

【Abstract of 2008 Grant – in – Aid for Scientific Research on Innovative Areas  
(Research in a proposed research area)】

<b>Title of project</b>	Project TAIGA: Trans-crustal Advection and In-situ biogeochemical processes of Global sub-seafloor Aquifer
<b>Head Investigator Name</b>	Tetsuro Urabe
<b>Abstract of Research Project</b>	The unseen great rivers (TAIGA) that circulate within the oceanic crust are responsible for supplying energy to microbes of the "Deep Biosphere" which can be equivalent in biomass amount with entire surface ecosystems. This project aims to clarify the structure, extent, and mechanism of the sub-seafloor ecosystem as well as the influence of the ecosystem to the ocean, through direct drillings and multi-disciplinary research among geophysics, geology, geochemistry, and microbiology. This research will give us clue to understand the interaction and coevolution between the terrestrial organisms and the planet earth.
<b>Term of Project: 2008–2012</b>	