

Next-Generation Fuel Cell Research Center

▶ <http://fc.kyushu-u.ac.jp>

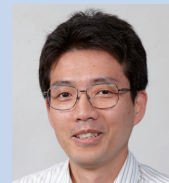
The solid oxide fuel cell (SOFC) is the most efficient of all fuel cells that can be used for clean and highly efficient energy generation systems, and is attracting attention as a revolutionary solution for energy problems and global warming. Despite this, there are various challenges that need to be overcome before we can realize full-fledged commercialization of SOFC and other next-generation fuel cells, challenges that will require improvements in durability, reliability and performance. This center was established to create a fast-track to overcoming those challenges, as a joint industry-academia research hub that will realize development and early commercialization of next-generation fuel cells. This will be done in close cooperation between Kyushu University, which is intensively engaged in fuel cell research, and various developing companies. (As of January 1, 2012)



Director
Kazunari SASAKI



Deputy Director
Tatsumi ISHIHARA

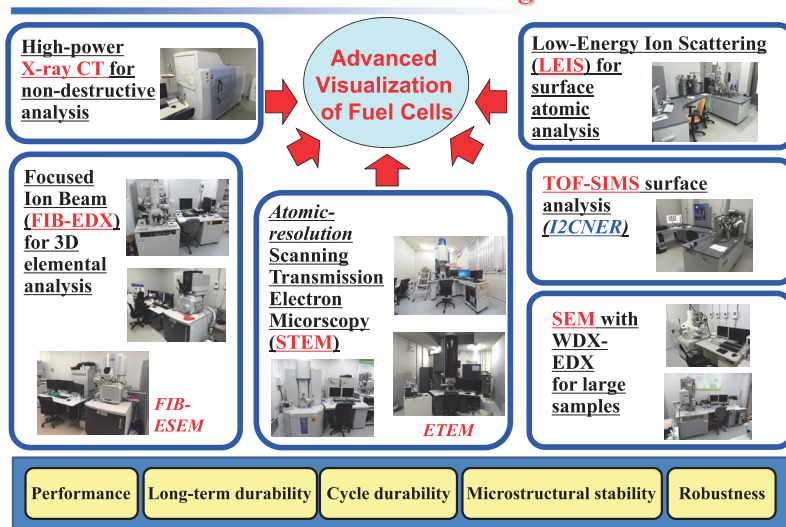


Deputy Director
Shunsuke TANIGUCHI

[Functions of the Center]

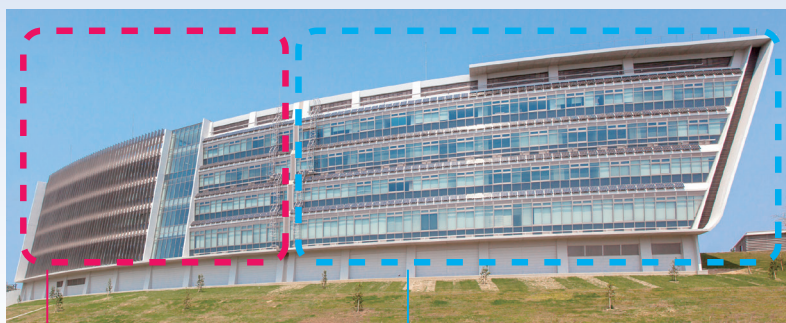
- The preparation of rooms for researchers and laboratories that can be used as industrial research sub-offices (with already established security controls).
- The provision of state-of-the-art analyzing equipment to enable the “visualization” of fuel cells on atomic and nano levels in a nondestructive way.
- The provision of one-stop solutions, from basic research, improvement in durability and reliability, expansion of applicability, and systems technology development to troubleshooting.
- The implementation of joint research with management of confidentiality protection and intellectual property rights, offering opportunities for joint research with multiple researchers from Kyushu University.
- Making opportunities available for technological exchange between participating corporations, aimed at public project proposals.
- The offering of technology workshops for researchers and technicians from participating corporations, and support for working people who seek to obtain doctorate degrees.
- The provision of opportunities to participate in basic research projects with researchers overseas.
Support for the establishment of a global network that anticipates future business operations abroad, and the securing of professional personnel abroad.
- Identifying the needs of the industrial community, and reflecting those needs in the management policy of the center, as decided by the Center Council, which will consist of executives from major participating corporations, policy makers from the national and local governments and key faculty members of Kyushu University.
- Prioritizing the handling of various support measures based on the “Green Asia International Strategic Comprehensive Special Zone” program approved by the Cabinet Secretariat.

NEXT-FC: Facilities for visualizing fuel cells



[Center Building]

This center has been constructed as part of the “Next-Generation Fuel Cell Research Facility” project, proposed by Kyushu University and adopted by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry’s Innovation Center Establishment Assistance Program (Technology Bridge” development program). (As of June 30, 2011)



International Institute for Carbon-Neutral Energy Research

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