

IPRC formalizes reciprocal agreement between SOEST and Tohoku University

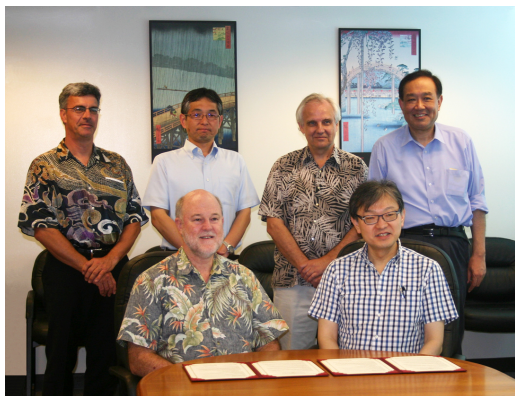
Last week marked the formal start to a new collaborative program between the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and Tohoku University in Japan, when representatives from both institutions signed an official memorandum.

The program is an agreement of the full School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST) but was initiated by IPRC in cooperation with the Graduate School of Science and Faculty of Science at Tohoku University. Like SOEST, the School of Science is an amalgamation of several science departments, with disciplines including physics, geophysics, earth science and volcanology, physical oceanography, biology, astronomy and planetary science, atmospheric sciences, chemistry, and mathematics.

The new program, as envisioned, has two channels for institutional interaction: exchanges of students and short-term faculty visits. The first part of the agreement is designed for students obtaining a PhD degree at the Graduate School of Science at



Deans of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and Tohoku University proudly display the signed agreement.



Present for the signing were (seated) Dean Brian Taylor (left) and Dean Tadahiro Hayasaka (right), and faculty members from IPRC and the School of Science (standing, from left to right): Niklas Schneider, Toshio Suga, Kelvin Richards, and Takahiro Obara.

Tohoku University to be jointly supervised by faculty at SOEST. The first students who are participating plan to visit SOEST this coming fall semester, and with IPRC as the driving force behind the plan, the first few will have a climate science focus to their studies. In exchange, SOEST students of all disciplines are invited to visit Tohoku to take advantage of their facilities and broad faculty specialties.

The collaboration will also involve reciprocal visits by faculty members. IPRC's Kelvin Richards will be the first participant, spending six weeks this summer at Tohoku University. While there, he plans to give a short lecture course and interact with other climate science colleagues. Then Niklas

Schneider, also of IPRC, plans to visit the university for a month in the fall.

SOEST Dean Brian Taylor and School of Science Dean Tadahiro Hayasaka signed the elegant documents on March 28, 2017 to begin the program officially. The initial agreement will last for a five-year period with an option of renewal in 2022.

"We're excited to begin this collaboration with our fellow natural scientists in Japan, providing greater opportunities to both our student populations, and we look forward to new, fruitful partnerships developing between the two faculties," Richards concluded.