

Fostering the Next Generation

Activities policy in This Area

The Kurita Group will foster awareness of water-related issues and stimulate interest in science among children and students who will lead the next generation by holding hands-on learning events, providing on-site classes, and sponsoring contests.

Achievements in FY2021

Contest Sponsorship

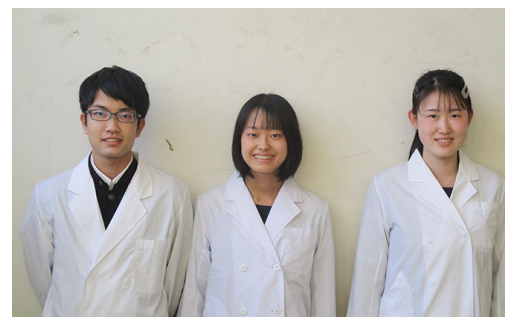
18th Japan Science & Engineering Challenge (JSEC 2020)

The Japan Science & Engineering Challenge (JSEC) is a free-study research contest in science and engineering for high school and technical college in Japan that has been held annually since 2003. Following on from 2019, Kurita sponsored JSEC 2020. At the event, Kurita presented the Kurita Water Industries Award to Ms. Yuri Muto, Ms. Nanami Kanzaki, and Mr. Kazuki Toida of Ichinomiya High School (Aichi Prefecture) for their research project "Improvement of Hydrolysis Efficiency of Cellulose Using Ionic Liquids for Efficient Bioethanol Production."

This was followed by an online exchange meeting between Kurita Global Technology Center (Japan), Kurita R&D Asia Pte. Ltd. (Singapore) and Ichinomiya High School. In the meeting, three winners of the Kurita Water Industries Award presented their award-winning research in English as preparation for the international competition ISEF^{*1}. At ISEF, which was held online from May 16 to 21, the students' research also received a Certificate of Honorable Mention from the American Chemical Society^{*2}, one of the sponsors of ISEF.

^{*1} ISEF (International Science and Engineering Fair): Organized by the Society for Science & the Public, a U.S.-based non-profit organization, ISEF is one of the world's largest international competitions of free science-related research, involving approximately 1,800 high school students from more than 80 countries and regions.

^{*2} The American Chemical Society: Founded in 1876, the American Chemical Society is one of the world's largest academic organizations with 155,000 chemical professionals from 150 countries.



The students of Ichinomiya High School (Aichi Prefecture) received the Kurita Water Industries Award (from left: Mr. Kazuki Toida, Ms. Nanami Kanzaki and Ms. Yuri Muto)

<Comment from Ms. Muto on receiving a Certificate of Honorable Mention from the American Chemical>

I am very honored to receive this prestigious award at the international competition. While it is unfortunate that we were not able to win the Grand Award presented by the organizers, we are deeply honored just to be able to compete on the big stage of ISEF.

This has been a valuable experience. It would not have been possible without the support of our teachers and seniors at school who have supported us so far, or without the people at Kurita Water Industries, who gave us this opportunity to take part. I cannot express in words how grateful I am. I hope to use this experience toward the next step in developing my career on the international stage.

On-Site Classes

JAXA Space Education Center's Support for Formal Education Program

Kurita took part in planning classes for elementary, junior high, and high schools conducted by the Space Education Center of Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), and conducted on-site classes.

This year's event was held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Students who participating in the course shared various comments including that they had had no idea that reusing water in space was so difficult.



Taking part in class at Shimonoseki-Nishi High School (Yamaguchi Prefecture)

The "Future Academy" STEAM Library Project of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)

Kurita collaborated with JAXA on the creation of online content "STEAM Series: Water." The content was produced by the creative agency Barbara Pool Ltd. (STEAM JAPAN) for METI's "Future Academy" STEAM Library Project. Based on this content, the Oita Prefectural Board of Education participated in the "STEAM Festa" (managed by Barbara Pool Ltd.), an online lecture series on space and advanced technology for high school students in Oita Prefecture. Kurita employees taught classes together with instructors from the JAXA Space Education Center.



Logo for METI's "Future Academy" STEAM Library Project, a platform for learning how to solve various social issues through STEAM education



Original STEAM library content based on the SDGs "Water" theme, "STEAM Series: Water" icon (developed by Barbara Pool Ltd.)

<https://www.steam-library.go.jp/content/30>