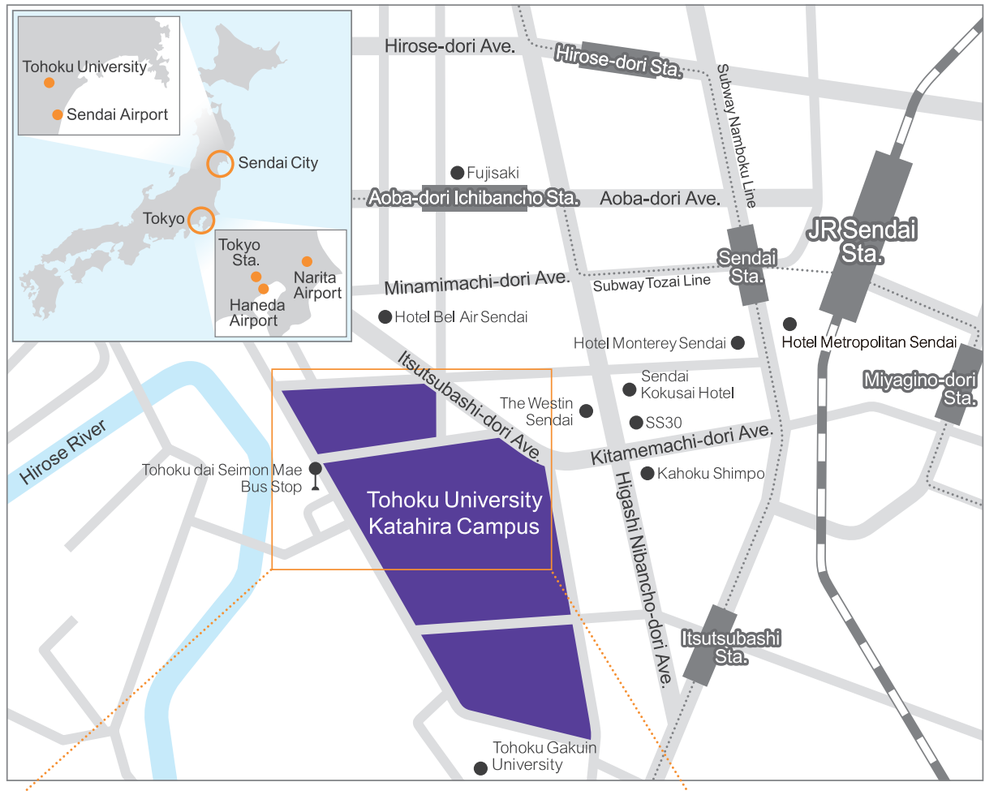
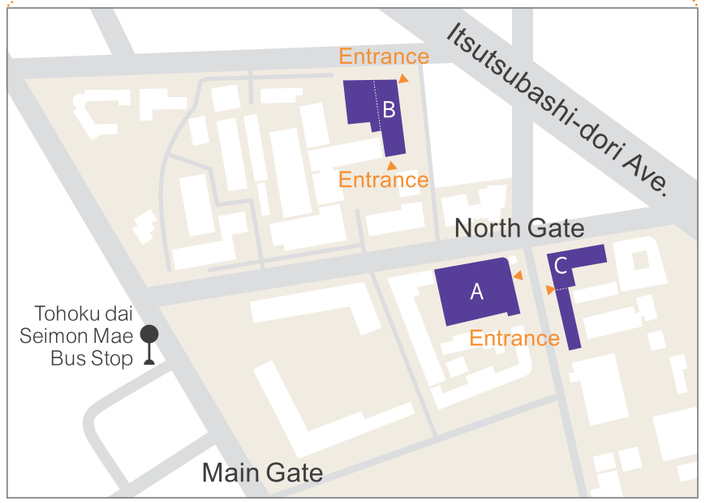




A AIMR Main Building
B AIMR Laboratory Building
C AIMR Annex Building

- **On foot**
  About 15 mins walk from the West Exit of Sendai Sta.
- **By subway**
  Take the Tozai Line from Sendai Sta. to Aoba-dori Ichibancho Sta., or take the Namboku Line from Sendai Sta. to Itsutsubashi Sta. Walk from either of the stations to Katahira Campus about 10 mins.
- **By taxi**
  About 10 mins by taxi from Sendai Sta. to the North Gate of Katahira Campus.
- **By bus**
  Take a city bus bound for either Yagiyama-Dobutsu-Koen, Midorigaoka-3-chome or Nishi-Koukou-Iriguchi via Otamaya-bashi at Sendai Sta. and get off at Tohoku-dai-Seimon-Mae.

Strategic Public Relations Office
Advanced Institute for Materials Research (AIMR), Tohoku University
2-1-1 Katahira, Aoba-ku, Sendai, 980-8577 Japan
Phone. +81-22-217-6146 Mail. aimr-outreach@grp.tohoku.ac.jp

2026.04

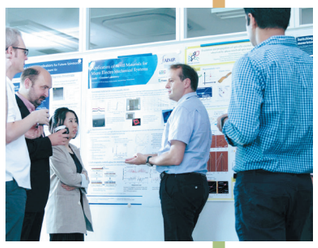
AIMR

Advanced Institute for Materials Research, Tohoku University

Materials Physics

Mathematical Science

Non-equilibrium Materials



Devices/Systems

Bringing Advanced Materials Science to the World

Soft Materials

TOHOKU UNIVERSITY

wpi

AIMR

Overview of AIMR

The Advanced Institute for Materials Research (AIMR) at Tohoku University was launched as one of the centers established by the World Premier International Research Center Initiative (WPI) with the support of the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), aimed at developing world-class research bases in Japan. After its establishment in 2007, AIMR has advanced the WPI's four basic objectives: advancing top-level research, creating interdisciplinary domains, establishing international research environments, and reforming research organizations. As a result, it has established a research center for materials science that attracts outstanding researchers from all over the world. In 2017, AIMR became a member of the WPI Academy. It has maintained world-class research standards as it promotes efforts to accelerate and expand the global circulation of the world's best brains.

Main Characteristics

- Collaboration between materials science and mathematics at the research institute level, which is the first such attempt in the world
- An international research environment with researchers coming from around the world; over 50 percent of the researchers are from overseas
- Comprehensive English language support, including for administrative procedures
- Provision of an ideal research environment in all areas, including research equipment and grants

Message from the Director

Without materials, our society cannot function. Metals, semiconductors, ceramics, polymers, and various other materials are utilized in all contemporary technological domains including energy, ICT, medicine, healthcare, and high-speed transport. In fact, many technological fields have developed together with the invention of high-performance materials. Promoting materials science as an academic platform will continue to be essential to accelerate this materials creation.

The Advanced Institute for Materials Research (AIMR) was established in 2007 with support from the World Premier International Research Center Initiative (WPI) as a center to bring together world-class researchers in physics, chemistry, and other fields in addition to materials science. Since then, we have integrated mathematics in order to discover common universal principles among different materials systems, and AIMR has greatly contributed to the development of the field of materials science including the establishment of "materials science based on predictions." From 2024, AIMR launched the "3 Fields × 3 Tops" Strategy, established the three priority research fields of Quantum/Spin Materials, Soft/Bio Materials, and Energy Materials (3 Fields), and is advancing cutting-edge Top Science, Top Innovation to create value for society, and Top Fusion aimed at bold integration across disciplines (3 Tops). Moreover, we are pursuing high-level application of advanced metrology, AI, robotics, and other technologies in collaboration with NanoTerasu as a "Math-driven Research Asset" to accelerate this 3 × 3 Strategy and expanding our research organization and research infrastructure for that purpose.

Tohoku University was officially accredited as a University for International Research Excellence in 2024, and it is advancing initiatives focused not only on the promotion of individual research but also on diverse systemic reforms that enable the University to grow as part of the world's leading institutions. Amid these efforts the roles played by AIMR have greatly increased centered on "Campus for Aspiring Minds" and "Full-Scale Global Readiness." The specific goals set forth – increasing the ratios of international researchers, female and young researchers, and staff with international expertise – are precisely the initiatives AIMR has been promoting since its foundation. I am confident that we can feed that experience back to the University and achieve internationalization and strengthened research capabilities across the University. AIMR will continue to steadily move forward as an institute that can lead Tohoku University as a University for International Research Excellence.

AIMR continues to boldly take on challenges transcending research fields, organizations, and national boundaries, striving to bring advanced materials science to the world. We deeply appreciate your continued support.

Shin-ichi ORIMO
Director
Advanced Institute for
Materials Research (AIMR)
Tohoku University

What's WPI

Research institutes that are recognized as key centers in their fields of research are found around the world. These include Bio-X in Stanford University and the MIT Media Lab (Massachusetts Institute of Technology). Talented and capable human resources flow continuously into these global bases, bringing about further development, and giving rise to a cycle of ideal feedback.

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) recognizes that the establishment of such global bases is vital to the future maintenance and improvement of science and technology standards in Japan. To that end, it initiated the World Premier International Research Center Initiative (WPI) in 2007. The research bases established under the WPI are known as "WPI centers." AIMR is one of the centers selected and established under its initiative.

研究者紹介 Research Groups

See the website for details.
(https://www.wpi-aimr.tohoku.ac.jp/en/research/researcher/)

Materials Physics Group

Leader

Takafumi Sato

- Topological insulators and semimetals
- Unconventional superconductors with high Tc
- 2D materials with a few layer thickness

Gerrit E. W. Bauer

- Theoretical solid state physics
- Spintronics and ferronics
- Nanomagnetism

Yong P. Chen

- 2D materials (including graphene)
- Topological quantum materials
- Spintronics, magnetism and superconductivity

Mehrdad Elyasi

- Quantum and nonlinear magnonics
- Magnetism and spintronics
- Many-body open quantum systems and quantum information

Yuichi Ikuhara

The University of Tokyo

- Atomic resolution scanning transmission electron microscopy
- Crystal interface and grain boundary
- Grain boundary geometry and mathematics

Yusuke Nomura

- Condensed Matter Theory, Quantum Many-Body Theory
- Computational Materials Science
- Machine Learning

Tomoki Ozawa

- Condensed matter theory of synthetic quantum matter
- Theory of atomic, molecular, and optical physics
- Universality of topological insulator physics

Eiji Saitoh

The University of Tokyo

- Spintronics
- Spin caloritronics
- Quantum AI

Qikun Xue

SUSTech /Tsinghua University

- 2D materials and superconductivity
- Heterojunctions
- Low energy consumption electronics

Non-equilibrium Materials Group

A. Lindsay Greer

University of Cambridge

- The Glassy State
- Phase-change kinetics
- Record-breaking mechanical properties

Toshiaki Kato

- Synthesis of atomically precise 1D and 2D materials
- Integrated-quantum device
- Highly-transparent and ultra-lightweight solar cell

Hyoung Seop Kim

Pohang University of Science and Technology

- High entropy alloys
- Metal additive manufacturing and heterostructuring
- Computing &AI for metal thermo-mechanical behaviors

Dmitri Louzguine

- Liquid structure, fragility and crystallization
- Structural rejuvenation
- Ultrahigh-strength and bio-materials

Soft Materials Group

Leader

Tadafumi Adschiri

- Supercritical hydrothermal reaction
- Nano-catalysts
- Process science for nanomaterials

Ayumi Hirano-Iwata

- Artificial cell membrane sensors
- Reconstitution of neuronal network
- Nano-bio hybrid devices

Reiko Oda

CNRS/ University of Bordeaux

- Chirality
- Colloid Chemistry
- Hierarchical structures, Nanomaterials

Thomas P. Russell

University of Massachusetts

- Interfacial assembly
- Structured liquids
- Wrinkling

Kazuo Takimiya

- Organic semiconductor
- Energy devices
- Molecular-crystal engineering

Device/System Group

Leader

Shigemi Mizukami

- Spintronics
- Ultrafast optics
- Terahertz wave

Shunsuke Fukami

- Functional spintronics material/device
- Electrical control of magnetization and its application
- Novel computing with spintronics

Michael Hirscher

Max Planck Institute for Solid State Research

- Hydrogen storage
- Porous materials
- Hydrogen isotope separation

Hiroshi Kakinuma

- Corrosion Science and Electrochemistry
- Hydrogen Embrittlement and Structural Materials
- Machine Learning

Rana Mohtadi

Toyota Research Institute of North America

- Energy storage and hydrogen
- Beyond Li-ion batteries
- Energy conversion

Hirotomo Nishihara

- Nanoporous materials with single-graphene walls
- Force-responsive porous materials
- Energy storage and conversion

Shin-ichi Orimo

- Hydrogen science
- Advanced hydrogen storage materials
- Superionic-/super-conductivities of complex hydrides

Tomohiro Otsuka

- Quantum devices
- Semiconductor and nanostructures
- Condensed matter low temperature physics

Yuji Sutou

- Phase transformation-type smart materials
- Polymorphic-change memory
- Lightweight alloys with functionality

Magda Titirici

Imperial College London

- Hydrothermal carbonization
- Electrospinning
- Sustainable energy materials

Hiroshi Yabu

- Biomimetic polymer materials
- Nanostructured particles
- Organic electrocatalysts

Miho Yamauchi

Kyushu University

- Nanomaterials
- Hydrogen induced nanofunctions
- Electrolysis

Xiao Zhang

- Carbon-based materials and Luminescent materials
- Energy and fuel
- Catalysis

Mathematical Science Group

Leader

Hiroshi Suito

- Mathematical modeling
- Simulation and visualization techniques
- Coupled problems in multi-physics

Hiroyasu Ando

- Mathematics for computation harvesting
- IoT Vehicle data analysis
- Energy and mobility network

Hayato Chiba

- Infinite dimensional dynamical systems and its applications
- Synchronization phenomena
- Time-delay differential equations

Kazutoshi Inoue

- Geometry of grain boudaries and dislocations
- Analysis of crystalline interfaces
- Nonlinear elastoplasticity

Motoko Kotani

RIKEN

- Discrete geometric analysis
- Topological phase
- Multiscale analysis

Hao Li

- Catalysis and materials theory
- Data science for materials design
- Computational methodology development

Chris J. Pickard

University of Cambridge

- Structure prediction
- Density functional theory
- Interfaces and grain boundaries

3 Fields × 3 Tops Strategy

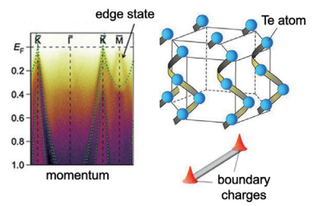
AIMR aims to contribute to society by building foundations for safe and fulfilling lives through innovation of scientific principles in materials science, creation of novel functional materials, and development of new devices.
To achieve our goal, AIMR has identified three key research fields: Quantum/Spin Materials, Soft/Bio Materials, and Energy Materials. We are conducting world-top-class research in each field, guided by our "3 Fields × 3 Tops" Strategy. This approach focuses on achieving Top Science, Top Fusion, and Top Innovation across all fields. In Top Science, we pursue world-leading cutting-edge scientific principles. Top Fusion aims to create innovative scientific principles by combining cutting-edge scientific principles across disciplines. In Top Innovation, we aim to address the challenges facing society by putting the innovative scientific principles generated through our research to practical use through start-ups and collaborations between industry and academia.
The research strategies for each field are on the right page.

Bringing Advanced Materials Science to the World

Field

Quantum/Spin Materials

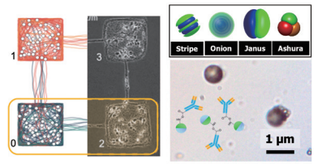
We will develop a new theoretical framework to understand topological phases and spin dynamics, and verify it using angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy (ARPES) and other advanced metrology techniques. By searching for new quantum spin materials and precisely controlling low-dimensional and multi-layered quantum structures, our research seeks to create highly efficient and innovative next-generation electronic and magnetic devices.



Field

Soft/Bio Materials

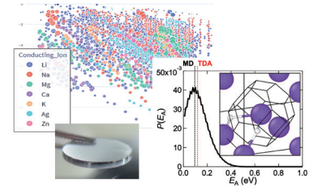
We will collaborate with mathematicians to obtain guiding principles for realizing various functions, such as virus detection and biocomputing from hierarchical structures built by self-organizing polymers and cultured neuronal cells. Our research aims to gain a cross-hierarchical understanding of the complex interactions seen in chiral materials, organic semiconductors, and metal oxide microparticles. Through this insight, we will develop materials with novel responsiveness.



Field

Energy Materials

We aim to realize precise control of light-element-based electrochemical catalysts and solid electrolytes through comprehensive materials search utilizing multimodal data assimilation and mathematical data analysis of ion dynamics. Combined with the development of three-dimensional carbon electrodes using interfaces and curved surface mathematics, we will expand the fundamental science of new energy devices for a low-carbon society.



Math-driven Research Asset

"Math-driven Research Asset" is what makes this "3 Fields × 3 Tops" Strategy possible. At AIMR, mathematics has functioned as a catalyst for connecting different fields within materials science through its power of abstraction, as well as linking materials science with society. Advanced Metrology, Computational Science, and Data Science reinforce this role of mathematics in terms of data acquisition, provision, and analysis.
At AIMR, mathematicians and materials scientists work together under one roof, creating "chemical reactions" between fields. This interdisciplinary approach is leading the way in advanced materials science.

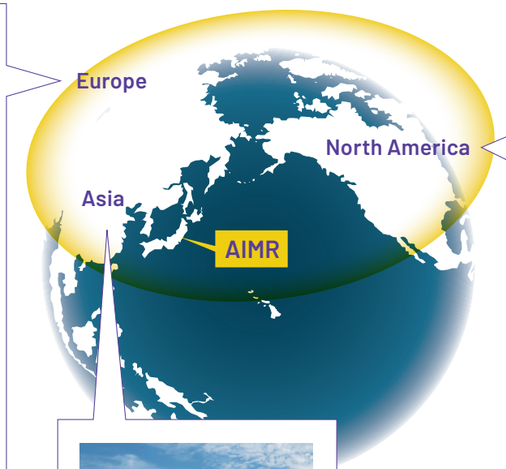
International Collaborations

Satellites and Partner Institutions

AIMR has concluded agreements with the four research institutes, which designate these institutes as Satellites for the implementation of bi-directional multidisciplinary exchange with AIMR. It has also utilized its network with the overseas PIs and adjunct professors to forge partnerships with frontline research institutions overseas, with the aim of conducting international joint research on materials science. There are currently nine international partner institutions.

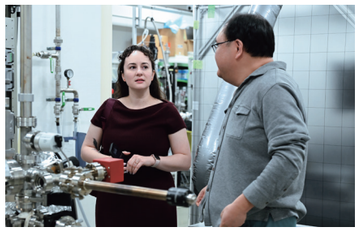
- **University of Cambridge**

- **Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology (Empa)**
- University of Nottingham
- Imperial College London
- Max Planck Institute for Solid State Research
- National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)
- University of Bordeaux



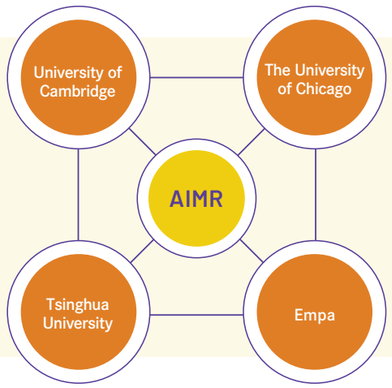
- **The University of Chicago**
- University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
- The University of Massachusetts Amherst

- **Tsinghua University**
- Pohang University of Science and Technology (POSTECH)
- Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech)



AIMR Joint Research Center

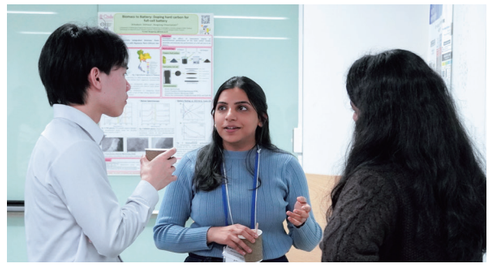
AIMR has established AIMR Joint Research Centers, which function as research spaces at the Satellite institutes. Through these centers, AIMR aims to develop a system that places a particular focus on the implementation of joint research conducted together with leading materials research institutes in Europe, North America and Asia.

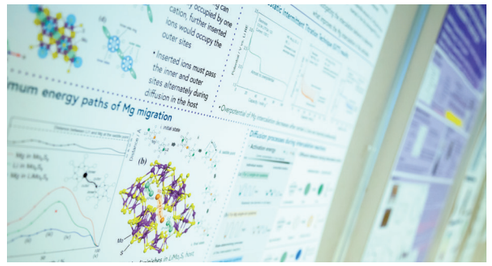


Fusion Research & Tea Time

Promotion of Fusion Research

AIMR has injected particular effort into initiatives aimed at advancing research that is not restricted by the boundaries of existing research fields. Fusion research is an important approach in the creation of new scientific principles. The institute takes the following measures to promote such research activities.





AIMR Fusion Research Proposal

Every year, AIMR researchers submit proposals for fusion research projects to be implemented within AIMR, The Director, Director of the Research Support Division, and respective Group Leaders review the proposals submitted, and the Director makes the decision on whether or not to adopt the proposals. Research grants are allocated to selected projects.

Friday Tea Time

Weekly held Friday Tea Time is where AIMR researchers and staff members can relax and talk freely while drinking coffee. Expectations of stimulating conversation may arise among the researchers and leading to new research.

AIMR Seminars

Seminars are presented by AIMR researchers and visiting scientists who provide a wide range of hot topics from materials science to mathematics. The aims of the AIMR Seminar are to build up mutual understanding, communication, and discussions of each other's research fields.

Top Innovation based on Basic Science

In promoting industry-academia collaboration, AIMR actively carries out joint research and commissioned research with research institutions and corporations at home and abroad. Below are sampling of projects that have been conducted.

Battery Industries

- Cathode materials for lithium-air batteries
- Synthetic processing of multicomponent substances for all-solid-state batteries

Hydrogen Industry

- Metal-based high-density hydrogen storage materials
- CO_2 emissions reduction: Novel chemical processes for hydrogen co-production

Semiconductor and Information Communication Industries

- New materials and measurement technologies for magnetoresistive non-volatile memory
- Photonic integrated circuits using synthetic dimensions and topological edge states

Resource Recycling Industry

- Highly efficient heat pump with natural refrigerants using nanoporous materials
- Chemical looping processes by low-temperature hydrocarbon reforming

Co-creation Research Center

The Co-creation Research Center is a liaison point between the university and companies that was established in the university and provides cross-departmental access to university researchers, knowledge, and facilities. This enables the planning and promotion of joint research, human resource development, and the promotion of a variety of collaborative activities, including partnerships with university-launched ventures.

SMM × Tohoku University
GX Materials Science Co-Creation Research Center

AZUL Energy x Tohoku University
Bio-Inspired Emergence GX Co-Creation Center

Open Innovation Center

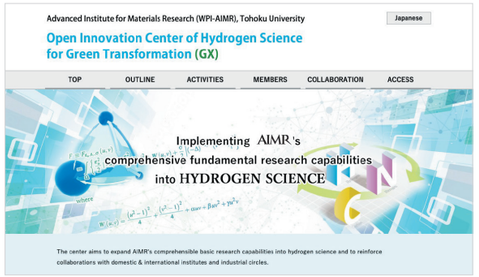
AIMR has an Open Innovation Center with the aim of applying and expanding AIMR's research achievements in industrial fields.

Center of Mathematical Sciences for Open Innovation

For inquiries on how to leverage in industrial fields the leading-edge mathematical science accomplishments of AIMR, contact the **Center of Mathematical Sciences for Open Innovation** (email math_oi_info@grp.tohoku.ac.jp).

Mathematical Sciences, AIMR Search

https://www.wpi-aimr.tohoku.ac.jp/cmsoi/



Open Innovation Center of Hydrogen Science for Green Transformation (GX)

For information on the industrial applications of hydrogen science and related GX research, contact the **Open Innovation Center of Hydrogen Science for Green Transformation (GX)**

Hydrogen Science, AIMR Search

https://www.wpi-aimr.tohoku.ac.jp/oic-hydrogen/index-e.html

To search for Tohoku University seeds or learn more about opportunities for collaboration with researchers, contact the **Industrial Liaison Division of the Head Office of Enterprise Partnerships, Tohoku University.**

RPIP, Tohoku University Search

https://www.rpip.tohoku.ac.jp/en/

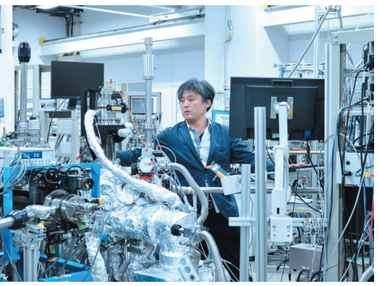
G-RIPS (Graduate-level Research in Industrial Projects for Students) Sendai

The G-RIPS (Graduate-level Research in Industrial Projects for Students) Sendai is held at AIMR. The event has been sponsored by industrial partners such as Toyota Motor, Fujitsu, NEC, Mitsubishi Electric, and IHI corporations. The program, originally initiated by IPAM (Institute for Pure & Applied Mathematics), UCLA in the United States, has been running since 2001 and was held in Japan for the first time in 2018. The aim of this project is to bring together the next generation of young research leaders, foster industry-academia collaboration and strengthen cross-cultural exchange. The eight-week program offers graduate students in mathematics and related disciplines the opportunity to work on industry-partnered research problems. Students from Japan and overseas work on cross-cultural teams on research problems designed by the industrial partners, and present the results of their work in a final report. The projects offer a stimulating challenge, and involve both analytic and computational skills.

Support System

World Class Research Environment and the Support System for Researchers

AIMR is proud of its full-scale support for its researchers so that they can concentrate on one's research using equipment at a world class facility. Also, since the majority of researchers at AIMR are young researchers under 40, various systems are formalized as a means to enhance support for their activities.



Support for International Researchers

Extensive and unique support is provided to international researchers at AIMR, i.e., various employment procedures necessary before and after their arrival in Japan, arrangements of Japanese language classes for the researcher and family, orientations, and rental goods. The main building of AIMR has a superb environment for international researchers with living quarters and speaking English as the official language to meet global standards.

Common Equipment Room

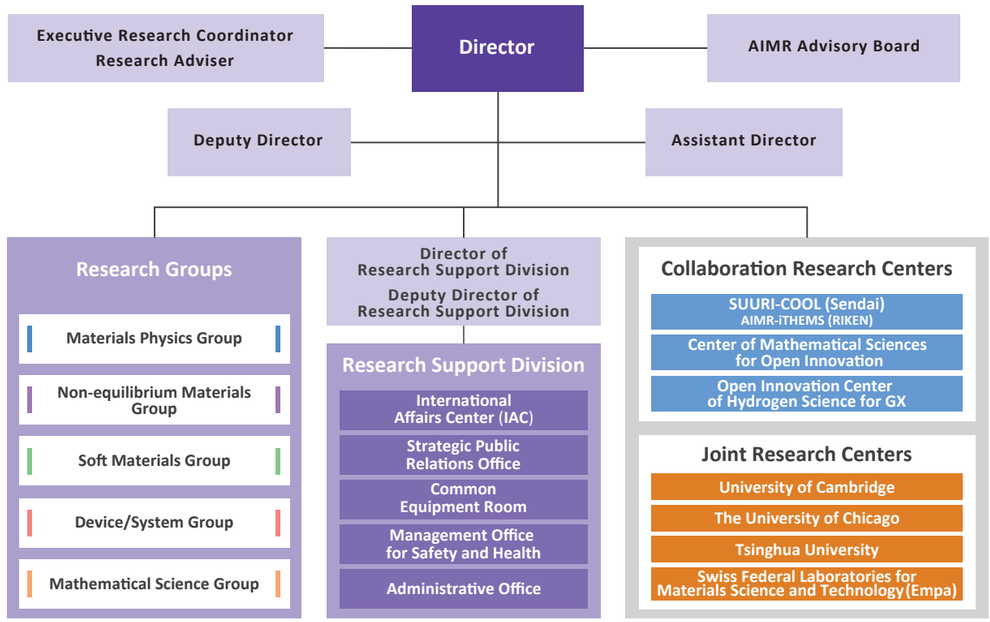
Dedicated technical coordinators manage common equipment and provide support for research technologies. They also create networks with internal and external research institutions pertaining to the joint use of experimentation equipment. The Unit carries out coordination work corresponding to the needs of researchers in order to ensure that researchers are also able to make use of equipment that is not available at the institute.

Major Equipments

- FE-SEM (Field-emission Scanning Electron Microscope); JEOL, JSM-7800F
- Sputtering System: ULVAC, QAM-4-S
- Laser Raman Spectrometer; HORIBA, LabRAM HR-800
- TG-DTA, DSC (Thermal Analysis Apparatus); RIGAKU, Thermo plus EvoII
- Xray Diffraction Measurement System (XRD); RIGAKU, SmartLab 9MTP
- Xray Diffraction Measurement System (Laue Camera); RIGAKU, RASCO 3M

etc.

Organization



Executive Research Coordinator/ Research Adviser

Executive Research Coordinator

Motoko Kotani

Tohoku University
Executive Vice President for International Research Strategy

Research Adviser

Masaru Tsukada

Research Adviser

Yasumasa Nishiura

AIMR Advisory Board

(Surnames in alphabetical order)

Sadamichi Maekawa (Chair)

- Senior Visiting Scientist, Center for Emergent Matter Science(CEMS), RIKEN
- Professor Emeritus, Tohoku University

Giulia Galli

- Liew Family Professor Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering The University of Chicago

Masahiro Goto

- Professor, Department of Applied Chemistry, Graduate School of Engineering, Kyushu University

Hatsumi Mori

- Director/Professor, Research Institute for Science and Technology, Tokyo University of Science

Masato Wakayama

- President, ZEN University

Andreas Züttel

- Professor, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL)
- Director, Laboratory of Materials for Renewable Energy

Advanced Institute for Materials Research

PR & Outreach Activities

We disseminate a variety of informative articles on our website and SNS with the latest research achievements, activities at the institute, open positions and awards to be recognized as a world-class research institution. Regularly distributed AIM*Research* features articles that provide an accessible introduction to some of the most noteworthy research being done at the AIMR.
Available in both English and Japanese on the following our website and SNS.

https://www.wpi-aimr.tohoku.ac.jp/en/
https://www.facebook.com/TohokuUniversity.AIMR
https://x.com/tohokuunivaimr
https://www.linkedin.com/company/wpi-aimr-tohoku-univ/

We also engage in a variety of outreach activities aimed at promoting communication and mutual understanding with the general public. Events of various kinds are held jointly with the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and with other WPI centers, offering middle- and high-school students and the general public opportunities to see leading-edge science up close.

Advanced Institute for Materials Research