



International Research Ship Operators

IRSO 2017 – First Information

April 13th, 2017

Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to provide you with details of the 30th International Research Ship Operators (IRSO) meeting, which will be hosted by the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC) in Yokosuka (Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan), October 16th-19th, 2017.

Background Information

The International Research Ship Operators (IRSO) organization was founded in 1986 and its annual meeting involves managers of ocean research ship fleets for the purpose of discussing topics and sharing information of mutual interest. This includes discussion on new research vessels, marine scientific equipment, ship systems, marine operations, changing scientific requirements, scheduling, manning, training, classifications, regulations, certifications, as well as insurance, vessel barbers, and lessons learned. The meeting is held each year at one of the member countries. IRSO minutes, news, and other information can be found at the website: www.irso.info.

Hosting Institution

The main mission of the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC) is to contribute to the improvement of marine science and technology and to the advancement of academic research for the benefit of peace and human welfare. For this purpose, JAMSTEC conducts fundamental research and development concerning the ocean. It is also engaged in cooperative activities on the academic research related to the ocean.

JAMSTEC was originally established as the “Japan Marine Science and Technology Center” in October 1971, made possible by investments and contributions from the government and industry investments and contributions. In April 2004, it was reorganized into an independent administrative institution, renamed as the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology. It has several branches across Japan; three research institutes in Yokohama, Mutsu, and Kochi, a datacenter in Okinawa, and a liaison office in Tokyo, as well as its Yokosuka headquarters. As of April 1st, 2016, there are 335 researchers, 232 engineers, 44 seafarers, and 410 administrative officers and assistants for 1,021 people working at JAMSTEC.

Meeting Venue

The meeting will be held at the hotel "Mercure" in Yokosuka City, Kanagawa Prefecture. Participants can easily access the conference room "Paris" on the fifth floor using the elevator. An icebreaker will take place at "Place du Etoile" (De plus de etoile) on the top floor (20th floor), 70 meters above the ground. It is an excellent place to enjoy the view of the Yokosuka Port.

Yokosuka City is located in the southeast of Kanagawa Prefecture, in the central part of Miura Peninsula. It faces Tokyo Bay in the east, and Sagami Bay in the west.

The warm Kuroshio Current flowing off Miura Peninsula keeps the temperature in Yokosuka relatively mild. It is a temperate place to spend the winter or the summer. The temperature in October in Yokosuka is 10 to 22 degrees Celsius on average. It is recommended to pack light, warm clothes and possibly wet-weather clothes if rain is forecast.

Near the meeting venue, you can find a naval base of the US Navy, a base of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF), and Mikasa Park, which exhibits the battle ship Mikasa used during the Russo-Japanese War. JAMSTEC headquarters is located in the north part of Yokosuka city.

<http://www.city.yokosuka.kanagawa.jp.e.rb.hp.transer.com/index.html>

30th IRSO Meeting Program

Following the icebreaker on the evening of October 16th, the IRSO official meeting is scheduled for three days from October 17th to 19th. A facility tour at the JAMSTEC headquarters, including lunch on the research vessel "KAIMEI," will take place on the afternoon of October 18th.

Registration will open on October 17th, at 8:00a.m.

Schedule:

- Oct. 16th 19:00-21:00 Icebreaker
"Place de etoile" @ Hotel MERCURE 20th floor
- Oct. 17th 08:00- Registration
"Paris B & C" @ Hotel MERCURE 5th floor
 - 08:30- Formal IRSO meeting DAY 1
 - 10:00-10:30 Morning break and Poster session
 - 12:00-13:00 Lunch and Poster session
 - 15:00-15:30 Afternoon break and Poster session
 - 17:30 End of DAY 1
- Oct. 18th 08:30- Formal IRSO meeting DAY 2
 - 10:00-10:30 Morning break and Poster session
 - 12:00- Transit to JAMSTEC YOKOSUKA HQ
 - 13:00-14:00 Lunch @ "KAIMEI"
 - 14:00-16:30 JAMSTEC Facility Tour
 - 17:30 Back to Hotel
- Oct. 19th 08:30- Formal IRSO meeting DAY 3
 - 10:00-10:30 Morning break and Poster session
 - 12:00- 13:00 Lunch and Poster session
 - 15:00-15:30 Afternoon break and Poster session
 - 16:30 End of IRSO2017
 - 18:00-21:00 Conference dinner and Farewell Party
(Venue: To Be Announced)
 - 22:00 Back to Hotel

Registration fee:

The registration fee for each member participating in the IRSO meeting is 35,000 yen. The fee will be collected in Japanese yen at the registration at 8:00a.m., on October 17th, on the morning of Day 1

Please be sure to prepare the fee in cash. Credit cards are not accepted.

The cost includes refreshments during coffee breaks (Oct.17th to 19th), lunches (Oct.17th to 19th), icebreaker (Oct. 16th), conference dinner (Oct. 19th), and transportation to/from the JAMSTEC headquarters (Oct. 18th). It is recommended that participants arrange to carry a small amount of yen to cover any additional costs that are not covered in the above events.

Your accompanying guests are welcome to join the social events. The guest registration fee is 8,000yen, including the icebreaker, conference dinner, and facility tour.

Information on places of interest around Yokosuka and Kamakura areas will be provided.

Confirmation of participation:

Please register at the following website by July 14th, 2017.

<https://www.jamstec.go.jp/irso2017/>

Hotel information

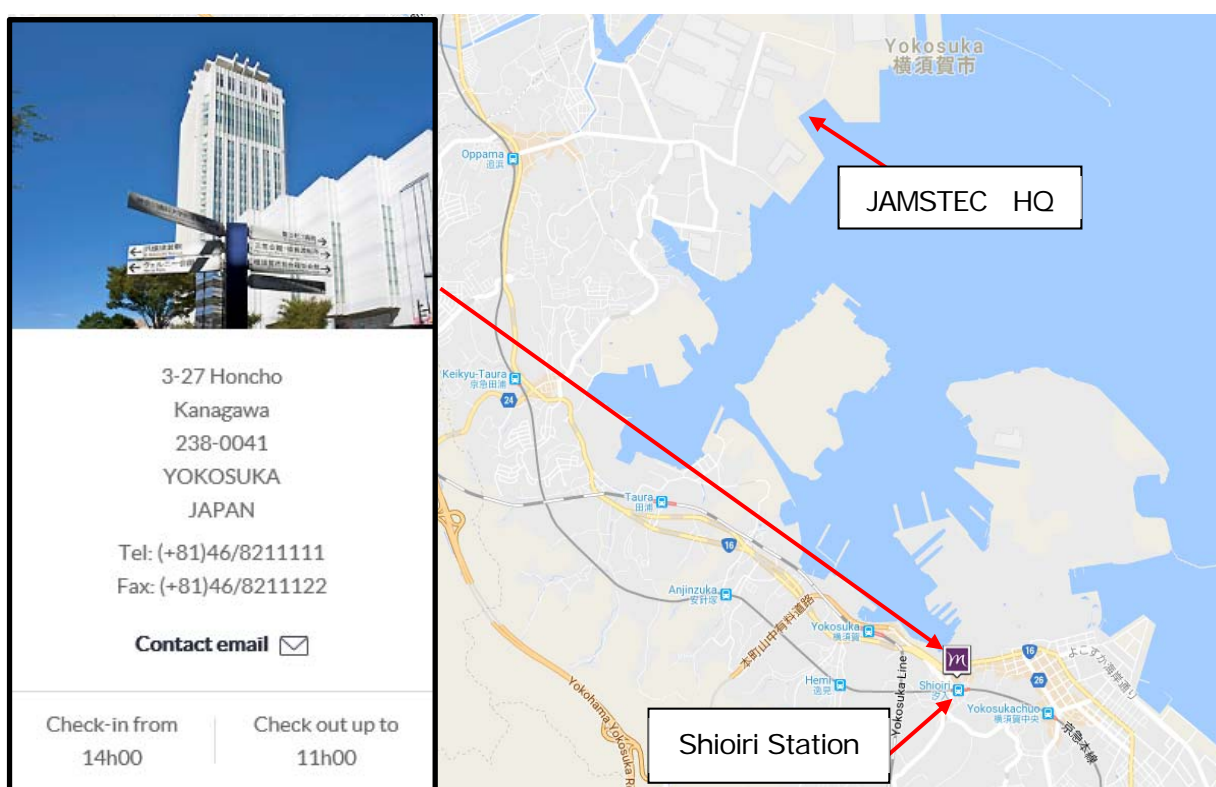
It is recommended that all the participants stay at the meeting venue, the "Mercure Hotel Yokosuka".

<http://www.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-7490-mercure-yokosuka/index.shtml>

If you access the hotel website described above for your reservation, a discounted rate will be available. (The room rate will vary depending on the time you make the reservation.)

Please input "IRSO2017" in "message to the Hotel" at the bottom of the booking page of the hotel website when you make the reservation.

It is recommended to make a reservation as early as possible.



Room Rate

Double Bed (16m ²)	Standard	Bay View	Deluxe
1 Person	¥9,000-¥22,500	¥11,100-¥24,600	¥13,200-¥26,700
2 person	¥12,100-¥25,600	¥14,200-¥27,700	¥16,300-¥29,800

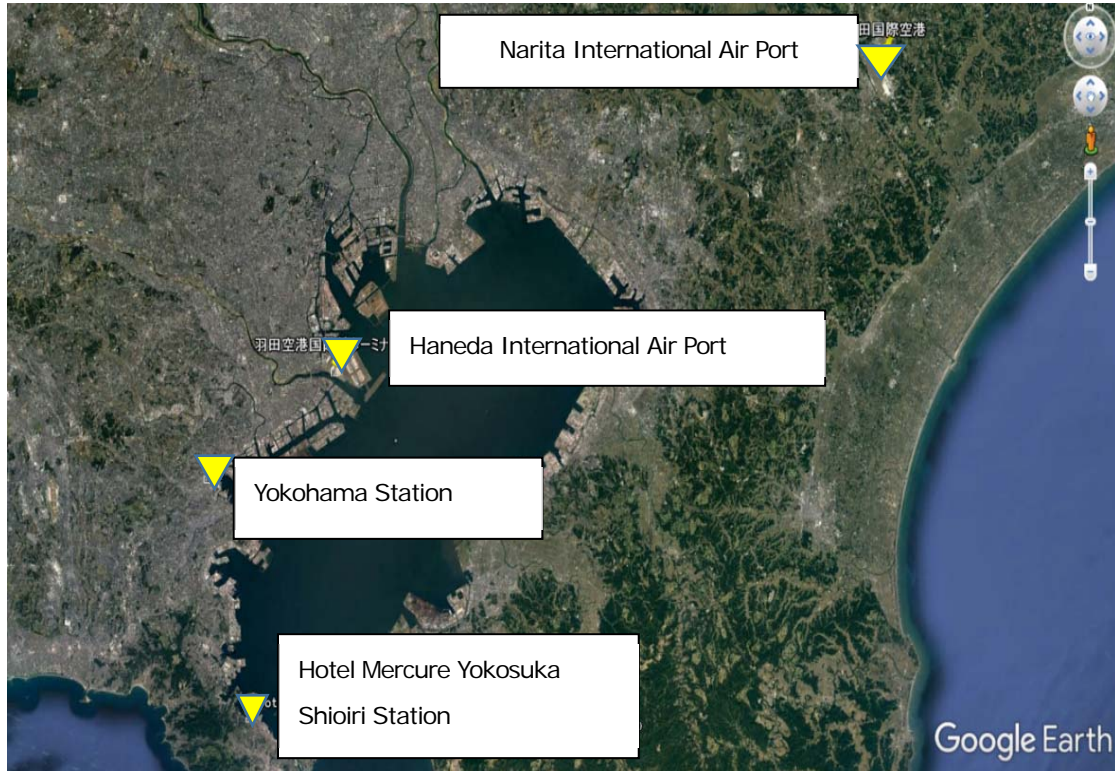
2 Single Beds (32m ²)	Standard	Bay View	Deluxe
1 person	¥12,600-¥26,100	¥14,700-¥28,200	¥20,300-¥33,800
2 person	¥15,700-¥29,200	¥17,800-¥31,300	¥23,400-¥36,900

*There are smoking and non-smoking rooms for each type of room except for Deluxe (non-smoking only).

Travel to Yokosuka

There are two international airports to access Yokosuka.

- 1) Narita International Airport: the main international airport in Japan.
- 2) Haneda International Airport: the closest airport to get to Yokosuka



from Narita International Airport to Shioiri Station		from Haneda International Airport to Shioiri Station	
JR Narita Express + Keikyu Train	Airport Bus + Keikyu Train	Keikyu Train Only	Airport Bus + Keikyu Train
¥4,450	¥3,960	¥810	¥940
120min	120min	60min	70min

As of Feb.28th, 2017

*It is necessary to purchase an express ticket for Narita Express in addition to the JR ticket.
(The express ticket fare is included in the prices listed in the table above.)

*It is recommended to transfer to the Keikyu Line at Yokohama Station even when you travel with JR Narita Express, because the Mercure hotel is a 100-meter walk from Keikyu Shioiri station.

*When you get on the Keikyu Line at Yokohama Station, pay special attention to ensure you get on the "Tokkyu Limited Express," not the "Kaitoku Limited Express," because the

Kaitoku Limited Express does not stop at Shioiri Station.

If you take the train, you can find information about the route from the airport to Shioiri station at <http://www.hyperdia.com/en/>.

The screenshot shows the HyperDia website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Top', 'About HyperDia', 'Product&Service', and 'Contact Us'. The main content area features a 'Timetable and Route Search' section. A red box highlights the search condition form, which includes fields for 'From', 'To', 'Date', 'Time', and 'Type'. A red arrow points to the 'English' language selection button. Five numbered red arrows point to the search condition form fields: 1 points to the 'English' button, 2 points to the 'From' field, 3 points to the 'To' field, 4 points to the 'Date' and 'Time' fields, and 5 points to the 'Search' button.

1. Choose "English."
2. Enter "Narita International Airport" or "Haneda International Airport."
3. Enter "Shioiri."
4. Date & Time: Enter departure date and time from your arriving airport.
5. Press "Search."

*If you take the Airport Bus, you can check the timetable from your arriving airport to Yokohama station (YCAT) at <http://www.ycat.co.jp/en/>.

Japanese transportation network is rather complicated. You are welcome to contact the meeting organizing committee when your flight information is confirmed. They will assist you in finding your way from the arriving airport to the hotel, providing you with a timetable and terminal map.

Visa

If you need a formal letter of invitation for your visa application, please contact irso2017japan@jamstec.go.jp no later than July 14th, 2017. You are encouraged to check with the Consulate Section of the Embassy or Consulate General of Japan for this detailed information in advance. Some general information is available at http://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/#section3.

If you need any help or more information regarding your stay in Yokosuka, please contact the meeting organizing committee at irso2017japan@jamstec.go.jp.

Best Regards,

Bauke (Bob) Houtman, Head, Integrative Programs Section, Division of Ocean Sciences (GEO/OCE), National Science Foundation - IRSO Chair

Erica Konig, National Marine Facilities (NMF), NIOZ Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research - IRSO Vice-Chair

Kikuo Hashimoto, Director, Research Fleet Department, Marine Technology Center (MARITEC), Japan Agency for Marine Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC) – Meeting Organizing Committee