



From left, SOEST Dean Brian Taylor, UH President David McClain, and IPRC Interim Director Kevin Hamilton at the signing of the UH-JAMSTEC Cooperative Agreement.

Honolulu, April 6, 2009 - The University of Hawaii has entered into a new five-year Cooperative Agreement with the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC) to support collaborative climate research at the International Pacific Research Center (IPRC) of the UH Manoa School of Earth and Ocean Science and Technology (SOEST).

The agreement continues a relationship extending back to the founding of the IPRC in 1997, a relationship that has provided the University of Hawaii with more than \$30 million dollars to support climate research.

Under the agreement, the IPRC, which now has a full time international scientific staff of over 40, will continue research with their Japanese colleagues at JAMSTEC to improve understanding and prediction of the variations in the climate system. IPRC scientists conduct research mostly by analyzing existing data sets from satellites and other observing systems and by using computer model simulations of the climate system. Their emphasis is on aspects of the climate system directly relevant to the Asia-Pacific region, such as the effects of the ocean and atmosphere on such climate phenomena as the El Niño–Southern Oscillation, the monsoon circulations with its dry and wet spells, and storm tracks over the ocean. They also study the life cycles of tropical cyclones, the causes of year-to-year and decade-to-decade variations in the extratropical North Pacific Ocean climate and in the very strong Kuroshio and Oyashio ocean currents. They address human-induced climate change through modeling studies of past climate and through assessing model predictions of future trends in climate, including the climate change outlook for Hawai'i.