

ICR News 2025

Fostering Future Talent in Chemistry

The Institute for Chemical Research is committed to fostering future talent in chemistry, not only through research and graduate-level training, but also by supporting science education and promoting public understanding of chemistry.

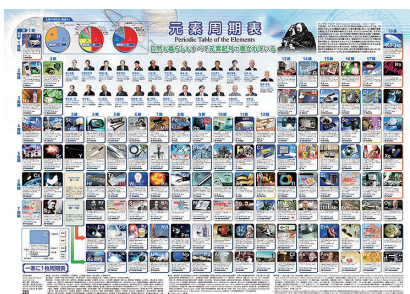
In April 2025, Professors Emeriti Kohei Tamao and Takahito Terashima were selected for the FY2025 MEXT Awards for Science and Technology (Public Understanding Promotion Category). During their tenure at the Institute, they planned and produced the now widely recognized “Ikka-ni Ichi-Mai Periodic Table,” commonly referred to in English as the *One Per Household Periodic Table*. First published in 2005, the table has since been distributed to educational institutions and households across Japan, inspiring curiosity and enhancing scientific literacy among students and the general public.

In June 2025, prior to the 57th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO), Japanese high school representative visited the Wakamiya Laboratory for hands-on training. A second-year doctoral student served as tutor, offering guidance and support throughout the session. The student later won a gold medal at the competition.

Through initiatives such as these, the Institute continues to inspire young learners and contribute to the future of chemistry education.



Professor Emeritus Kohei Tamao and Director Yuichi Shimakawa



“Ikka-ni Ichi-Mai Periodic Table”



Hands-on Training Session

New MoU in 2025

On February 13, 2025, the Department of Chemistry, SRM Institute of Science and Technology and ICR signed a MoU (Memorandum of Understanding), with the purpose of broadly mutual cooperation and contributing to the promotion of research for both parties.

The Department of Chemistry, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, similar to ICR, conducts research and educational activities in a wide range of chemical fields. Both parties agreed to sign an academic exchange agreement to further enhance collaboration and promote international education and research activities.

Prof. C. Muthamizhchelvan, the Vice Chancellor for the SRM Institute of Science and Technology and Prof. Atsushi Wakamiya (Molecular Aggregates) from ICR, attended the signing ceremony at the SRM Institute of Science and Technology.

In 2025, ICR also concluded an agreement with Kaunas University of Technology in Lithuania. Currently, ICR has a total of 71 MOUs.



Memorandum of Understanding for Collaboration (1984–2025)



Kyoto University Chemistry Talent-Spot 2025 Mumbai

In January 2025, ICR participated as a co-organiser in Kyoto University Chemistry Talent-Spot 2025 Mumbai, organised by the Institute for Integrated Cell-Material Sciences (iCeMS). This was the tenth edition of the event, which has been held in various locations across Asia (including online) since 2017. This time, with the cooperation of local universities, including the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, students interested in studying abroad for their Masters and Ph. D. degrees were recruited. A total of 29 applications were received. From these, 17 students were selected through a document review process and participated in the event. After an introduction of the iCeMS and ICR and an overview of student life in Kyoto, individual interviews were held with the students. We heard comments from the participating students such as “Before the event, I was thinking about studying abroad in another country, but now I am considering studying in Japan”, and “This was a valuable opportunity to speak directly with professors, and it was meaningful for thinking about the future”.



Shanghai-Kyoto Chemistry Forum

On November 21, 2025, the international conference Shanghai-Kyoto Chemistry Forum was held at Fudan University in China. The forum is an international conference that aims to develop strategies for sharing research resources and equipment and identifying joint research opportunities utilizing the Kyoto University Shanghai Lab (Kyoto University On-site Laboratory), which was established in 2019. Marking the sixth year since the launch of the On-site Lab, this year's forum—the fifth in the series—was hosted by Fudan University and featured presentations by seven researchers from the Institute for Chemical Research (ICR) and two from iCeMS, along with ten speakers from Fudan University. This year, early-career faculty members from both universities also participated, presenting research findings across a broad range of fields, including new materials, energy conversion, and chemical biology. In addition to discussions on the effective use of research resources and future directions for international collaboration, the forum provided a valuable opportunity for young researchers to gain new academic perspectives and explore future possibilities for research development.

Kyoto University On-site Laboratories

