

Outreach Activities to Secondary Education Using the Kindai University Reactor

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The Kindai University Reactor (UTR-KINKI) is a research reactor with a rated thermal power of 1 W, designed and built specially for education and training at universities, and has been used for nuclear human resource development in Japan for over 60 years. As the reactor is extremely safe, it has been used extensively not only for education and research at undergraduate and graduate level, but also for outreach activities to secondary education, such as training workshops for science teachers and science workshops for high school students.

The training workshops for science teachers are held several times a year, and aim to provide science teachers with scientific knowledge about NST through hands-on experience. In Japan, NST topics were introduced in the secondary science curriculum in 2012 for the first time in 30 years, but science teachers who teach them have no experience of being educated about NST. The workshop programme includes several reactor experiments with UTR-KINKI and radiation measurements, and it has been successful in giving many participants the confidence to teach NST. In addition, in order to encourage younger generations to pursue their careers in NST, workshops for high school students are also organised several times a year. The workshops include experiments with reactor operation and radiation measurements, as well as lectures on recent topics related to nuclear energy.

The reactor will continue to be used to support science teachers for their NST education and to stimulate interest in NST in younger generations.