

## **Chikyu-Gaku**

### **-A new horizon of the earth environmental sciences-**

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Nearly two years have passed since we started the 21 Century COE Program “the Sun-Earth-Life Interactive System (SELIS)”. This program really has a very broad range of cross-cutting and interdisciplinary studies in the earth and planetary sciences. When our program was approved by the JSPS evaluation committee, some of the committee members raised a concern how we could conduct this kind of collaboration and coordination both in research and education. We are endeavouring to achieve the final goal of this COE program, and I do believe this report will facilitate you to understand the current achievement obtained under this program.

The COE program consists of the core faculty members, cooperative faculty members, pos-doc researcher and special research assistant (of graduate students) and supporting staffs, I am very pleased to find that many of faculties, researchers and students are strongly promoting new cross-cutting studies and researches for the SELIS related scientific issues. For example, the “Cross-cutting seminar” has been held for more than 30 times within the two years, and some interdisciplinary science workshops have been coordinated under the leaderships of young faculties and researchers in multiple department, institute and centers in the campus. Some faculty groups also have applied to new funding projects within and outside of the campus, e.g., grant-in-aid for scientific research from MEXT.

The “cross-cutting and inter-disciplinary studies” are also essential for young research assistant (in the DC program), since they really need a broad view for our planet earth and global environment issues. Some professors may concern that “swing by” of doctor-candidate students may delay their chances to get Ph.D. However, I dare say “Spare the rod, and spoil the child.” This proverb may hold for education of the Ph-D candidates. I do hope and believe that this COE program would provide them timely and invaluable opportunity for getting new scientific breakthroughs and findings.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the understanding of our planet earth was promoted through segmentalization and/or disaggregation of fields. However, large negative aspects of scientific activity has also emerged, e.g., the global environmental issues. In the 21 century we really need to have a holistic view of the earth and environment, where we live, by integrating the physical, chemical and biological earths, of course, including the human beings. I believe that our COE program is progressing in the right direction, and that the role of the program would become more important not only for our university but for the whole of scientific community in the world as well as in Japan.