

RAM Incubators Tours

By Caitlin Clouse

The RAM Incubators Tours provided participants with a guided visit through OIST's Innovation Incubator buildings, showcasing how the institute supports entrepreneurial growth and technology transfer alongside its world-class research. The tour revealed OIST's broader vision: to "give something back to the world" by not only advancing fundamental science but also empowering startups that can translate knowledge into societal benefit.

The incubator facilities are designed to host early-stage companies seeking to develop innovations in science and technology. Each building provides a structured environment for startups to evolve: from open, collaborative areas to private workspaces. The ground floor features public spaces that encourage interaction and community engagement; anyone, including external collaborators or students, can use these areas to work, connect, or exchange ideas. Moving beyond these open spaces, the second level offers private meeting rooms, desks, and offices intended for resident startups that are ready to establish a more stable presence.

Through this infrastructure, OIST aims to lower the barriers between academic research and entrepreneurship. The incubator's design reflects an ecosystem that nurtures creativity, interdisciplinarity, and innovation, allowing researchers and entrepreneurs to coexist within the same dynamic environment. By doing so, OIST not only fosters the creation of new ventures but also strengthens Okinawa's role as a hub for global scientific innovation.