

JpGU Promoting International Collaboration in the Geosciences

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Japan Geoscience Union (JpGU) is the academic organization that represents the geoscience community in Japan. It consists of over 50 member societies and about 10,000 individual members including researchers, technologists, students, educators, science communicators and interested members of the general public.

JpGU was officially recognized as a public service corporation on the 1st December 2011. JpGU acts as a forum for the exchange of information and the collection of opinions and ideas within the diverse geoscience community. Our academic activities are focused on the following five sections: space and planetary sciences; atmospheric and hydrospheric sciences; human geosciences; solid Earth sciences; and biogeosciences. We hold an academic meeting, the JpGU Annual Meeting, every year in the spring, issue a newsletter and work to provide relevant geoscience information to society at large. In 2014 we also launched a new geoscience open access e-journal, Progress in Earth and Planetary Science (PEPS).

Geoscience is the area of natural science that deals with the Earth, the other planets and, on a larger scale, with the whole of the solar system. On the Earth it aims to understand the dynamics governing the evolution of both natural phenomena and social systems. It also aims to clarify the essential features that contribute to the existence and evolution of life. Geoscience can be divided into pure and applied areas, the first concerned with increasing our understanding of natural phenomena and the second with using this knowledge to help to deal with environmental problems, to mitigate natural disasters and so on. Geoscientific knowledge is relevant to many of the problems facing mankind and geoscientific research is indispensable if we wish to maintain the continued prosperity of our species. As a pure discipline, geoscience offers us a birds-eye view of the natural wonders of the planetary system in which we live. As an applied science it includes cultural and social elements which allow us to construct a new paradigm that offers the hope of resolving many of the problems facing mankind.

In order to provide solutions and see them adopted by society, the geoscience community must continue with scientific research but also work to educate society at large and to communicate our message to the general public and our political leaders. JpGU aims to promote research and also to increase the understanding of geoscience issues in the general public, therefore, we encourage the exchange of information and collaborations among researchers in geoscience societies, and promote public relations to ensure that important information is communicated to society at large. We seek to ensure the continued vitality and importance of geoscientific research in Japan, the Asia Pacific region and worldwide.