

Press Release

March 15, 2019

National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience  
Kutchan Town, Hokkaido  
Niseko Town, Hokkaido

Agreement for collaboration between NIED, Kutchan Town and Niseko Town to enhance the disaster resilience against snow and ice-related disasters including avalanche

NIED (President: Haruo Hayashi), Kutchan Town (Mayor: Kazushi Monji) and Niseko Town (Mayor: Kenya Katayama) have agreed to sign the collaboration agreement concerning the reinforcement of collaborative efforts to prevent snow and ice-related disasters typified by the avalanche accidents in Niseko area. The signing ceremony will be taken place on March 22 of 2019 as follows and be open to the press.

Under the umbrella of this agreement, NIED, Kutchan Town and Niseko Town will promote to enhance scientific and practical initiatives, and contribute to the research and development of avalanche accident prevention.

**Signing ceremony:**

**Date and time :** Friday, March 22, 2019, 17:00-

**Venue :** Lodge Moiwa 834 (at the foot of the Niseko Moiwa Ski resort)

447-5 Niseko, Niseko-cho, Abuta-gun, Hokkaido, Japan 048-1511

**Signed by:**

Haruo Hayashi, President of NIED

Kazushi Monji, Mayor of Kutchan Town

Kenya Katayama, Mayor of Niseko Town

**Coverage application:** E-mail or call to the contacts in below

**About Niseko Area:**

The Niseko area is one of the heaviest snowy area in Hokkaido and very famous for its ski resorts around Mt. Niseko Annupuri. The surrounding area of its mountain is preserved as the Quasi-National Park which many tourists visit in the winter season. Such as the creation of “the Niseko Rules”, the administrators of Niseko area are trying their best efforts for skiers and snowboarders considering both the encouragement of freely enjoying the winter sports and the safety in order not to be involved in avalanche accidents in keeping with the facts that the



avalanche accidents claimed people's lives in the past.

Contacts:

Yuji Kikuchi, Public Relations Division of NIED

TEL: 029-863-7784

E-mail: [press@bosai.go.jp](mailto:press@bosai.go.jp)

Kutchan Town

TEL 0136-23-3388

E-mail: [kankou@town.kutchan.lg.jp](mailto:kankou@town.kutchan.lg.jp)

Niseko Town

TEL 0136-44-2121

E-mail: [kankou@town.niseko.lg.jp](mailto:kankou@town.niseko.lg.jp)

## About Kutchan Town ,Niseko Town and NIED

Kutchan Town  <http://www.town.kutchan.hokkaido.jp/>

Kutchan-cho that did "town declaration of ski" ahead of domestic other ski resorts is sacred place of ski which is called "Oriental Saint Moritz".

We demand the finest snow, and many people visit the foot of highest peak, Niseko Annupuri of Niseko Mountains, area called "HIRAFU" (hirafu).

Besides, we can enjoy outdoor sports such as rafting and canoe, golf or mountain climbing, and scenery to see clear stream Shiribetsu River and exceedingly high mountain Mount Yotei brings on seasonal beauty in Kutchan.

Niseko Town  <https://www.town.niseko.lg.jp/>

Located near the center of Shimane pipe, I wish Niseko Annupuri in the north, Yotei mountain which is familiar with the nickname of Ezo Fuji to the east.

In the core industry, accommodation facilities such as hotels and pensions are enriched in agriculture and tourism industry. In agriculture, both the quality and taste of potato, melon, asparagus are high, and it is rated nationwide.

It is also known for many visitors, winter sports are actively performed in experienced outdoor sports during the summer season and large snow-quality ski slope which is proud worldwide in the winter season.

NIED  防災科研 <http://www.bosai.go.jp/>

NIED (National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience) aims to protect people's lives and properties from natural disasters and to prepare society to be resilient to natural disasters, through research on disasters caused by earthquakes, volcanoes, floods, landslides, meteorological changes, snow and ice damages.

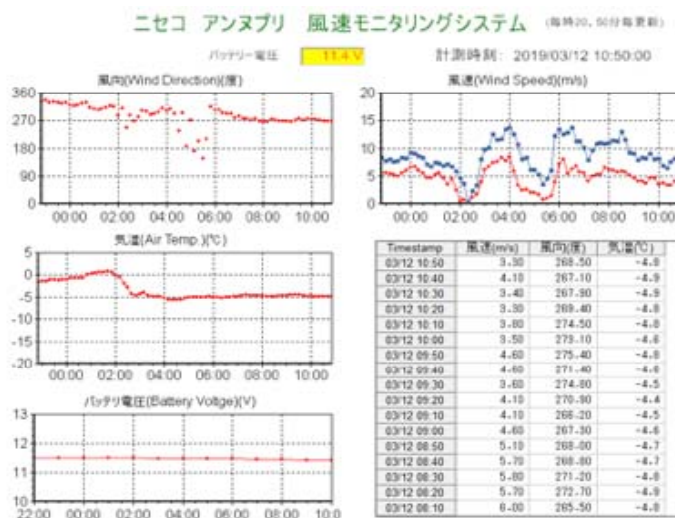
### Snow and Ice Research Center in NIED

It is our aim to provide a secure and comfortable life in the face of the challenges brought on by the heavy snowfall that encompasses more than half of our country. Living in this harsh winter environment requires that we cope with difficult winter conditions and the associated disasters that occur annually. Such disasters may even take place on Japan's Pacific side. The frequency and severity of hazards with which we must deal change from year to year because of increasing vehicle usage and global warming. The National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience (NIED) has established the Snow and Ice Research Center in order to deal with the social needs that result from the conditions described above. The Snow and Ice Research Center conducts projects on snow and ice related disasters such as avalanches, blowing snow, snow accretion, and the hazards associated with roads in the winter environment.

# Activities of NIED in Kutchan Town and Niseko Town

## Meteorological observations

We are providing the meteorological observation network for avalanche forecasting.



## International symposium on snow and avalanche in Niseko

We are introducing the present status of avalanche forecasting in the world (Japan, Switzerland, France etc.,) through the public lecture.

