

IPRC Director to Step Down

IPRC Director **Kevin Hamilton** has announced his intention to step down after more than six years leading the center. Hamilton arrived at the IPRC as a faculty member in 2000 and was appointed Interim Director in April 2008 and Director in April 2010.

Reflecting on the current state of the IPRC, Hamilton said, “In the 17 years since its founding, the IPRC has developed into a powerhouse for climate modeling and diagnostics and now enjoys a global reputation for research achievement. From the beginning IPRC’s mission has been broader than just our own research projects, and the climate-science enterprise in the Asia-Pacific region has benefitted from IPRC’s multifaceted activities. Through its Asia-Pacific Data-Research Center the IPRC provides valuable climate data services to the research community and the broader public.

“The IPRC has contributed significantly to the professional development of over 100 young scientists, mainly from Japan and other Asian nations, who have come as graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, researchers, other scientific employees or long-term visitors. These IPRC alumni are now populating the universities and research institutes of Asia, the US and elsewhere in the world.

“The IPRC has become the mid-Pacific hub for climate science by serving as the temporary home of a diverse group of scientists and by organizing and hosting numerous international meetings that have brought thousands of researchers to Hawai’i for scientific dialogue.

“The hard-working scientists and support staff at IPRC over the years deserve the credit for IPRC’s success. It has been a common experience for me to hear visitors remark with admiration on how much IPRC has accomplished in various areas relative to the number of staff involved.”

Regarding IPRC’s unique relation with Japan, Hamilton said, “The Japanese connection has been central to IPRC’s mission and operations since our inception. The very generous support from Japanese agencies, the extensive partnerships with JAMSTEC scientists, and the opportunity to host outstanding young Japanese scientists have allowed the IPRC to develop into a very special organization. On a personal

note, I have enjoyed tremendously the opportunity to collaborate with my JAMSTEC colleagues, first as a researcher and then later also as an administrator, as well as the chance to spend a considerable period in Japan each year.”

Looking towards the future, Hamilton said, “With the signing of a new cooperative agreement between UH and JAMSTEC (p. 22) and continued interest from the NOAA National Climatic Data Center in IPRC’s data activities, a future path for IPRC is laid out. However, I anticipate in the next few years there will be unprecedented challenges in an ever more competitive environment for research support.

“Despite the challenges clearly on the horizon, I expect in the long term the IPRC will benefit from a continuing broad interest in high-quality climate research that helps inform societal response to global change and that the IPRC will thrive for many years to come.”



Tending to IPRC’s business in Japan. IPRC Director Kevin Hamilton in February 2012, photographed by a JAMSTEC colleague after a meeting in Tokyo.