

## **Kyoto International Forum for Environment and Energy (KIFEE)**

KIFEE was created by the universities in the Kyoto region to develop an international arena for strategic cooperation between universities working to develop a sustainable society, inspired by the Kyoto Protocol. Professor Yasuhiko Ito at Kyoto University and Doshisha University was instrumental in establishing the KIFEE. Professor Arne Bredesen at NTNU was a very inspirational leader of the Norwegian side.

When the Bilateral Agreement on Technological Cooperation between Japan and Norway was signed in May 2004, there was a desire to build up a long-term research cooperation that could serve as a basis for industrial cooperation. Because of the long-lasting and good relations between the universities in the Kyoto region, and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Norwegian universities were invited to participate in KIFEE.

The first KIFEE Symposium was held in Kyoto in November 2004. Following this 9 KIFEE symposia were held every 18 months successively in Japan and Norway. After a break due to the pandemic the 11th KIFEE Symposium was held in Tendo, Japan in March 2024.

Since the bilateral agreement involves interactive research between energy and materials to provide new solutions to build a sustainable future, it was decided to utilize KIFEE as platform and arena for the strategic research cooperation.

The KIFEE concept has created a unique scientific network involving many universities, research institutes and enterprises in Japan and Norway. The basis for more extensive collaboration and co-operating projects has to a large extent been realized. We have carried out research collaboration with exchange of students and professors and published a large number of joint papers. From 2025 Reykjavik University, Iceland is a new member of KIFEE.