

## 3<sup>rd</sup> International HiPeR Symposium: A report

The 3<sup>rd</sup> International HiPeR Symposium was held on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019 emphasizing on the topic of “East Asia plate tectonics: An historical perspective and future research highlights”. Six scientists, one from Chongbuk National University, three from Vietnam National University and one each from Kyushu University and Kagoshima University were invited for presentations on 26<sup>th</sup> February. Including the participants from Hiroshima University, it was a cozy yet vibrant interaction of nearly 40 participants in total. On 27<sup>th</sup> February, the participants were guided by the HiPeR members to a field visit and onsite discussion at Tsuwano City, Shimane Prefecture, where the oldest rock body of Japan has been recently discovered by the research group of Hiroshima University.

The first session on 26<sup>th</sup> February morning was a departmental laboratory visit by the foreign participants offered by the HiPeR members. From 10 AM, Prof. Toru Inoue, the Leader of HiPeR introduced the aims and organization of HiPeR, and also introduced different domestic and international members of HiPeR and their research interests to the symposium participants.

The session 2 had two talks, one by Chang Whan Oh of the Chongbuk National University and the other by Pham Trung Hieu of Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City. Both the talks highlighted the recent results on the formation of continents and tectonic developments of the East Asian region, the former emphasizing the geology of the Korean peninsula, where the latter emphasized on the Indo-China block. Continuing this in the 3<sup>rd</sup> session, more highlights on the tectonics of the Indo-China block were provided by Nobuhiko Nakano of Kyushu University, while Yasutaka Hayasaka gave a talk on the Paleozoic to Mesozoic tectonics of the Japanese island. The 4<sup>th</sup> session was designed for the young generation scientists, named “Young HiPeR Forum” where Pham Minh and Truong Chi Cuong, two research students from Vietnam National University, and Kosuke Kimura, Kenta Kawaguchi from Hiroshima University presented their research results. This session had very interactive discussions and it was very encouraging to see students sharing their views in English, a good showcase for younger students who were present in the symposium. The 5<sup>th</sup> session, termed as “Case studies on deformation, metamorphism and ore deposits” had four talks, started by a talk on Himalaya by Hafiz-ur Rehman of Kagoshima University, and one each by Kenichi Hoshino, Jun-ichi Ando and Kaushik Das of Hiroshima University. After the end of the formal symposium, in the same evening there was a banquet at one of the Japanese style restaurants, offering the opportunity of the second round of discussions and formulation of the future collaborative research plans involving 20 participants.

On 26<sup>th</sup> February, one of the talks was by Kosuke Kimura on the oldest rock body of Japan (granitoid complex of



ca. 2500 to 1850 Ma) discovered recently from Tsuwano city, Shimane Prefecture. This area was chosen for field work with all the foreign delegates and student participants from Hiroshima University on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019. During this field work, total 15 participants were there in addition to the members of the Education committee of Tsuwano city and also from the community museum. At the outcrop of the granitic gneiss, there was an active discussion on the possible origin of these rocks and their affinities in terms of East Asian tectonic settings (photo above). On the way back to Hiroshima, the participants had been invited to the community museum, which has a nice display of the works and life of Koto Bunjiro. The participants were astonished to know that oldest rocks of Japan are discovered in the hometown of Koto Bunjiro, the oldest known Japanese geologist and the father of modern Japanese geology. We here take the opportunity to thank all the people including the officials who helped to make this symposium a successful one (notes by Yasutaka Hayasaka, translated by Kaushik Das).