

VIII. SPring-8 Users Community (SPRUC)

Prof. A. Kimura
Hiroshima University
SPRUC Chairman FY2020

SPRUC is a user society that consists of all users of SPring-8/SACLA. In addition to individuals, representative organizations of 26 institutes (principal universities, national/international research institutes, industries, and beamline consortiums) participate in SPRUC to discuss further promotion of the utilization of SPring-8 from strategic and perspective viewpoints. Prof. Akio Kimura, Hiroshima University, has been serving as the president of SPRUC for a two-year term since FY2020.

As one of the key activities of SPRUC, the SPring-8 Symposium is held annually at the site of one of the representing organizations jointly with RIKEN and JASRI. SPring-8 Symposium 2021 "Backcasting from SPring-8 Future Vision" was held on September 17 and 18 with a hybrid style of on-site and online presentations. As indicated by the theme, the major issue of the symposium was not how to respond to the rapidly changing modern society on the spot, but rather to draw a future vision of SPring-8 and discuss the current and future use of the facility, including the importance of human resource development, by backcasting it as a goal we should achieve. The ceremony to present the SPRUC 2021 Young Scientist Award, which was conferred on Dr. Yuki Takayama, Graduate School of Science, University of Hyogo, and Dr. Natsuki Tomida, Research Center for Nuclear Physics, Osaka University, was also held. The holding of SPring-8 Symposium 2022 will be considered on the basis of the future status of the COVID-19 pandemic.

SPRUC supported the "SPring-8 Summer School" for the enhancement of users' research competency and also hosted the "SPring-8 Autumn School" with JASRI to acquire new users and develop human resources. For the Autumn School, the SPRUC research groups contributed to planning the lectures. Although the Autumn School had been scheduled to be held in September, the plan was forced to be postponed to December owing to the recurring COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the difficult situation, both schools were successfully held. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people involved.



SPRUC2021 Young Scientist Award
Prof. A. Kimura, Dr. N. Tomida, and Dr. Y. Takayama

SPRUC continues to cohost the beamline upgrade workshop, the fourth of which was held on March 14 with RIKEN and JASRI. The workshop was planned to vitalize information exchange between members of SPRUC and the facility. The workshop focused mainly on mutual consensus regarding the reorganization and upgrade of diffraction and scattering beamlines such as BL13XU, spectroscopy beamlines such as BL39XU, and imaging and small angle X-ray scattering beamlines. The facility presented the latest situation of their reorganization, future prospects and related problems, and the members discussed demands and suggestions for beamline upgrades.

The fifth-term SPRUC research groups were voluntarily organized in each research field, and the research groups actively conducted research meetings. Each SPRUC research group has been collecting ideas and needs for beamline reorganization and innovative experimental techniques toward SPring-8 II, and has presented opinions and demands obtained through discussion in each field. As in the past, the sixth-term SPRUC research groups were recruited in the four research fields, namely, Life Science, Fundamental Characterization, Applied Materials, and Measurements, and will be launched next fiscal year.

IX. Outreach Activities

To reach out to new users in unexplored fields of application, SPring-8 holds various serialized seminars named “Workshop on Advanced Techniques and Applications at SPring-8”. From last year, most of the workshops are being held as video conferences because of COVID-19. Here are some representatives.

- ◆ 63rd: Advances in Measurement Informatics and Data Processing Using External Computational Resources
August 31, 2021 • Video conference
- ◆ 65th: X-ray Emission Spectroscopy Analysis Technology and Beamline Reconstruction Plan in SPring-8-II
October 22, 2021 • Video conference
- ◆ 64th: Frontiers of Development in Energy Catalysts and Fuel Cells
December 3, 2021 • AP Shinagawa and Video conference

Also taking advantage of video conferencing, we held a weekly “Seminar on Advanced Techniques and Applications at SPring-8”. It has been held every Tuesday evening since January 2021. Over 2,500 participants in total took part in the eight seminars in the period from 11 May to 29 June.