

Leveraging our world-class expertise in research and technology to revitalize regional industries

A body of knowledge that leads industry-university collaboration to a new level

Professor Kazuo Hokkirigawa received Grand Prize of JST Innovation Coordinator Award

The Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) presented the 2011 Innovation Coordinator Award at the National Innovation Coordinators Forum in Sendai on November 1, 2011.

The Grand Prize was awarded to Professor Kazuo Hokkirigawa of the Graduate School of Engineering for his achievements in developing and implementing an effective industry-university collaboration model "Sendai-Hokkirigawa Model" in which a team of university professors and local officials visit small and midsize businesses to help them identify and solve problems in product development. He also facilitated personnel exchanges between universities and local governments, and drove the collaboration model to be adopted in the Tohoku region and the rest of the country.



Agreements to begin collaborative research projects signed



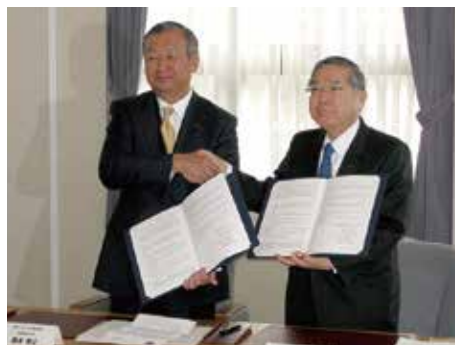
Working with Tokio Marine & Nichido in research on earthquake risk assessment

On July 26, 2011, Tohoku University and Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co., Ltd. (TMNF) signed an agreement to begin joint research on risk assessment of earthquakes and tsunami. Under the agreement, the University will furnish accumulated research data on earthquakes and tsunami, and TMNF will provide analyses and data on risks associated with earthquakes and tsunami. The collaborative research project is intended to advance research and technology in this field and to share research findings and data with society.

Working with IBM Japan in research on earthquake risk assessment and disaster-risk reduction

On November 22, 2011, Tohoku University and IBM Japan, Ltd. agreed to collaborate in research on risk assessment of earthquakes and tsunami and on technology to reduce the risks of disasters, with the goal of advancing academic research and technology in this field and contributing to the prosperity of society.

The University will bring to the collaborative project the fruits of the research it has amassed as well as its research teams in the field of disaster management and disaster-risk reduction. Combined with IBM Japan's expertise in IT solutions, the project is expected to help advance research on risk assessment of earthquakes and tsunami and help reduce the risks of disasters as well as develop expert researchers in this field.



Working with NICT to develop disaster-resistant information and communications technology

Tohoku University and the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT), a public institution tasked with promoting R&D in information and communications technology (ICT), signed a comprehensive agreement for collaboration and cooperation as well as an agreement to begin joint research on disaster-resistant ICT. The collaboration between the two parties is expected to drive R&D and innovation in ICT.



Raising public awareness of industry-university-government collaboration

Tohoku University Innovation Fair 2012 in Tokyo

Tohoku University held the Innovation Fair in Tokyo on March 15, 2012 to raise public awareness of its extensive expertise in research and of the fact that the University was working with businesses and communities in research projects to share the fruits of research with the public.

At the fair, Soichiro Okudaira, a managing officer of Toyota Motor Corporation, delivered a keynote speech about Toyota's way of making cars and developing its human resources, and a group of panelists shared what they expected from Tohoku University. In the pavilion area, the University showcased how it was assisting with reconstruction efforts in the Tohoku region, and highlighted research accomplishments in product development, life sciences, nanotechnologies and materials, environment and energy, and information and communications.



4th Tohoku University International Symposium "Aiming for World's Leading University"

Tohoku University held its 4th International Symposium on October 27, 2011, in which a University official talked about challenges that the University was tackling in recovering from the Great East Japan Earthquake and about the mission of the Institute for Disaster Reconstruction and Regeneration Research, established after the March 2011 earthquake.

At the symposium, the Tohoku University Office of Cooperative Research and Development presented the University's vision for international industry-university collaboration. Following a speech by a guest speaker from overseas, University professors provided updates on research projects in medicine and engineering.

Regional Industry Restoration Research Symposium

After the March 2011 earthquake, the Graduate School of Economics and Management established the Earthquake Recovery Research Center in April 2011. The center has since been working with other universities in the Tohoku region, local governments, and local businesses in the joint Regional Industry Restoration Research Project. The project is intended to develop policy initiatives that address long-term solutions to regional issues from a perspective different from those of public and private sectors.

The center held a symposium on October 1, 2011, in which highlights of the findings compiled from six months of research were presented, and policy issues relating to the restoration of regional industries were extensively debated.



2011 Regional Innovation Symposium "Secrets of Successful Regional Innovations"

The University's Regional Innovation Research Center joined forces with the Tohoku Regional Advancement Center to launch the Regional Innovation Research Project in 2011. This project is intended to shed light on low-profile but promising innovations and entrepreneurship in the Tohoku region, which has long been considered unproductive for business ventures, by interviewing local entrepreneurs to uncover the secrets of their successes.

At a symposium titled "Secrets of Successful Regional Innovations" on March 17, 2012, the center reported the results of the fact-finding interviews, and innovators from the region shared what it takes to be a successful innovator.

