



**PRESS RELEASE (2014/04/01)**

**Kyushu University and Nippon Kaiji Kyokai (ClassNK) have established  
the “Department of Ocean Energy Resources”  
to promote research on fundamental technology for ocean energy resources development**

**Summary**

Japan is surrounded by ocean, and the potential of ocean energy resources is known to be huge. However, the utilization of ocean energy resources is still very limited. Therefore, Kyushu University (President Setsuo ARIKAWA) and Nippon Kaiji Kyokai (ClassNK; President Noboru UEDA) have established the “Department of Ocean Energy Resources” in the Faculty of Engineering, Kyushu University under the Comprehensive Collaboration between both parties. From now on, the department will play a key role for the promotion of research on fundamental technology for the development of ocean energy resources.

**Background**

Japan is surrounded by ocean on all sides, and the area of the exclusive economic zone is the world's sixth-largest. Various kinds of ocean energy resources exist, most of which are still undeveloped. For example, the potential of offshore wind energy is said to be huge. In addition, under the seabed around Japan, there are reserves of energy resources such as methane hydrate, but its development is in its infancy stage.

The promotion of development of ocean energy resources is essential, not only for the contribution to the improvement of energy self-sufficiency rate in Japan, but also in fulfilling the entry into the growing ocean development market in the world.

**Content**

In order to promote the development of ocean energy resources, it is essential to have both an academic basis and a wealth of knowledge and experience in ocean development. For this reason, Nippon Kaiji Kyokai (ClassNK), which is the only international classification society in Japan and has extensive experiences in technical services related to ships and offshore structures, and Kyushu University, providing Japan's leading research core on marine science and technology, have jointly established the “Department of Ocean Energy Resources” in the Graduate Faculty of Engineering, Kyushu University under the Comprehensive Collaboration between both parties in order to strongly promote research on fundamental technology for the development of ocean energy resources.

In particular, we will proceed with

- 1) Research on fundamental technology for utilization of ocean renewable energy, and
- 2) Research on fundamental technology for deep-sea energy resources development.

It is noted that, in this research period, the following topics will be focused upon:

- 1) Resolution of various issues for realization of offshore renewable energy power generation such as floating offshore wind power generation, and
- 2) Survey and research on technical issues related to design, installation and operation of offshore methane hydrate production platform.

Research topic: Studies on the fundamental technology for ocean energy resources development

Research period: April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2016

Research location: Department of Marine Systems Engineering

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