

## ■ Facilities surrounding the Okhotsk Sea Ice Museum ■

### Okhotsk Tower

Various studies were carried out regarding the sea ice during the 1970s by major companies that hoped to participate in a Sakhalin offshore oil field development project, and a drift ice observation tower was built at the offshore of the Museum to measure the pressure of the sea ice that was applied onto the tower. After that, no Japanese company had made a large-scale participation in the development of an oil field, the drift ice observation tower was reborn as **Okhotsk Tower**, which is a research facility and also a tourist destination where visitors can have a walk under the sea.



There's so much history behind. This area including the Center is called Gariya District. Please ask someone for the reason.



The former drift ice observation tower (left) and the current Okhotsk Tower (right)

### Vessel Garinko

During the same time, an Archimedes' screw type transportation vehicle which is equipped with 2 drills was developed as a transportation method upon sea ice for the purpose of oil field development, and its driving test was done upon the sea ice. This has developed into the vessel **Garinko II**, which is a drift ice sightseeing icebreaking ship that is capable of sailing out of port.



The former Archimedes' screw type transportation vehicle



Present drift ice sightseeing icebreaking vessel: Garinko II

They originally intended to develop a vehicle which can drive upon the ice and sail upon the sea, too.



### International Symposium on Okhotsk Sea & Polar Oceans

At Mombetsu City, the International Symposium on Okhotsk Sea & Polar Oceans is held every year, which is a symposium on the theme of Sea of the Okhotsk and drift ice, and the 32nd Symposium was the one held in Feb. 2017.

This symposium had started based on the proposal made by the late Professor Masaaki Aota, and is still continuing. This is one of the reasons why Mombetsu is setting up its idea of being "an international city for drift ice research".



The opening ceremony of the International Symposium on Okhotsk Sea & Polar Oceans

## Crab scissors object

There is a gigantic crab scissors monument near the Sea Ice Museum whose size is 12 m high, 6 m wide, and which weighs 7 tons.

This was produced for the Drift Ice Art Festival which was held by Mombetsu City in 1983. It used to float in the sea among the drift ice, but at present, it is placed on land. Other objects such as “Salmon parent and baby” and “Pyramid” were also produced, but some got sunk and some got deteriorated, and don't exist anymore



Crab scissors object



The crab scissors pinching a full moon on a super moon night (Oct. 15, 2016)