

## Call for Participation

### RENKEI Climate Change/Energy Workshop 2024

- Net Zero by 2050 -

December 4-6, 2024

Ito Campus, Kyushu University

#### Background & Theme

RENKEI, the Japan-UK Research and Education Network for Knowledge Economy Initiatives, was launched in March 2012. Since April 2018, RENKEI has prioritised “climate change” and “health” as key themes for researcher networking, leading to new joint activities. Both areas were specified in the Japan-UK Joint Declaration on Prosperity Cooperation, released in September 2017 during the visit of then UK Prime Minister Theresa May to Japan. RENKEI conferences and adjoining researcher networking workshops have been held alternately in Japan and the UK.

RENKEI Member Institutions (in alphabetical order)

Durham University	Keio University
University of Edinburgh	Kyushu University
University of Leeds	Ritsumeikan University
University of Liverpool	Tohoku University
Newcastle University	
University of Southampton	

The overarching theme for this workshop, “**Climate Change/Energy**”, is a priority area that RENKEI members identified as a global challenge to be addressed under the RENKEI framework. The efforts so far have been interdisciplinary, going beyond the realm of natural sciences and involving researchers from the social sciences. A notable event highlighting this effort was the Climate Adaptation Project 2022, hosted by Newcastle University and Kyoto University. The programme focused on researcher responses to the global challenge of climate adaptation. [The 2019 RENKEI researcher workshop at Newcastle University](#) marked a milestone as it provided an arena for discussions among researchers from diverse fields and generations.

#### Moving Forward 2024-2025

In the Hiroshima Accord, a policy paper published in May 2023, the prime ministers of the UK and Japan agreed to enhance the UK-Japan global strategic partnership. The third pillar, “Leading International Efforts for Global Resilience”, emphasizes that the commitment of both countries to holistically address energy security, the climate crisis, and geopolitical risks. It highlights the acceleration of the clean energy transition, with a goal of achieving net-zero GHG emissions by 2050 at the latest, while promoting energy security and energy affordability. Both the UK and Japan have set goals to become carbon neutral by 2050.

“Climate Change/Energy” is an important topic as it is closely connected to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 7, which calls to “ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”, and Goal 13, which calls to “take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”.

During the workshop at Kyushu University, various activities, including a site visit are planned. This workshop will not be a one-off event; it will be linked to [a second workshop on climate change/energy hosted by Durham University in 2025](#), ensuring continuity. Participants’ continuous interest and engagement are highly encouraged.

The specific **objectives of this workshop** are to:

- Facilitate the formation of active collaborations between participants, especially across different disciplines, toward achieving 2050 carbon neutrality.
- Develop a sustainable network of researchers across Japan and the UK, particularly Early Career Researchers (ECRs), enabling them to network, deepen research collaborations and advance their own research.
- Achieve tangible outcomes, such as applying for research grants, including [ISPF](#). Participants are highly encouraged to apply for the “RENKEI seed funding scheme for climate change/energy”, which will be open exclusively to this workshop’s participants (see instructions below).

## Programme (Preliminary)

- The preliminary programme for the workshop is as follows. The updated programme will be shared with successful applicants.
- The workshop will run over three days. The first day will be a half-day programme, the second day a full-day. On the last day, the official programme will end around noon. Participants are encouraged to join the optional Campus & Lab Tour (free of charge) in the afternoon.
- Kyushu University’s Ito Campus is located in a suburb of Fukuoka City.

	Wed, December 4 <sup>th</sup>	Thu, December 5 <sup>th</sup>	Fri, December 6 <sup>th</sup>
AM	11:30 Registrations Open	9:30 Welcome Coffee  9:45-12:00 Interactive Session	9:30 Welcome Coffee and Preparation for Presentations  10:00-11:30 Final Presentations  11:30-12:00 Wrap-up & Closing
	12:00-13:00 Welcome Lunch (on-campus)	12:00-13:30 Lunch (off-campus)	12:00-13:00 Lunch (on-campus)
PM	13:00- 15:00 Ice-break & Poster Session  15:15- 17:30 Group Session	13:30-16:00 Site Visit (TBD)  16:00-17:30 Interactive Session	13:00-15:00 Campus & Lab Tour (Optional)  15:00 Official Programme End
	18:30-20:30 Dinner (city centre)	18:30-20:30 Dinner (city centre)	

## Participants Profile/Eligibility

### Researchers from UK RENKEI institutions

Each institution expected to nominate in total 3-4 researchers (e.g. 2-3 ECRs & 1 senior/mid-career researcher)

### Researchers from JP RENKEI institutions

Each institution expected to nominate around 5 researchers (e.g. 4 ECRs & 1 senior/mid-career researcher)

- ◆ Early Career Researchers (ECRs)
  - Ph.D. students or post-docs
  - Affiliated with RENKEI member institutions
  - Highly motivated to communicate with other participants to expand their network and eager to contribute further to RENKEI’s activities
- ◆ Senior or mid-career researchers
  - Affiliated with RENKEI member institutions
  - Able to supervise or support ECRs from their institutions

\*In addition, up to 10 (tentative) RENKEI representatives (senior international leadership and/or coordinators) from member institutions can join. Their travel expenses are to be covered by their respective institutions.

## Grant Funding Relating to this Workshop

### 1. RENKEI Travel Grant/Support

RENKEI will provide the following travel grants to support researchers participating in the workshop.

#### Travel Grants for UK Researchers

A travel grant of **3,500 GBP** (lump sum) will be made available to UK RENKEI member institutions (NOT individual researchers) that send at least two early/mid-career researchers. Coordinators of UK RENKEI member institutions wishing to apply for this 'Travel Grant' should contact the RENKEI Secretariat by **Midnight (UK time), Monday 21 October 2024** for details on the application process.

#### Travel Support for JP Researchers

Travel support equivalent to max. **30,000 JPY** will be made available to researchers from JP RENKEI member institutions with the following conditions.

- Travel support equivalent to max. 30,000 JPY per researcher for up to eight researchers per institution across the two workshops (health workshop hosted by Keio Univ. and climate change/energy workshop hosted by Kyushu Univ.).
- Travel support provided as part-payment towards actual cost of tickets (airplane/train/bus) for the researcher to travel to participate in the workshop from their usual place of work/residence.
- To benefit from this travel support, researchers must first obtain approval from the RENKEI Coordinator for their institution. They then must book their tickets through the travel agent specified by the British Council.
- If the cost of the tickets exceeds 30,000 JPY, the researcher must settle the difference with the travel agent directly, by credit card payment.

### 2. RENKEI Awards & Workshop Follow-up Seed Funding Grant

Award amounts, numbers and detailed conditions are still to be finalised, but we plan to award:

#### a) Poster Award

All WS participants are required to present their own poster on the first day. During the workshop, voting will take place, and the best poster will be selected on the final day.

#### b) Pitch Award

All WS participants are expected to deliver a final-day presentation, or "pitch" in groups. The group that gives the best presentation will be awarded funding to support further research collaboration opportunities (e.g., workshops, symposia) between the UK and Japan.

#### c) Seed Funding Grant

To further develop connections made during the workshop and maximise outcomes, RENKEI will offer a follow-up seed funding grant. The call will require at least one UK researcher and one JP researcher as the main applicants, both of whom must be participants of this WS. More details will be announced during the WS. The call will open soon after the WS, with an application deadline around mid- January 2025.

## Application Procedure

Nominations for participating researchers will be managed by each RENKEI member institution. Nominations must be submitted to the RENKEI Secretariat by the RENKEI coordinator of each member institution.

**Nomination deadline:** **TOHOKU University Deadline: Thursday, October 17th, 2024**

**UK time – Midnight, Monday 21 October 2024 / Japan time - 8AM, Tuesday 22 October 2024**

**Nomination acceptance:**

The Secretariat will confirm acceptance of nominations to RENKEI coordinators by close of business on Friday, 25 October 2024 (Japan time).

**Participant confirmation:**

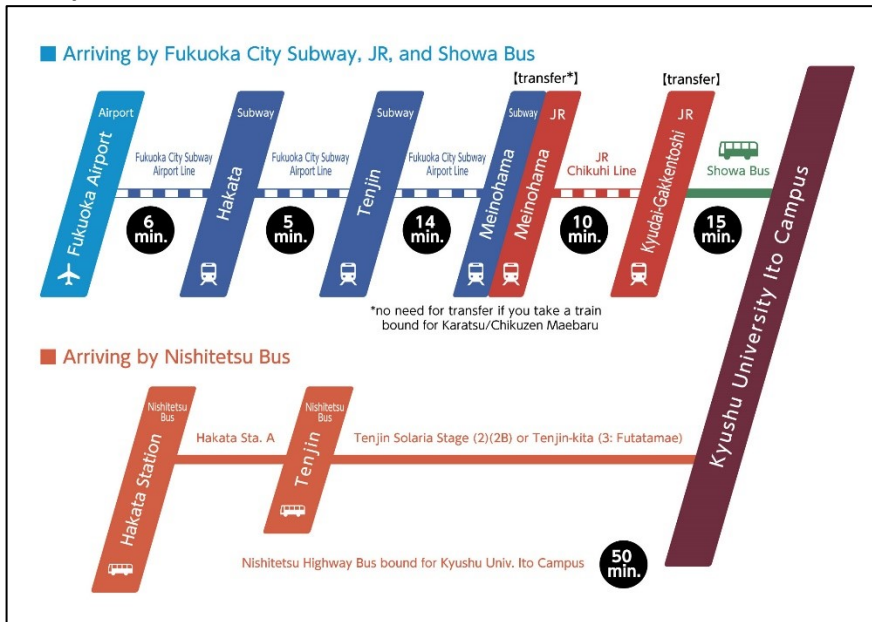
To confirm their participation, accepted researchers are required to register their details and complete a pre-participation online questionnaire by **UK time - Midnight, Wednesday 30 October 2024 / Japan time - 9AM, Thursday 31 October 2024.**

## Venue Access

Access to Ito Campus, Kyushu University  
<https://www.kyushu-u.ac.jp/en/campus/ito/>



### Transportation



### Ito Campus Map

[https://www.kyushu-u.ac.jp/f/57242/ITO\\_1\\_Eng.pdf](https://www.kyushu-u.ac.jp/f/57242/ITO_1_Eng.pdf)



Main Venue  
 Jonathan KS Choi Cultural Center

Nearest bus-stop  
 Kyudai Big Orange-mae

### Venue



Main Venue: Jonathan KS Choi Cultural Center  
 (No. 76 on the map above)

## Enquiries

- ◆ For specific enquiries about this workshop, please contact:  
**RENKEI Climate Change/Energy WS**  
**Kyushu University**  
Global Partnership and Alliance, International Affairs Division  
Email: [intlseyaku@jimu.kyushu-u.ac.jp](mailto:intlseyaku@jimu.kyushu-u.ac.jp)
  
- ◆ For general enquiries related to this workshop, please contact:  
**British Council, Japan**  
Education Team  
Email: [renkei@britishcouncil.or.jp](mailto:renkei@britishcouncil.or.jp)