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Organization and management that lay the groundwork for the future of society

Distinguished Professors 2011

Profiles of the University's professors to whom the title Distinguished Professor 2011 has been extended were posted on the University's website in March 2012.

The title of Distinguished Professor recognizes professors who play innovative roles in the fields of classroom teaching, research, and social contribution. Through this program, Tohoku University intends to show to the world its appreciation and support for talented professors, as well as enhance the University's international standing and attract brilliant researchers and students from around the world.

Seventeen professors were named Distinguished Professors 2011 for having applied their extensive professional expertise in making remarkable academic achievements. Summaries of their research projects and their comments are posted at:

<http://www.bureau.tohoku.ac.jp/koho/dp/english/index.html>



Completion ceremony of the AIMR main building



The exterior walls of the building retain the old scratched-tile structure from the days of Tohoku Imperial University, while the glass walls and ceilings give its interior a modern look. A community space is provided to AIMR researchers to facilitate greater interaction and networking among them.

A ceremony to mark the completion of the main building of the Advanced Institute for Materials Research (AIMR) was held on December 7, 2011.

The construction of the main building was completed only four months behind schedule—despite the interruption caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake. The new building, which provides a unified location for all AIMR researchers on the Katahira Campus, is expected to facilitate, to a greater extent, integrated research across diverse fields of material sciences.

The completion ceremony, for which Center Director Yoshinori Yamamoto served as master of ceremonies, featured speeches by Dr. Akihisa Inoue, the president of Tohoku University; Dr. Hiroyuki Abe, a counselor to the President of the Japanese Science and Technology Agency and a former president of the University; Hayashi Towatari, deputy director general, Research Promotion Bureau of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT); and Dr. Toshio Kuroki, WPI program director. At the reception that followed, Dr. Junichi Nishizawa, an adviser to the Sophia School Corporation and a former president of the University, and Dr. Yoshihito Osada, WPI program officer, made speeches offering their congratulations on the completion of the building. (Attendees' titles are at the time of the event.)



Global Centers of Excellence Program

The Global COE Program is operated by MEXT to support centers of excellence in Japan as part of an initiative to make Japanese universities more competitive internationally and to nurture creative talents with global leadership potential. In the selection process, COE candidates are reviewed to determine their potential for growth as education and research centers capable of developing human resources using world-class, innovative, and groundbreaking research infrastructures.

At Tohoku University, 12 programs in eight research fields were designated as COEs in the 2007 and 2008 academic years.

- Basic & Translational Research Center for Global Brain Science
- International Center of Research & Education for Molecular Complex Chemistry
- Materials Integration International Center of Education and Research
- Center of Education and Research for Information Electronics Systems
- Global Nano-Biomedical Engineering Education and Research Network Center
- Global COE for Conquest of Signal Transduction Diseases with "Network Medicine"
- Weaving Science Web beyond Particle-Matter Hierarchy
- Global Education and Research Center for Earth and Planetary Dynamics
- World Center of Education and Research for Trans-disciplinary Flow Dynamics
- Center for the Study of Social Stratification and Inequality
- Gender Equality and Multicultural Conviviality in the Age of Globalization
- Center for Ecosystem Management Adapting to Global Change

100th anniversary of the University Library

June 14, 2011 marked the 100th anniversary of the Tohoku University Library, which was built on the current Katahira Campus in June 1911, four years after Tohoku Imperial University was founded.

Four branch libraries opened in the years that followed: the Medical Library in 1915, the Agricultural Library in 1974, the Engineering Library in 1978, and the Kita Aobayama Library in 1982.

The library boasts a broad collection of documents and books of historical values, including two national treasures; the Kano Library, which is an indispensable asset to scholars of the Edo period; and the Soseki Library, which includes a private book collection accumulated by Soseki Natsume—a prominent Japanese novelist (1867-1916)—and drafts and documents authored by him. The library's collection can be viewed electronically via the Internet.



Events celebrating the library's 100th anniversary

Birthday messages to the library (June 14, 2011):

People who visited the library on this day were asked to submit comments about and requests for the library, and were given 100th anniversary commemorative gifts.

Commemorative ceremony and speech (October 15, 2011):

During the commemorative ceremony, Professor Emeritus Hiroshi Okamoto donated to the library a copy of a first edition of *On the Origin of Species* by Charles Darwin, which he had bought at Bauman Rare Books in New York in 1997.

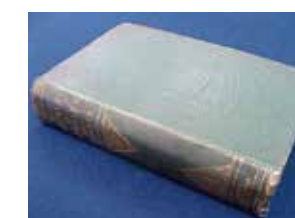
Dr. Hideaki Sena, a Tohoku University graduate and best-selling author of science fiction and fantasy, delivered a commemorative speech titled "The Future of Science and Humans and the Power of Story," which gave the audience something to think about regarding leveraging science to deal with post-earthquake challenges.

Commemorative exhibit titled "Collection of Brilliance: Gifts to the Future" (October 7 to November 5, 2011):

The library's collection of old books and documents that survived the Pacific War and the Great East Japan Earthquake was on display for public viewing.

Commemorative speech (October 30, 2011):

Professor Arata Hirakawa, the Center for Northeast Asian Studies, delivered a speech titled "Japan in the Edo Period was an Empire: Images of Japan Viewed Through the Eyes of Europeans."



First edition of *On the Origin of Species* (restored)

TOPICS

Tohoku University ranks third in the world in terms of academic paper citations in material science

Thomson Reuters, which is the world's leading source of academic information for researchers, released the rankings of Japanese research institutions based on citations in published academic papers. Tohoku University ranked third in the world (first in Japan) in material science and 12th in the world (second in Japan) in physics in 2012 as it did in 2011. These rankings indicate that the University is recognized worldwide as a research institution that has impressive academic achievements.

3rd in the world (1st in Japan) in material science

- 12th in the world (2nd in Japan) in physics
- 20th in the world (6th in Japan) in chemistry
- 109th in the world (9th in Japan) in biology/biochemistry
- 135th in the world (8th in Japan) in immunology

Compilation period: January 1, 2002 to April 30, 2012