



14Th **ISCORD** 2026 **SAPPORO**

Conference Report

July 7–10,
2026Sapporo, Japan



1. Looking Back on ISCORD 2026

The International Symposium on Cold Regions Development (ISCORD) is held approximately every three years to provide opportunities for experts to exchange knowledge and experience across a wide range of fields related to cold regions, including science, engineering, technology, and culture.

ISCORD 2026 SAPPORO marked the third time the symposium has been hosted in Sapporo, following the inaugural symposium in 1983 and the 7th symposium in 2004, making this the first return to Sapporo in 22 years.

The theme of the symposium was **"Building a Sustainable Future for the Cold Regions: Next Generation Innovations."** As this was the first ISCORD to be held entirely in person following the COVID-19 pandemic, we positioned the symposium as the starting point for a new era of international collaboration. Under this theme, we were delighted to welcome participants from across Japan as well as from Finland, the United States, Russia, China, the Republic of Korea, Kazakhstan, and other countries and regions. We sincerely appreciate the participation and support of everyone who contributed to the success of the symposium.

The symposium featured four keynote lectures, 43 technical presentations presented in 12 sessions, and technical exhibitions by six Japanese organizations. These activities fostered active discussions and the exchange of ideas while providing opportunities to share the latest knowledge and technologies related to cold regions. The Welcome Party and Banquet also encouraged participants to deepen friendships and strengthen professional relationships through Japanese hospitality, creating new networks that crossed national borders, disciplines, and generations.

The 15th ISCORD will be held in Oulu, Finland. We look forward to seeing the networks established in Sapporo continue to grow and contribute to even stronger international collaboration toward a sustainable future for cold regions.

Finally, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to all sponsoring and supporting organizations, technical exhibitors, keynote speakers, session chairs, members of the Organizing Committee, administrative staff, and every participant whose generous support and cooperation made ISCORD 2026 SAPPORO possible. We sincerely hope that the relationships established and the achievements realized through this symposium will continue to promote international research collaboration and technological exchange for the sustainable development of cold regions.

ISCORD 2026 SAPPORO
Organizing Committee

July 2026



Dr. Riitta Kamula
President, International Association
for Cold Regions Development Studies



Kou Hashimoto
Chairman, ISCORD 2026 Organizing Committee

2. Conference Overview

Theme : *Building a Sustainable Future for the Cold Regions: Next Generation Innovations*

Dates : July 7–10, 2026

Main Venue : Sapporo Education and Culture Hall, Sapporo, Japan
(Additional events were held at other venues.)

Organizer : ISCORD 2026 SAPPORO Organizing Committee

Participants : 76 registered participants

(Total attendance: 135, including technical exhibitors, Organizing Committee members, and event staff)

Participating Countries and Regions

7 countries and regions: Japan, Finland, the United States, Russia, China, the Republic of Korea, and Kazakhstan



Sapporo Education and Culture Hall



IACORDS Board Meeting



Commemorative Plaque Presentation

3. Program Overview

Over the four-day symposium from July 7 to 10, keynote lectures, technical sessions, technical exhibitions, and a technical tour were conducted.

Day	Time	Details			Venue	
July 7 (Tue)	15:00-17:30	IACORDS Board Meeting			Sapporo Education and Culture Hall	
	17:30-18:30	Registration			Sapporo Prince Hotel	
	18:30-20:30	Welcome Party				
July 8 (Wed)	9:00-10:00	Registration			Sapporo Education and Culture Hall	
	10:00-10:30	Opening Ceremony				
	10:30-11:10	Keynote 1	Professor Kazuei Ishii	Graduate School of Engineering, Hokkaido University		Sapporo Prince Hotel
	11:10-11:50	Keynote 2	Mr. Yuji Abe	City Development Policy Planning Bureau, City of Sapporo		
	11:50-13:20	Lunch time				
	13:20-14:40	Sessions 1 Frozen Ground and Permafrost (1)	Sessions 2 Infrastructure in the Frozen Environment	Sessions 3 Smart and Digital Solutions	Sapporo Education and Culture Hall	
	14:40-15:05	Coffee Break				
	15:05-16:25	Sessions 4 Geotechnics and Geoinformatics	Sessions 5 Transportation Systems			
July 9 (Thu)	8:50-9:20	Registration			Sapporo Education and Culture Hall	
	9:20-10:00	Keynote 3	Professor Askar Zhussupbekov	The L.N.Gumilyov Eurasian National University, Astana		
	10:00-10:40	Keynote 4	Dr. Shin-ei Takano	President of Safe and Wellbeing Winter Living Council		
	10:40-11:05	Coffee Break				
	11:05-12:25	Sessions 6 Frozen Ground and Permafrost (2)	Sessions 7 Innovative Engineering Solutions	Sessions 8 Urban Snow Management and Winter Life	Sapporo Prince Hotel	
	12:25-13:55	Lunch time				
	13:55-15:15	Sessions 9 Road Maintenance (1)	Sessions 10 Natural Disaster in Cold Regions			
	15:15-15:40	Coffee Break			Sapporo Education and Culture Hall	
	15:40-17:00	Sessions 11 Road Maintenance (2)	Sessions 12 Road Engineering			
	17:00-17:20	Closing Ceremony				
	19:00-20:30	Banquet			Grand Izakaya Fuji Susukino	
July 10 (Fri)		Excursion (Technical Visit)				

4. Keynote Lectures

Four distinguished experts from Japan and abroad delivered keynote lectures on a wide range of topics related to the sustainable development of cold regions.



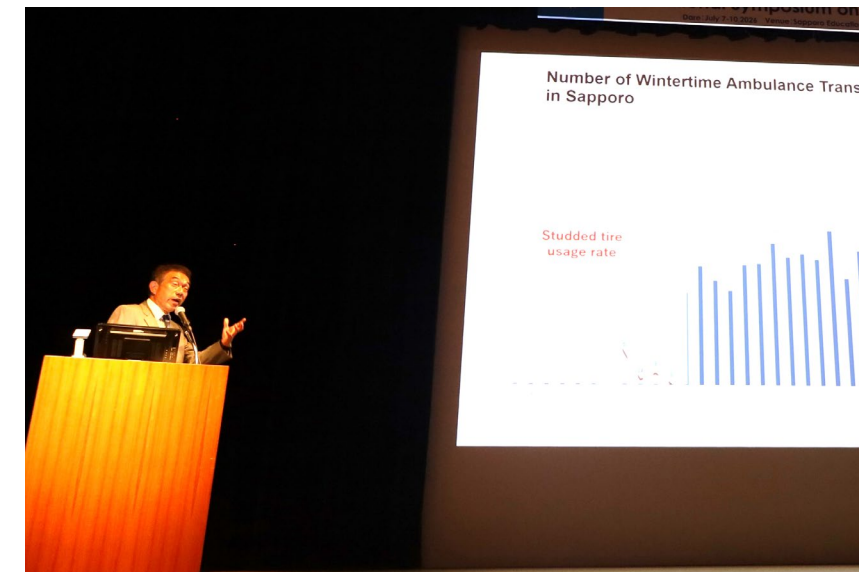
Professor
Kazuei Ishii



Mr. Yuji Abe



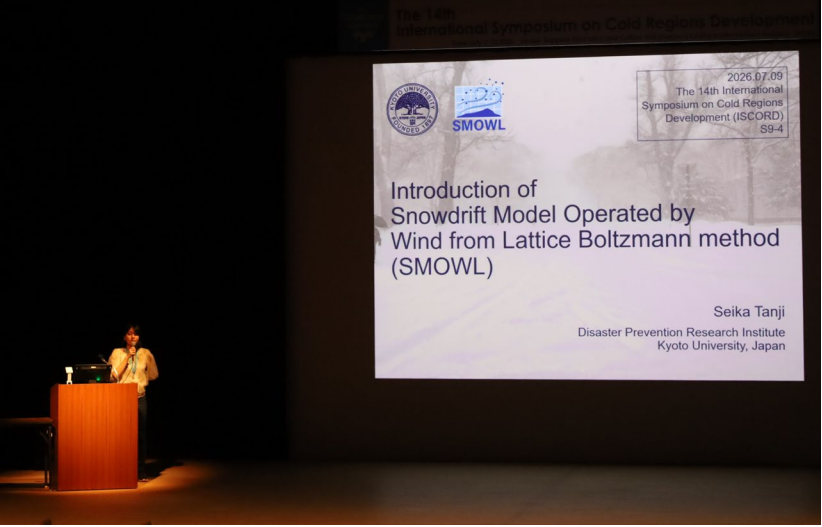
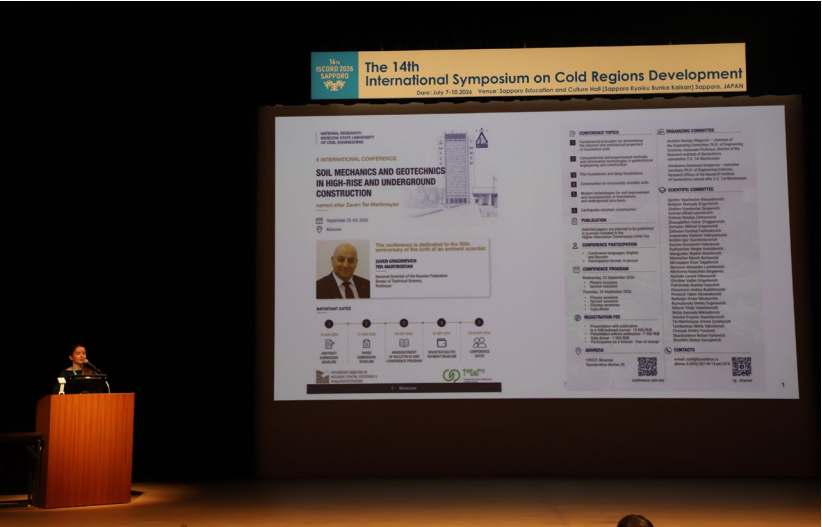
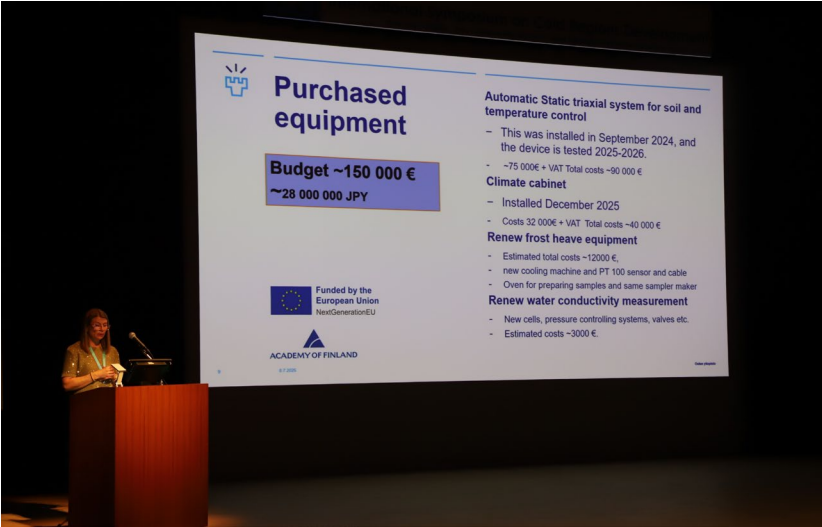
Professor
Askar Zhussupbekov



Dr.
Shin-ei Takano

5. Oral Sessions & Technical Exhibition

- Oral Sessions
Over two days, July 8 and 9, a total of 43 technical papers were presented across 12 oral sessions.



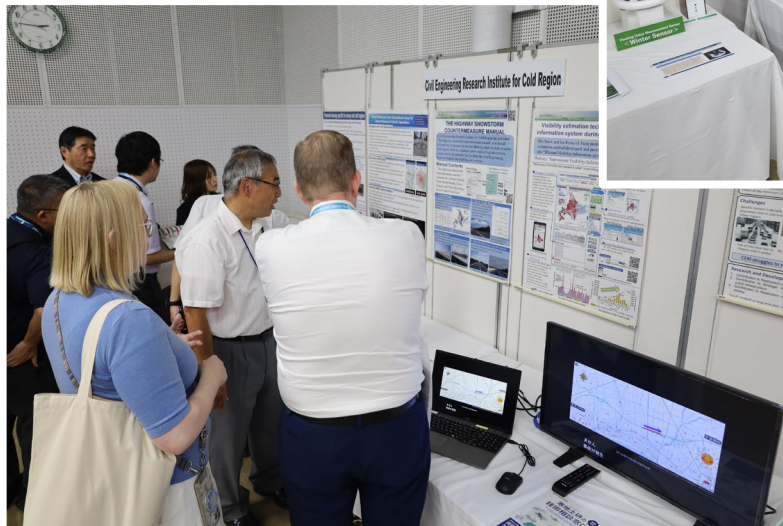
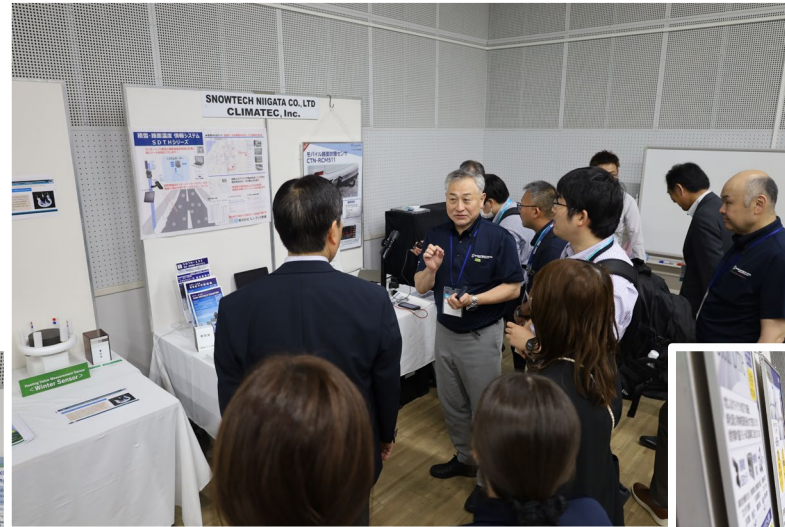
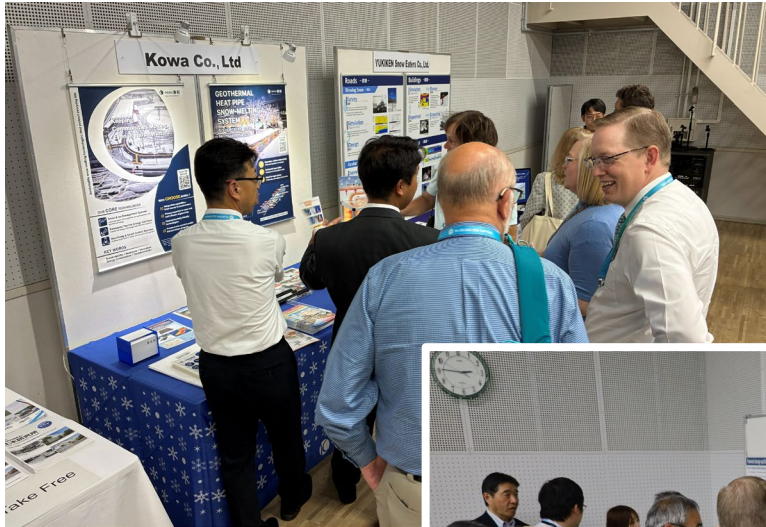
5. Oral Sessions & Technical Exhibition

- Technical Exhibition

Six organizations showcased their distinctive technologies, providing an excellent opportunity to introduce Japan's cold-region technologies related to snow and ice to researchers and other participants from Japan and abroad.

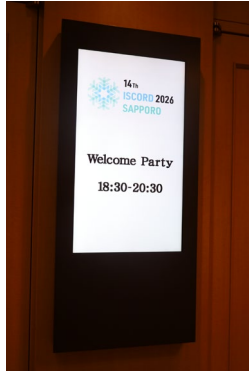
Technical Exhibitors

Civil Engineering Research Institute for Cold Region(CERI)
Kowa Co., Ltd.
YUKIKEN Snow Eaters Co., Ltd.
Iwasaki Co., Ltd.
Yamada Giken Co., Ltd.
SNOWTECH NIIGATA CO., LTD. / CLIMATEC, Inc.



6. Social Events: Welcome Party, Banquet, and Excursion

• Welcome Party



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• Banquet

Venue: Grand Izakaya Fuji Susukino



• Technical Tour

Civil Engineering Research Institute for Cold Region ⇒ Lunch

⇒ MOERENUMA PARK

⇒ NEXCO EAST Hokkaido Regional Head Office Traffic Control Center





7. Achievements of ISCORD 2026 and the Next Symposium in Oulu

1. Building International Networks

ISCORD 2026 brought together researchers, engineers, and government officials from seven countries and regions, including Japan. The symposium provided a valuable opportunity for active exchanges across disciplines and generations, further strengthening international networks.

2. Sharing Knowledge and Technologies

Through four keynote lectures, 43 technical presentations, and technical exhibitions, participants shared the latest knowledge and technologies related to cold regions. These activities fostered lively discussions on building a sustainable future for cold regions.

3. Showcasing Japan's Cold-Region Technologies

The technical exhibitions and technical tour provided an excellent opportunity to introduce Japan's cold-region technologies and snow and ice management practices to international participants.

4. Fostering Intergenerational Collaboration

The symposium also encouraged active interaction between experienced researchers and early-career researchers, helping to build professional networks that will support future innovation in cold-region development.

5. Looking Ahead to Oulu

At the Closing Ceremony, it was announced that the 15th ISCORD will be held in Oulu, Finland. Building on the achievements and international partnerships established in Sapporo, the Organizing Committee looks forward to further strengthening international collaboration toward a sustainable future for cold regions at the next symposium.





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With our sincere appreciation

The ISCORD 2026 SAPPORO Organizing Committee
extends its heartfelt gratitude to all those
whose generous support and cooperation
made this symposium possible.

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