

14. Division of External Affairs

The Division of External Affairs, as a core organization responsible for public relations and outreach activities, promotes “dialogue” with society including the local area through a variety of activities. The organization has undergone a review in 2019 and now consists of five offices: Society Cooperation Office, Content Production Office, Event Planning Office, Public Relations and Tour Guide Office, and Outreach Promotion Office. A summary of the offices is depicted in Fig. 1. Many of the NIFS staff are active as members of the department. The main activities are: holding public explanatory meetings (Fig. 2), holding academic lectures for the public (Fig. 3), providing tours of the NIFS facilities (Fig. 4), and science classroom activities (Fig. 5). Face-to-face activities were limited due to COVID-19, but new activities utilizing online were initiated.



Fig. 1 Organization chart of Division of External Affairs

Activities held in 2020 include the following.

- Public explanatory meetings held at 5 places; 137 people participated
- Tours of the NIFS facilities (any time) held 87 times; more than 635 people participated
- Open academic lectures for the public held online; There were 561 accesses
- Science classroom activities held 7 times
- Release of information through Web pages, mailing lists, and SNS (Twitter and Facebook)
- Publication of NIFS official pamphlet (in Japanese and in English)
- Publication of public relations magazine: NIFS News (6 issues) (Fig. 6)
- Publication of public relations magazine: Letters from Plasma-kun (6 issues)



Fig. 2 Public explanatory meeting in Toki-city



Fig. 3 Online academic lectures



Fig. 4 Tour of the NIFS facilities



Fig. 5 Science classroom



Fig. 6 Public relations magazine: NIFS News