



Niigata Univ. J-PEAKS NOW Vol.8

REPORT

[June 4, 2026] University Management Talent Design Workshop Held

On Thursday, June 4, 2026, the “University Management Talent Design Workshop” was held at Hotel Global View Niigata.

We received an exceptionally large number of applications from universities across Japan and regret that registration had to close earlier than planned, reflecting the strong interest in this theme. As attendance was limited, we are sharing highlights of the event along with photos.

Nearly 70 participants—including UA/URA staff, administrative personnel, and HR and planning staff—from 20 institutions attended. They exchanged challenges and practical insights on developing and utilizing university management talent.



As university management grows more advanced, the importance of specialized professionals in strategic planning and academia–industry–government collaboration is increasing, along with the need for the professionalization of administrative staff and a review of talent management.

Niigata University has introduced the UA system for this purpose, drawing interest from other institutions. This workshop brought together practitioners to share leading practices and discuss challenges in system design and implementation.

The program featured opening remarks by Executive Vice President Kazushige Kawabata; a lecture on human resource policy by Mr. Takehito Yoza, Deputy Director of the Human Resources Policy Division at the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology; and case study presentations from the University of Osaka, Okayama University, and Niigata University. Discussions focused on leveraging specialized talent and inter-university collaboration.

The workshop concluded with remarks by Senior UA Sachiko Hasegawa, fostering networks and practical insights. Outcomes will be compiled and shared at the “University Management Talent Summit 2026” in September 2026.

TOPICS

Meet Our New Research Promotion UAs!

Niigata University established a “UA Office” within the presidentially-directed Headquarters for Management Strategy in April 2023, followed by the launch of the “UA system” in April 2025, a personnel and professional development framework featuring UA-specific career grades. In this issue, we interviewed two newly appointed Research Promotion UAs about why they chose to take on this role at the University.

Risa Kamoi, UA

Q1. I was drawn by the chance to contribute to both Niigata University and the Niigata region while working at the forefront of knowledge.

Q2. I support applications for competitive research funding and plan events to promote interdisciplinary collaboration.

Q3. The potential for my work to contribute to the University’s future.

Q4. Hobbies: playing baseball (rubber-ball). On days off, I catch up on housework and take my children to their activities.

- Q1. Why did you choose a UA position at Niigata University?
- Q2. What are your current duties?
- Q3. What do you find rewarding in your work?
- Q4. How do you spend your free time?



Yuri Omori, UA

Q1. I want to contribute from the launch phase of J-PEAKS, a decade-long initiative, and help shape Niigata’s future for the next generation.

Q2. I plan the workshop featured above and the “University Management Talent Summit 2026” in September.

Q3. Seeing initiatives gradually produce clear, long-term results.

Q4. Traveling, watching Netflix, reading manga, and cleaning.



For more information on UA (Research Promotion), please visit: [Niigata University URA](https://www.niigata-u.ac.jp/ura) (Available in Japanese only)



EVENT

[July 10, 2026] TUAT × Niigata University Joint Symposium Can Japanese Rice Become a Winning Strategy for the World?

Niigata University and Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology will hold a joint symposium on July 10 (Friday) as part of their collaboration among J-PEAKS-funded universities (venue: Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology).

Under the theme “Next-Generation Rice Farming Beyond Borders and Convention,” the symposium will discuss strategies to expand Japanese rice production into international markets.

The program will focus on next-generation rice farming systems promoted by Niigata University, examining agricultural models that balance climate response, environmental value, and profitability.

The two universities will continue their collaboration and further develop these efforts, including future activities in Niigata.

Date & Time: Friday, July 10, 2026, 14:00–17:05

Venue: Auditorium of Faculty of Agriculture Main Building, Fuchu Campus, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology

Details and Registration:

<https://web.tuat.ac.jp/~j-peaks/news/38/> (Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology website, available in Japanese only)

Registration Deadline: Tuesday, June 30, 2026, 17:00



UPDATE

This September: Niigata University J-PEAKS WEEK 2026 – Latest Updates

Niigata University J-PEAKS WEEK 2026

— A New Knowledge Ecosystem Powering Every Aspect of “Life” —

In September 2026, Niigata University will host “J-PEAKS WEEK,” a flagship event offering a cross-cutting experience of its core J-PEAKS initiatives.

September 7 (Mon): University Management Talent Summit (Tokyo)

September 8 (Tue)–17 (Thu): Center-led events (Niigata University and nearby)

September 18 (Fri): Strategic Leap Program (SLP) Kickoff Forum (Ikarashi Campus Co-Creation Lounge) (tentative)

Further details will be provided in upcoming issues.



University × Research × Implementation
Expanding co-creation across industry, academia, and government
Across hubs in Tokyo and Niigata

● J-PEAKS Mini Column—Voices from the Field ●

The June 4 workshop drew far more participants than expected, and the strong energy in the room reaffirmed the high level of interest in this topic. The post-event survey also received very positive feedback, which has been reassuring for the organizers. Preparations are now underway for “J-PEAKS WEEK” in September. While this year will be filled with events, we are continually exploring how best to share our J-PEAKS initiatives both within and beyond the University. The J-PEAKS program encompasses a wide range of activities—from planning and center management to communications—and, although it can at times be demanding, we will continue working to ensure its steady progress with the support of many partners inside and outside the University. (S1)

● Contact & Website ●

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○ **Niigata Univ. J-PEAKS Website**

<https://www.niigata-u.ac.jp/j-peaks/>

Updates on J-PEAKS-related events and activities are available here.



○ **Niigata Univ. J-PEAKS Internal Website**

<https://app.cais.niigata-u.ac.jp/shurl/fw/2PLWiy>

To support timely information sharing and ensure transparency, materials such as the program’s overall design, budget allocations, and meeting documents are available to internal users. For more detailed information, please scan the QR code.

