

The 40th International Symposium on the Okhotsk Sea & Polar Oceans 2026

We invite you to participate in the 40th International Symposium on the Okhotsk Sea & Polar Oceans (Mombetsu-2026 Symposium) held in Mombetsu, Hokkaido, Japan, on 15-18 February 2026.

The subjects are on sea ice, Arctic sea routes, global warming and other Northern region subjects.

We are pleased to invite you to participate in the Mombetsu Symposium.

OUTLINE

Symposium schedule: Sunday, 15 February – Wednesday, 18 February 2026

The presentation style will be face-to-face meeting, real-time oral presentation.

- ◆ 15 (Sun) ---- Opening Ceremony: at Citizens' Hall
Special Lectures, Memorial Reception (Banquet)
- ◆ 16 (Mon) to 18 (Wed) ---- Scientific Session: at Mombetsu Cultural Center, etc.
- ◆ 16 (Mon) to 18 (Wed) ---- Public Program: at Mombetsu Cultural Center, etc.
- ◆ 18 (Wed) ---- Children Symposium: at Citizens' Hall
- ◆ 19 (Thu) to 20 (Fri) ---- Excursion: Field study trip around Mombetsu

Organized and sponsored (The institutions listed are planned)

- ◆ City of Mombetsu ◆ Arctic Research Center, Hokkaido University (ARC)
- ◆ National Institute of Polar Research (NIPR)
- ◆ Kitami Institute of Technology (KIT)
- ◆ Institute of Low Temperature Science, Hokkaido University (ILTS)
- ◆ Tokai University, Hokkaido Campus
- ◆ Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology
- ◆ Tokyo University of Agriculture -Okhotsk Campus
- ◆ Graduate School of Fisheries Sciences, Hokkaido University
- ◆ Field Science Center for Northern Biosphere, Hokkaido University
- ◆ Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute, The University of Tokyo (AORI)



Sea ice at Mombetsu by Takao Nakajin

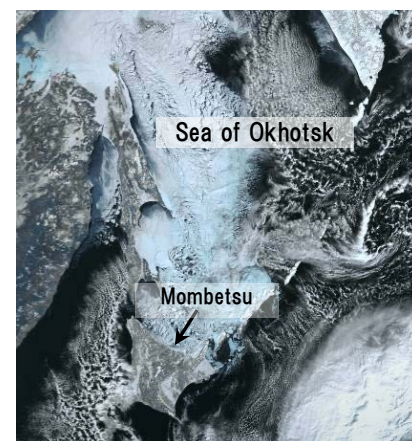
and more

Contact address: moms@okhotsk-mombetsu.jp

Method: Scientific sessions will be a face-to-face meeting.

If you cannot come to Mombetsu (just Russian scientists) but would like to make a presentation, please let us know by email.

Registration URL: <https://forms.gle/p7gXABRqn4Ar8WEo8>



Satellite image of Sea of Okhotsk

TOPICS

《Scientific Session Themes》

- 1) Environment of Okhotsk Sea and Polar Oceans
- 2) Meteorology and Oceanography in Polar Regions
- 3) Marine Biology and Fisheries in the Ice-Covered Waters
- 4) Cold Region Engineering
- 5) Arctic Sea Routes
- 6) Global Warming and Environmental Change
- 7) Remote Sensing
- 8) Snow, Ice and Human Life
- 9) Other Topics ((including social science topics))

- Special workshops or meetings are available. If you would like to hold a workshop, please let us know it. The application form is available on our website.

《Workshop》 **Presentations are only available to group members. Other sessions will accept presentations.

- Next-Generation Observations and Modeling for Integrated Approaches to Polar Climate Change (Convener, Jun Inoue)
- Exploring the Potential of AI and Machine Learning for Sea Ice Research (Convener, Jun Ono)
- The changing ice-covered ocean and new utilization (Convener, Takuji Wasada and Akihisa Konno)
- Interactions between the Antarctic Ice Sheet and the Global Climate System (Convener Masashi Machida)
- Career Development for Young Researchers in Arctic and Antarctic Research (Convener, Shin Sugiyama)
- Workshop, The Okhotsk Sea: Unique Weather and Climate Generated by the Earth's Cool Spot (Convener, Meiji Honda)
- Workshop, Arctic Policy through Science and Human Activity (Convener, Sakiko Hataya and Natsuhiko Otsuka)
- Arctic Governance at a Crossroads: Understanding Change and Exploring the Future (Convener, Hajime Kimura)
- Plankton Ecology in Cold Regions: From Molecules to Ecosystems (Convener, Junya Hirai)
- Current situation and issues of studies on stock management and stock enhancement in Hokkaido, Japan (Convener, Nobukazu Sato)
- Seabirds and Marine Mammals in Response to Environmental and Social Change (Convener, Yuta Sakuragi)
- **Arctic Governance at a Crossroads: Understanding Change and Exploring the Future (Convener, Hajime Kimura)

CALL FOR PAPERS

Short Summary for classification to make up the program

Authors should submit a short summary of 100 - 200 words by **Monday, 1 December, 2025**.

Final Manuscript for the Proceedings (Max 4 pages, Camera-ready)

Manuscript should be sent to momsys@okhotsk-mombetsu.jp by **Tuesday, 13 January, 2026**.

The instructions are on the Symposium website.

DEAD LINES

Workshop proposal: Friday, 7 November 2025

Participant Registration: You can choose two types of participation, 1-Give a presentation and 2-Participation only.

1) **Presentation**--- **Monday, 1 December 2025** You should make short summary (up to 200 words)

2) **Participation only (no presentations)** --- **Friday, 30 January 2026**

Final Manuscript: (up to 4 pages) --- **Tuesday, 13 January 2026**

OSPOR (Peer reviewed article) --- **Monday, 10 November 2025** It has been extended from October 10th.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE of the Symposium will be English.

Japanese is available for workshops and citizen programs. We have no simultaneous translation services.

AOTA MASAACKI AWARD

The award was established in 2014 to honor the memory of the late Professor Masaaki Aota by presenting an award to the best presentation(s) by young scientist(s). Candidates must fulfill the following requirements:

- 1) The presenter is under 40 years of age.
- 2) The abstract must be published in the Proceedings of the International Symposium on the Okhotsk Sea & Polar Oceans.
- 3) Candidates have to attend the prize-awarding ceremony.

PROCEEDINGS

All participants can browse the summary of the presentations online (free) on PW during the conference.

PARTICIPATION FEE

General: 7,000-JPY. Students: 2,000-JPY.

Printed Proceedings: 5,000-JPY.

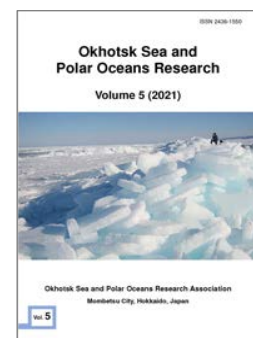
(The proceedings will be open on the website during the symposium period)

CALL FOR PAPERS (Peer reviewed article) --dead line, Mon., 11 November 2025

OSPOR (Okhotsk Sea and Polar Oceans Research, Vol. 10).

We are calling for submissions of the peer-reviewed article.

OSPORA is published by the Okhotsk Sea and Polar Oceans Research Association (OSPORA). Article paper manuscripts (Max6 pages, Camera-ready) are refereed by two reviewers, printed in proceedings, and published in the Symposium website as Okhotsk Sea and Polar Oceans Research (OSPORA), Vol. 10 (2026) with open access doi.



OSPORA

OTHER SYMPOSIUM ACTIVITIES at Mombetsu Cultural Center, etc.

Public Program:

- Forum, considering the Global Environment and Nature
- Our Home Okhotsk Sea
- Consideration of Winter Weather Disasters in the Okhotsk Region
- Symposium on the Forest-Ocean Linkage
- Symposium on Sea Ice for Children, Wonder of Sea ice
- The Okhotsk Terroir Symposium

Dinner party:

1. **Memorial Reception (Banquet)** : Sunday 15 February 5,000-JPY at Mombetsu Citizens' Hall

2. **Dinner Party with Volunteer Groups**: Tuesday 17 February 4,000-JPY at Mombetsu Central Hotel

FIELD STUDY (Excursion) --- Thursday 19 Feb. -Friday 20 Feb. Field study trip around Mombetsu

Accommodation : Saromako Yurinkan (Saroma Lakeside), Fee: 20,000-JPY

*Minimum number of participants: 5 ---The trip will be canceled if there are fewer than 5 participants.

TRANSPORTATION TO MOMBETSU

- From Tokyo (Haneda) (1h 50m): 1 flight/day
- From Tokyo (Haneda) to Mombetsu (1h 50 m: 5 flights/day) and 2 hours by rental car
- From Sapporo (4h 40m): 3 buses/day

Executive Committee of Symposium:

Chairman: Natsuhiko Otsuka, Secretariat: Eriko Uematsu

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<http://okhotsk-mombetsu.jp/okhsympo/top-index.html>