 thousand JPY is available per application. The fund can cover travel expenses to Kanazawa University and consumables necessary for laboratory and observatory work.

c) PhD students Supporting Program (domestic/international)

Two applications will be accepted. 100–300 thousand JPY is available per application. Applicants must be PhD students. Please discuss applications with a supervisor beforehand.

d) Conference Grant (domestic/international)

Three proposals will be accepted. 400–500 thousand JPY is available per application. The fund can cover, for example, travel expenses, consumables, and facility rental fees. Domestic grants support the conference held in Ishikawa prefecture, Japan. International grants support conferences held at or near the applicant's institution.

4) Facilities and instruments

A list of facilities and instruments open for joint research program is available at the K-INET website (<http://www.ki-net.kanazawa-u.ac.jp>). Please refer "the guidebook for joint research and conference program"(Japanese edition only) for details related to the use of facilities and instruments, and follow instructions by the K-INET Director.

5) Program period

Accepted programs will start on 1 April 2017 and end on 31 March 2018.

6) Applicant requirements

a) Researchers or PhD students whose main affiliation is a university or research institute.

b) Researchers who are approved by the K-INET Director.

* PhD students are able to apply funding category "c".

* The applicant's obligation is to publish (or at least submit) results in related research journals within two years after the research period.

(Please see section "13 Final reports" for detailed information.)

7) How to apply

Please discuss with K-INET research staff preparation of the application form and submit form 1 (application form for the joint research) or form 2 (application form for the conference grant) via e-mail with the e-mail title of "apply to the joint research program or conference grant." Please take care to note that a recommendation letter must be received from the director (or manager) of the applicant's organization after acceptance of the proposal.

<Special reminder: legal requirements>

Special notice should be included in the application form to handle samples that must be treated under the particular law (e.g., plants and animals protected under CITES). Please obtain permission from related organizations before the start of the joint research program.

Correspondence: The K-INET office (Accounting Division, Science and Engineering Administration Department), Kanazawa University, Kakuma

Kanazawa 9210-1192, Japan

e-mail: k-inet.jurc@adm.kanazawa-u.ac.jp

8) Deadline of submission

Please submit application form (form 1 or form 2) before 17 March, 2017.

* When the K-INET director admits research topics that are highly important and urgently necessary, submission of the application form might be accepted after the deadline. In this case, the application form should be submitted at least one month before the program starts.

9) Notice of acceptance

A letter of acceptance will be sent via e-mail to applicants from the K-INET director after discussion among committee members by 31 March, 2017. Members of successful programs are appointed as visiting researchers of K-INET.

Successful applicants must submit a Pledge and Recommendation from the director (or manager) of the applicant's organization immediately after the applicant receives the notice of acceptance.

The applicant must confirm a research schedule under discussion with the corresponding K-INET research staff. When the applicant fails to accomplish a research schedule, written notice must be submitted to the K-INET office to inform the reason, etc. In addition, the program number, title, applicant name, and affiliation would be listed on the K-INET website. If the applicant has a certain reason to avoid listing on the website, then the applicant's wishes will be respected.

10) Change of the research plan

A new plan should be notified after discussion with the corresponding K-INET research staff (the change might not be approved without a valid reason) if the applicant wishes to change part of the research plan. When the applicant's affiliation is changed, please notify K-INET office and resubmit the Pledge and Recommendation from the director. Nominal changes do not need to be reported.

11) Financial support

Consumables necessary for a joint research program must be covered by the applicants themselves, except for the part of consumables payable by the fund. The joint research fund is available from K-INET through the corresponding research staff. Travel expenses will be covered only when the project members visit K-INET and related institutions. "International" programs enable research staff from the K-INET to visit the applicant's institution. Travel expenses will be covered by the fund.

When applicants are invited to present their research results in the symposium organized by K-INET, travel expenses will be covered.

12) Intellectual property

The right to intellectual property is fundamentally protected by the regulations in the applicant's organization. When the contribution by the research staff from K-INET is considered, discussion among organizations is necessary under the Kanazawa University Regulations (Article 2, paragraph (7) and (9) of Kanazawa University Invention on Job Rules). Therefore immediate notice will be appreciated.

When an applicant's organization follows the process to protect the right for intellectual property, notice given to the K-INET office will be appreciated.

13) Final report

Applicants must submit form 3 or form 4 by 28 April 2018. Research results will be published on the website and an annual report of K-INET. Presentation in the symposium organized by the K-INET is also requested. Applicants' obligations include publication of the research results in scientific journals with acknowledgement of support from the joint research program (see example below). Two sets of reprints should be submitted to the K-INET office. Information related to published articles will be listed on the K-INET website. When a certain reason exists to refrain from publication of the research results, applicants must report the reason and the expected duration of delay to the K-INET office.

*Example: This study was conducted under the cooperative research program of Institute of Nature and Environmental Technology, Kanazawa University <Accept No.>.