Towards Multi-modal Ocean Sensing

To provide a high-class intelligence such as taking an optimal decision making according to the surrounding environmental conditions to underwater observation platforms such as AUVs, Miniaturization of sensors and analyzers are essential. On the other hand, as compared with the remarkable progress of chemical and physical sensors, the biological and biochemical sensors are behind in practical use because of difficulty on the miniaturization. We aim to realize portable in situ biological and biochemical sensors by applying microfluidic and semiconductor sensor technologies, and to realize advanced multi-modal underwater observation using them.

Application of Microfluidic Technology for in situ Microbial Analysis

- Distribution and Abundance of marine microbes: Miniaturized in situ analyzer is needed for detailed visualization
- In situ quantification of microbial ATP (Adenosine triphosphate) as a biomass proxy
- Can be applied to underwater resources survey and environmental impact assessment missions
- Fully automated gene analyzer is also under development

ATP analyzer developed with microfluidic technology

Fukuba et al., Micromachines 2018

Microfluidic device for DNA purification (in collaboration with NOC (UK))

Result of vertical in situ ATP measurement at the Seamont-X (Mariana) Hydrothermal site using ATP analyzer mounted on a CTD