

Preface

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This issue contains the Annual Report of the Advanced Science Research Center (ASRC) activities for the fiscal year 2011. This is the second year of the five-year project cycle. Included in the issue are seven research highlights and a summary of the research of our eleven research groups.

The Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011 has had a significant impact on the various activities of the ASRC. Fortunately, the center suffered no fatalities. Due to the diligent efforts of its members and, especially, because of the support and encouragement given by the colleagues and institutes in the domestic and international communities in the relevant research fields, by October 2011, most of the experimental facilities of the ASRC had been restored and by January 2012, those of J-PARC.

For the restoration of the nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, the JAEA has been significantly contributing by making full use of equipments, research institutions and man power of JAEA. The ASRC members have been involving in technical contributions and serving in the general support activities such as measurement of contamination in the field and telephone counseling.

In addition to the community service, the ASRC members have made solid progress in their research. On behalf of the ASRC, I would like to express sincere appreciation to the generous support and collaborations which the members had enjoyed in this fiscal year during the time the experimental facilities of JAEA were not available due to the Earthquake. Needless to say, a great part of the progress presented in this Report reflects this support and collaborations.