

Preface for the KURNS Progress Report 2021

It is our pleasure to announce that the KURNS Progress Report 2021 has been published. This report contains all of the accomplishments of research and related activities at the Institute for Integrated Radiation and Nuclear Science, Kyoto University (KURNS) during the fiscal year 2021 (hereafter called as FY2021). Many research subjects have been enrolled also in FY2021, which cover various fields of nuclear science and technology, material science, radiation life science and radiation medical science. It means that our institute continues to play a distinctive role as a Joint Usage/Research Center, promoting an extensive range of studies from fundamental to applied research using research reactors, accelerators, and other facilities.

In FY2020, our joint research was severely restricted due to the declaration of a state of emergency caused by the spread of the COVID-19, but in FY2021, the impact was reduced to a limited extent because of the establishment of measures against the COVID-19. On the other hand, the operation of KUCA has been suspended since the latter half of FY2021 due to various procedures and works associated with the reduction of uranium fuel enrichment, which undertook with US-Japan government agreement. We aim to resume operation of KUCA during FY2023. As a result, KUR was operated for 1029 hours and KUCA was for 234 hours in FY2021. In total, we accepted 3,501 man-day researchers and students for using research facilities.

We strive for safe and stable operations, making it our primary mission to provide scientists the opportunity to conduct research and education. We are happy to dedicate our support to enable users conduct significant interdisciplinary research at KURNS.

Kumatori, July 6, 2022
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Director, KURNS