



Geosphere Research Institute, Saitama University

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Outline:

Geosphere Research Institute of Saitama University (GRIS) was established on April 1, 2001 by unifying the Hydrosience and Geotechnical Laboratory and Earth Science Observation Laboratory of Saitama University. GRIS is unique of its kind in the universities of Japan and focuses on education, research and development covering a wide spectrum of Geospherical sciences. The institute has two major research fields – Geosphere disaster prevention and Geosphere environmental science.

Research Areas:

The geosphere disaster prevention group covers research in earthquake disaster mitigation and geotechnical engineering including liquefaction, slope stability, and seismic design of foundations and retaining walls. The basic objective is to clarify the effect of earthquake disaster on various structures and lifeline systems in modern cities and to develop earthquake resistant technologies based on the detailed grasp of the problems.

The geosphere environmental science group covers research related to the overall geological environment, rock mechanics, weathering, radioactivity and other hazardous waste disposal. The research objective is to study and develop restoration and recovery technology of the ground and groundwater contamination and technology for safe underground disposal of hazardous wastes. Hydrogeological characterization for the study of suitability of deep underground space for disposal of such wastes, migration behavior of different kinds of hazardous wastes near the surface and the deep underground, and the groundwater flow pattern and mechanisms are some of the areas of study covered by this group.

Features of Research Activities

