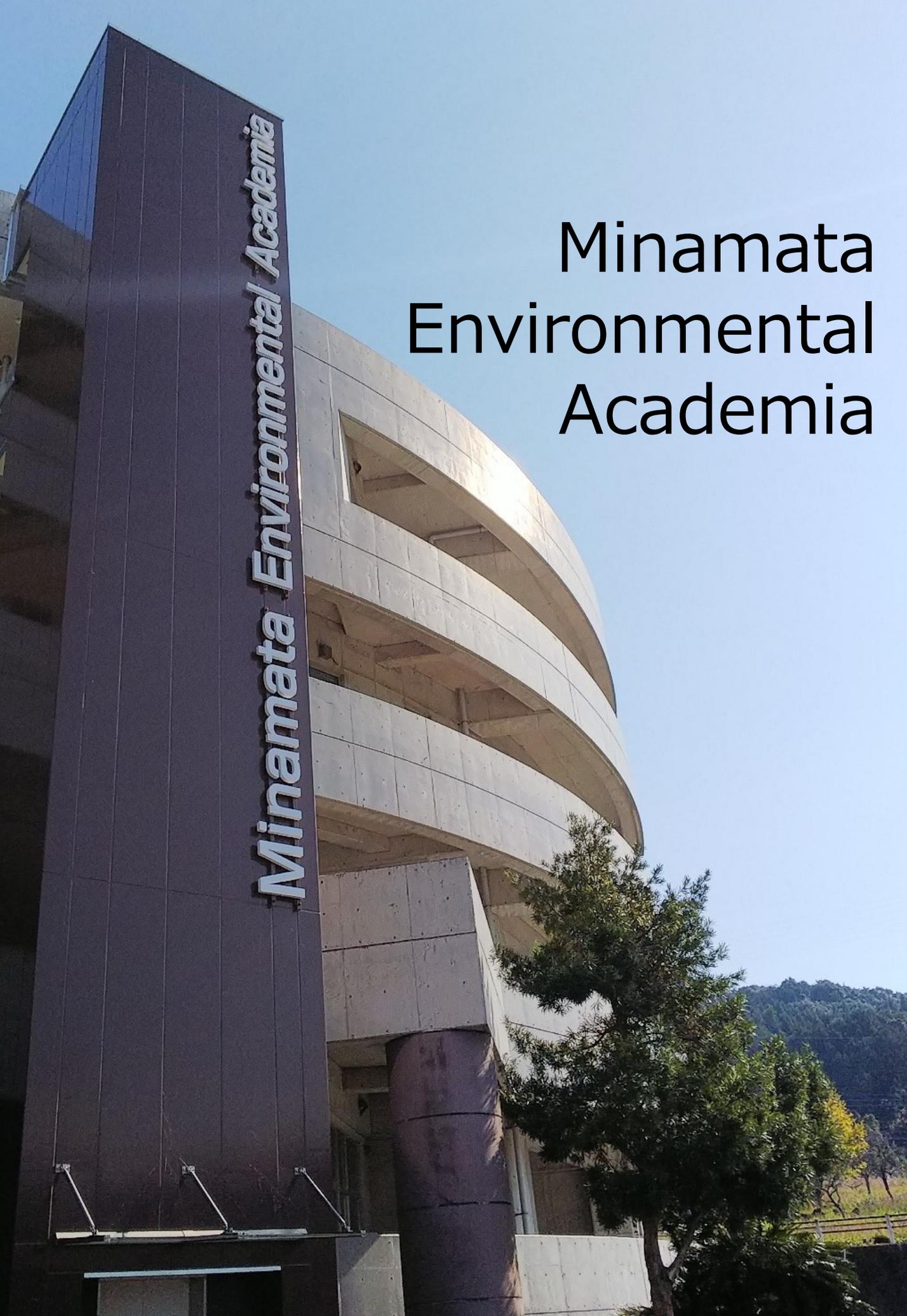


Minamata Environmental Academia

Minamata
Environmental
Academia



Foreword

From the 1970s onwards, the possibility of establishing a university in Minamata, or attracting a university to Minamata was considered. Within the 'Minamata Environmental City Development Study Group' set up in fiscal year 2010, the 'Education and Research Institution Subgroup' was established, and again the idea of establishing a university was considered. Following this, as part of the 'Environmental University and Environmental Learning Round Table Discussion' formed by citizens, university teachers, the national government and related organizations, as well as several members of the Minamata City Secretariat, the establishment of a higher education and research institution was continuously investigated, and this led to the 'Minamata Environmental Academia' being formed in April 2016.

The Minamata Environmental Academia is positioned to be 'the base point connecting Minamata local resources with the inside and outside of the region', and it acts as a coordinator to connect the Minamata region with people domestically and overseas. This means learning 'Minamata knowledge' – the knowledge, wisdom and lessons learned from the Minamata region – and conveying and considering its present day significance. At the same time, it means creating new value for the next generation by proactively accepting new ways of thinking and new initiatives.

In terms of specific projects, the Minamata Environmental Academia has provided opportunities such as symposium and citizen open lectures for local residents to encounter new 'knowledge', hosted training for domestic and international participants, and conducted remote lectures. These projects develop capable people who will bear the next generation, and visits by a variety of capable people create entry points for exchanges. Additionally, as part of training, we are endeavoring to convey information both domestically and abroad about environmental technologies possessed by enterprises within Minamata City, by incorporating the observations of these enterprises and by conducting meetings to exchange ideas with participants of training aimed at achieving shifts in technology. I firmly believe that the accumulation of these initiatives revitalizes the region and will lead to the formation of a sustainable community.

We will continue to promote the initiatives of the Minamata Environmental Academia based on the concepts presented in the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) advocated by the U.N., moving towards the realization of a sustainable community. We sincerely hope for your support and cooperation.

Toshiharu Takaoka
Mayor of Minamata City
March 2019

Until now in the Minamata region, a wide range of activities that concern the environment, including projects, learning and research, have been promoted by government, educational institutions, industry and citizen groups. Lately, not only within Kyushu, but also from various locations all over Japan, the numbers of university students, graduate students and foreign students who learn about the environment in Minamata are increasing. After deepening the learning they do in Minamata, they have an increasing desire to make use of this learning in future regional development and to apply it to the creation of communities.

We believe that the Minamata Environmental Academia's main mission is to play a role as a learning institution that facilitates the development of capable people that will bear the future of the community. Various activities and initiatives that have developed in the Minamata region thus far have been systemized, and we have constructed a place to broadly provide interdisciplinary 'learning' to domestic and international students, graduate students, officials of administrative organs, environment-related technicians and so on.

Based on an outlook that is focused on the future, the Minamata Environmental Academia provides a wide range of people with a shared 'thinking space' to consider things such as their lifestyle and how their communities should be. Additionally, through engaging in dialogues and discussions with a variety of people transcending generation and standpoint, we can devise new policies that lead to the sustainable development of communities, and function as an 'implementation place' where these policies are put into practice.

The Minamata Environmental Academia acts as a transmission point for information concerning the development and dissemination of environmental technologies. Additionally, it acts as a place to not only learn about environmental management policy and administrative policy, but (amidst limited local resources) it also focuses on both mutual contribution of wisdom and knowledge as well as cooperation through exchanges between many people, so as to practically apply individual personalities and strengths. Our aim is that through this kind of collaboration, various skills and technology that the region has cultivated can be passed on to the next generation, and new value can be created, which will create an even wider 'circle' of people locally, nationally and also globally.

I hope for your further support and active participation in our activities.

Minoru Koga
Director
Minamata Environmental Academia
March 2019

The Minamata Environmental Academia Ideal

With ‘knowledge’ as a base for cooperation, we connect ‘Minamata knowledge’ with domestic and international ‘knowledge’. Through higher education and research activities, as well as through industry – school – government – citizen collaboration, we create new ‘knowledge’ and disseminate solutions to a range of issues that the world faces.

Regional Contribution

- Focusing on local residents, we develop capable people who are able to think for themselves and learn for themselves without being caught up in preconceived notions, through providing opportunities to encounter outside ‘knowledge’.
- By connecting regional needs with outside knowledge such as from domestic and international students and researchers, and by promoting research activities, we suggest specific ideas and techniques in order to solve regional issues.
- Through various types of projects, we promote Minamata regional education and research activities, city development and job creation, as well as to contribute to the realization of a sustainable community.

Global Contribution

- We summarize the Minamata region’s knowledge, wisdom and learned lessons learned and disseminate solutions for the realization of a sustainable community to the world.
- We actively accept people such as students and researchers that make the Minamata region their research field, and make proposals in order to connect research themes to Minamata regional issues.
- We actively attract educational activities in order to practically apply the Minamata region’s resources (such as human resources and environmental, cultural and industrial resources) to developing capable people who will bear the next generation.

Minamata Environmental Academia Projects

Cooperation with the Community

Citizen Open Lectures

As part of a project to develop capable people and with the aim of providing learning opportunities to citizens, we hold lectures on themes that will be relevant to and useful for residents' lives in cooperation with several universities, researchers and so on.

We conduct lectures on a wide variety of subjects such as the environment, health, dietary education and agriculture. At the lectures, participants don't only listen to a talk - a workshop is held so that those in attendance are actively participating.



In a lecture by high school teachers from Idrija City, the Republic of Slovenia, whose mercury mine was formerly the world's second largest producer of mercury, we learned about the past and present of Idrija's mercury mine.



In this class, participants learned about infant food and undertook cooking practicals. Some parents and children also participated together.



- Lectures conducted thus far (as of March 2019) include:
- A way of living that's more environmentally friendly – reconsidering our lifestyle using an eco diary*
- Making the first move to beat lifestyle-related disease – taming an intimidating condition
- Making use of geothermal heat
- Searching for the key to creating a sustainably happy region
- Minamata City and Keio University collaborative activities
- On better health using dietary indices – is there a short cut to better health, or not?
- Children's' diets and effective dietary education
- Anger management
- Home appliance recycling and the resource circulation
- Visual control of one's lifestyle with the practical use of an eco diary
- Idrija's mercury mine – past and present
- Safe, secure and sumptuous vegetables
- Breezy breakfasts for cheerful children – just add three!
- Sports club management
- Children's physical growth and development and training during junior years

*Eco diary – A Minamata City initiative to track the amount of carbon dioxide emitted by households through the keeping of a record each month of monthly electricity and gas usage etc.

Junior Science Seminar



Aimed at elementary and junior high school students who will bear the future of the Environmental Model City of Minamata, experiments and practicals are conducted under the guidance of university professors and researchers, and these are even more specialized than the environmental study undertaken by students at various schools. Through these activities we aim to broaden knowledge.

Held every year during the summer holidays, views expressed by children who participate include that they would like to apply the knowledge to free research on summer vacation, and that they would like to find out more about what they learned in the seminar.

Minamata Environmental Academia Projects

Cooperation with the Community

Minamata Environmental Academia Symposium



We hold symposium for local residents, government staff etc. with the aim of broadly providing opportunities to come into contact with new knowledge.

At the symposium, keynote lectures by well-known lecturers and panel discussions by panelists from various fields are conducted. We provide opportunities for local residents to learn about ways of making a sustainable community based on the concepts presented in the SDGs.

A Structure to Support Minamata High School by Means of a Triangular Partnership



A partnership has been signed between Minamata City, Minamata High School and the National Institute for Minamata Disease (NIMD) regarding joint cooperation in order to support the activities of Minamata High School.

Minamata City and NIMD collaborate to fully support various types of research presentations from Minamata High School as part of the school's activities, as well as the development of the next generation of world-class talent.

Remote Lectures



We conduct remote lectures using a teleconference system. Thus far, remote lectures between various parties have been conducted, such as between Minamata High School and Keio University, Minamata City and Keio University, and Taiwan's Nan Jeon University of Science and Technology and Minamata City.

Through these remote lectures, we are disseminating the Minamata region's knowledge, wisdom and lessons learned far and wide.

In the future, we are planning activities such as remote workshops with overseas universities and local high school students.

Industry – School – Government - Citizen Collaboration

'Mokuiku' (Wood Learning) Workshop



We provide opportunities to participate in workshops to learn about how to build a sustainable region through activities such as forest conservation. Using local timber as the core material, these workshops create industry - school - government – citizen connections while supporting Minamata High School's research activities.

Minamata High School students make wooden furniture with the cooperation of the Minamata Regional Fixtures and Fittings Association after receiving a lecture from an expert, and the wooden furniture produced is then donated to the Minamata Environmental Academia.

Minamata Environmental Academia Projects

Training program

Ministry of the Environment National Environmental Research and Training Institute - Minamata Training



One part of the functions of the Ministry of the Environment National Environmental Research and Training Institute was moved, and the Minamata Environmental Academia is now the Ministry of the Environment National Environmental Research and Training Institute - Minamata Training Program Secretariat. As a core institution to develop capable people involved in the conservation of Japan's environment, we are endeavoring to implement training related to a variety of types of environmental conservation.

As part of this training, we are hosting events such as workshops by Ministry of the Environment staff and Minamata City staff.

JICA Tanzania Trainees - Minamata Training



We hosted 'JICA Kansai Tanzania Trainees - Minamata Training'. For this training, Tanzanian government officials visited Minamata and learned about Minamata's initiatives.

Field work, a study tour of garbage sorting and collection by local residents, an exchange with Minamata High School (exchanging information about initiatives and a discussion) were conducted as part of the training.

Fieldwork by Keio University and Universities of ASEAN Countries



We host training whereby Keio University and exchange students from universities of ASEAN countries visit Minamata City with the aim of learning about Minamata's past and present, as well as thinking about future regional development of an environmentally symbiotic model.

In this training, workshops with Minamata High School, fieldwork within Minamata City, lectures at the Academia as well as a forum to announce outcomes are conducted.

Various Joint Partnerships

To promote 'knowledge' partnerships, create new value and aim for both the development of city planning and the implementation of education and research activities, we have signed partnership agreements and MOU (memorandums of understanding) with both domestic and international universities as well as research institutions. Through these partnerships we are conducting activities such as hosting training.

Partners

- Prefectural University of Kumamoto
- Kumamoto University
- Sojo University
- National Institute for Minamata Disease
- Toyo University (Research Centre for Life and Environmental Sciences)
- Keio University (Faculty of Environment and Information Studies, Faculty of Policy Management and Graduate School of Media and Governance)
- Kyushu University Urban Research Centre
- Nan Jeon University of Science and Technology (Taiwan)
- National Taipei University of Technology (Taiwan)
- Minamata High School (Triangular Agreement with Minamata City and the National Institute for Minamata Disease)

Additionally, we are hosting various types of training for participants both domestically and abroad, accepting internship students from Vietnam Japan University, hosting 'Sophia University Minamata Training' and so on.

Minamata Environmental Academia Projects

International Contribution Projects

Sakura Science Plan - Minamata Training



As a project commissioned by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), youth from Asia are invited to Minamata, where we conduct training over approximately ten days on the theme of thinking about sustainable communities. They come to understand lessons to be learned from Minamata, as well as the current situation and issues in the region.

As part of this training, participants learn through fieldwork about initiatives by capable local people that consider the environment. There is an intercultural exchange at an elementary school, as well as activities such as a homestay and lunch meeting, with the aim of having participants interact with local residents.

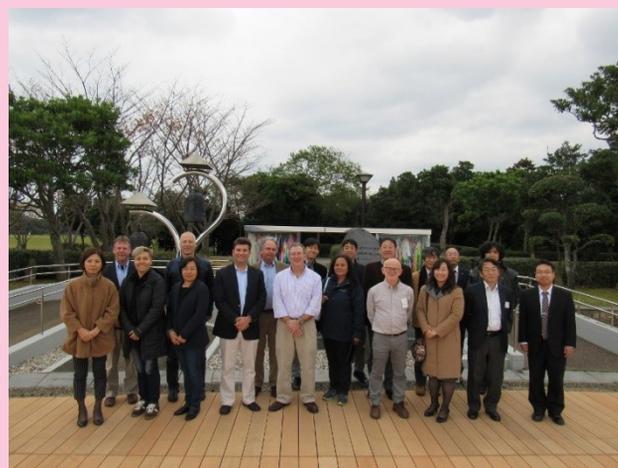
Contribution to the Minamata Convention



Since the adoption of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, many projects have been implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment and others. The 'Minamata Convention Health Sector WHO Workshop' and 'Indonesia Trainees ASGM (Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining) Training' are examples of events that have been held thus far. Additionally, we cooperated in the creation of booth display items (including a photo report and a video message) set up by the Ministry of the Environment in the vicinity of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Minamata Convention venue.

Further collaborations centered around the Minamata Environmental Academia are planned for the future.

Asia-Pacific Expert Workshop on Continuous Atmospheric Mercury Monitoring



We hosted a workshop promoted by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the National Institute for Environmental Studies Japan.

This is the first attempt at constructing a network of experts concerning automated continuous monitoring of mercury in the atmosphere in the Asia-Pacific region. A discussion was held with a view towards standardization of an atmospheric mercury measurement method, and the outcome was announced at the 13th International Convention on Mercury.

Cooperation with U.N. Agencies



We implemented projects in cooperation with U.N. agencies. Organized by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), a workshop was held concerning lessons learned from the Minamata Initial Assessment in Asia.

Additionally, organized by the Ministry of the Environment and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and targeted at embassy staff and others from developing countries, an observation program was implemented with the aim of promoting Japanese investment in developing countries as well as promoting shifts in technology.

Use of the Minamata Environmental Academia

The Minamata Environmental Academia aims to develop the next generation of capable people through the promotion of collaborations between industry, school, government and citizens, as well as to revitalize the region based on the Academia's 'ideal' as detailed on page 3.

Thus far, in addition to projects organized by the Minamata Environmental Academia, collaborative projects between industry, school, government and citizens by various organizations have also been conducted as detailed on page 9.

By making person to person connections inside and outside of the Minamata region, not only do specific ideas for solutions to regional issues result, but this can also lead to the creation of a sustainable community.

In order to achieve the above objectives, when the national government, prefecture, city and higher education and research institutions such as universities implement their projects at the Minamata Environmental Academia, we reduce or exempt the facility usage fees.

Please consider making use of the Minamata Environmental Academia when planning these kinds of projects in the Minamata region by following the procedure below.

Procedure for use

1. Consider the project plan
2. Make adjustments with the section in charge of the project
3. Submit the project application form and reduction/exemption form
4. Implement the project

Please download the project application form and the reduction/exemption application form from the website below.

■ The Minamata Environmental Academia website
<https://www.city.minamata.lg.jp/list01147.html>

Projects Held at the Minamata Environmental Academia through Collaborations with Industry, School, Government and Citizens

Come and Try the 'Disaster Prevention Crossroad Game'



In December 2018, the Kumamoto Prefectural University Regional Cooperation and Research Promotion Centre organized a Kumamoto Prefectural University CPD Program, 'Learning about City Planning that Starts with Disaster Prevention and Disaster Reduction - Come and Try the Disaster Prevention Crossroad Game'. This is a game that allows you to experience disaster prevention in the form of a card game created based on the real opinions of people affected by the Great Hanshin Earthquake. As part of this project, Kumamoto Prefectural University and Minamata High School cooperated to conduct activities such as a workshop whereby participants learn about disaster prevention and disaster reduction while making use of their experiences of the Kumamoto earthquake.

Kumamoto Tech Planter Meet-up



In November 2017, the 'Kumamoto Tech Planter Meet-up' was held. 'Kumamoto Tech Planter' is a business start-up support program that aims to discover and develop young entrepreneurs to lead to the creation of growth industries, such as environmental symbiotic model industries. This project was held with the aim of enabling both skilled venture enterprises and researchers to meet up with local business people and think together about how to practically apply skills to problems in the region.

Original Fairytale Workshop



In fiscal year 2017 and 2018, Minamata Public Library held 'Original Fairytale' workshops. This workshop is aimed at Minamata City elementary and junior high school students, and aims to develop their ability to create original stories. The workshops are conducted with a fairytale author as a visiting teacher. The participants tried their hand at creating an original story.

Local Business Summit



In fiscal year 2016 and 2017, a 'Local Business Summit' was held. This project was held with the aim of thinking about sustainable businesses that communities and future generations can be pleased with, and how regional economies should be. It also aimed to increase both numbers of people implementing businesses that locals want to support, as well as numbers of people who understand the importance of this. At the summit, there were keynote lectures by experienced business people from outside Minamata City as well as presentations on business ideas by business people based in Minamata City.

Minamata Environmental Academia Facility Outline

Opening hours: 9am to 7pm

Closed: Saturday, Sunday and public holidays, as well as New Year holidays (29th December to 3rd January)

Facility Usage Fees

	Area	Size (m ²)	Usage fee (per hour)	Usage fee (per day)
1 st floor	Lounge	118	620 yen	-
	Hall	84	410 yen	-
2 nd floor	Hall	84	410 yen	-
	Cooking room	40	410 yen	-
	Break room 1	20	110 yen	-
	Break room 2	22	110 yen	-
3 rd floor	Research space	140(around 36 seats)	620 yen	4,960 yen
	Research space (Compartment)	4	110 yen	2,080 yen
	Laboratory	55	260 yen	2,080 yen
4 th floor	Seminar room 1	42 (around 12 seats)	210 yen	1,680 yen
	Seminar room 2	45 (around 21 seats)	210 yen	1,680 yen
	Seminar room 3	123 (if using desks: around 54 seats. Seats only: around 100 seats)	620 yen	4,960 yen

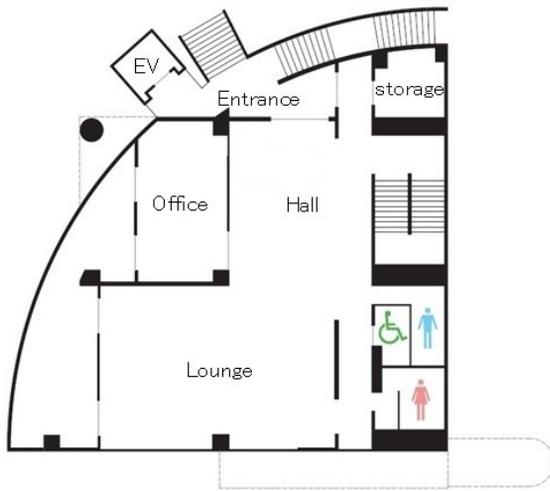
Equipment Usage Fee

	Item	Usage fee (per use)
2 nd floor	Shower room	110 yen
3 rd floor	Draft chamber	1,020 yen
	Broadcasting equipment (one set)	510 yen
	Computer equipment (one set)	510 yen
	Projector (one set)	510 yen
	Television Monitor	510 yen

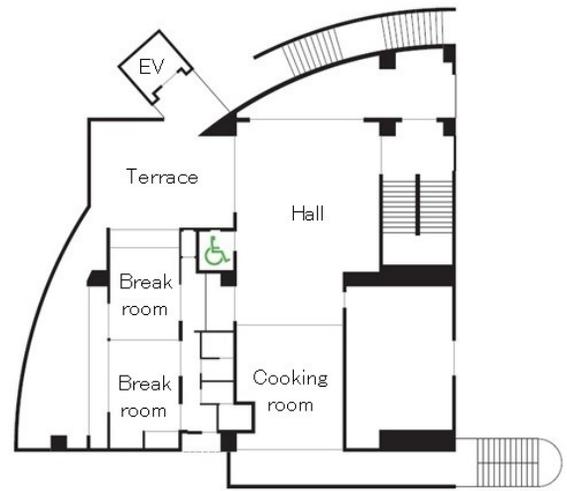
When using the shower room, please prepare your own items such as a towel and soap.

Heating and cooling fees

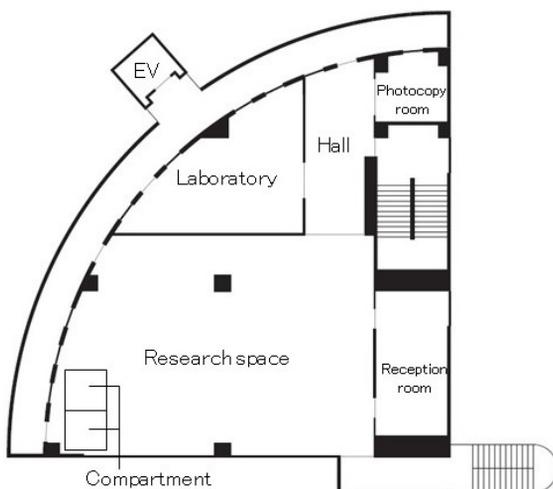
Item	Usage fee (per hour)
Heating and cooling	310 yen



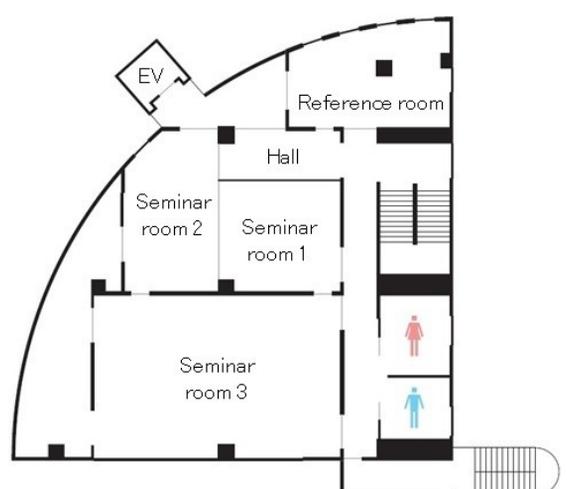
1F



2F



3F



4F

Access

• From Tokyo

Haneda Airport (around 2 hours by plane) → Fukuoka Airport (around 5 minutes by subway) → Hakata Station (around 70 minutes by Shinkansen) → Shin-Minamata Station (around 5 minutes by taxi) → Minamata Environmental Academia

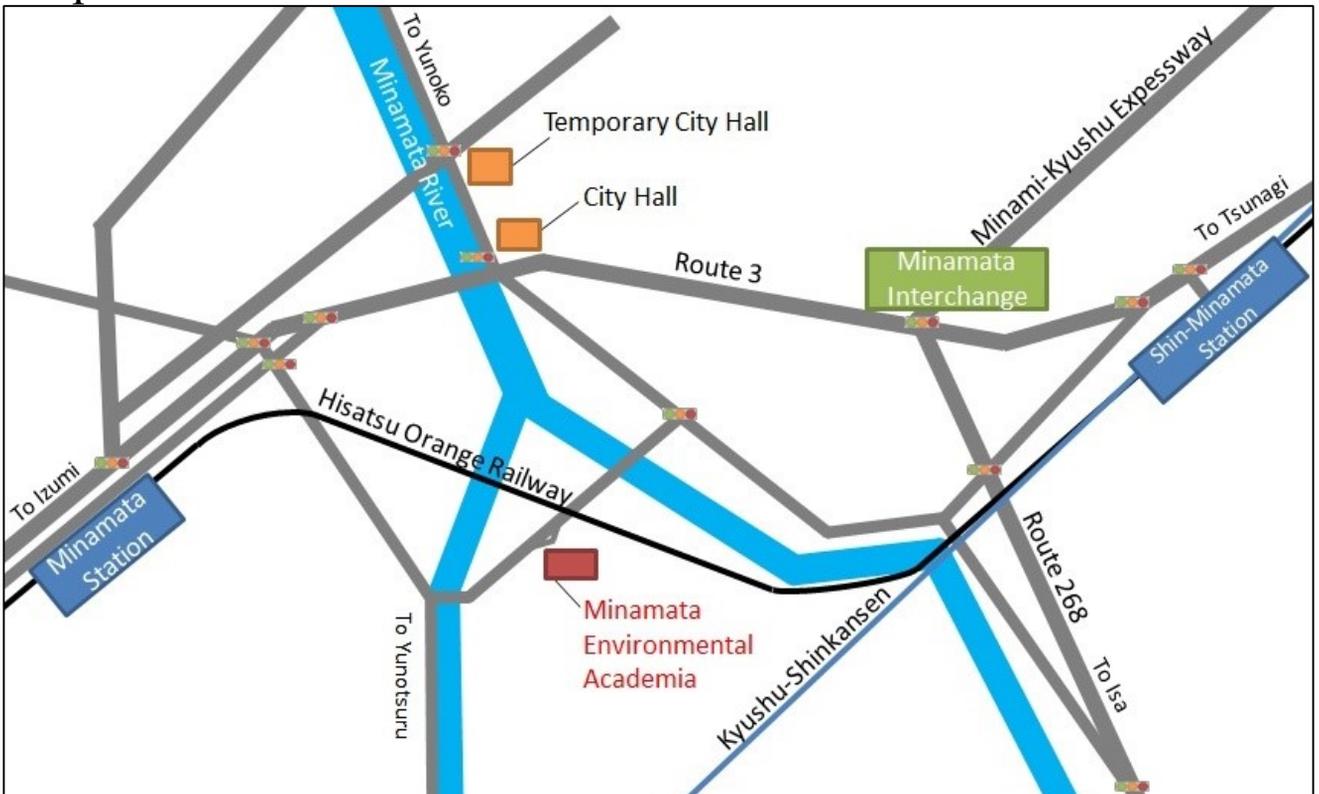
• From Osaka

Shin-Osaka Station (around 3 hours and 50 minutes by Shinkansen) → Shin-Minamata Station (around 5 minutes by taxi) → Minamata Environmental Academia

• By car

Around 5 minutes from the Minamata Interchange on the Minami-Kyushu Expressway (west circuit).

Map of surrounds



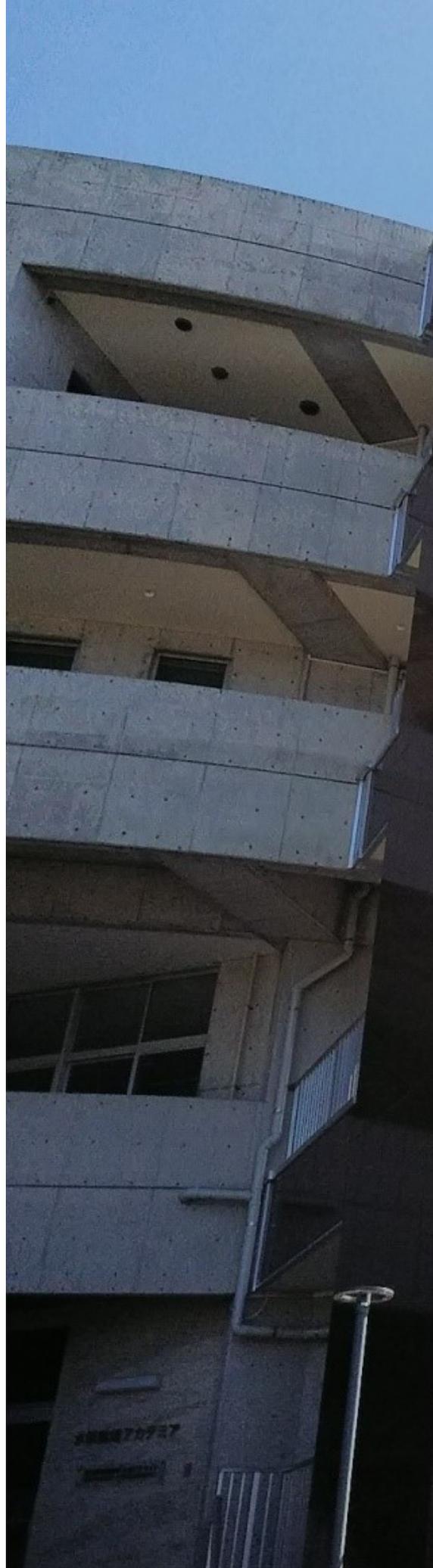
1st floor - Lounge



3rd floor - Research space



4th floor - Seminar room 3



Contact

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