

MISSION STATEMENT

Since its foundation, Tohoku University has been committed to a "Research First" principle and an "Open-Door" policy, and the University is internationally recognized for its outstanding standards in education and research. The university contributes to world peace and equality by devoting itself to research useful in solutions to social problems and by developing leadership qualities in students.

HISTORY

Tohoku University was founded in 1907 as the third Imperial University of Japan, following Tokyo Imperial University and Kyoto Imperial University. From the start, it displayed to the world an unswerving commitment to an "Open-Door" admissions policy. In contrast to the other Imperial Universities, it accepted graduates from Higher Technical Schools and Normal Schools and, despite opposition from the government at that time, it became Japan's first National University to admit female students in 1913.

At the time of its founding, Tohoku University was able to attract a group of young, brilliant researchers who had trained around the world to serve on its faculty. Partly as a result of this, a "Research First" principle came to develop, which calls upon our scholars not only to pursue highly productive research but also to put their findings to work in the teaching of their students. In addition to this, Tohoku University has nurtured a tradition of "Practice-Oriented Research and Education," in which their results of cutting-edge research are being put to use for the good of society and the improvement of ways of living. Evidence of our pioneering practice (before World War II) includes the establishment of local venture businesses which foster regional industry as well as our status as the national center for research into family law - the domestic branch of law which is closely associated with our daily lives.

This spirit, which continued strongly through World War II and the rapid economic growth of the postwar period, still remains vibrant, and can be seen in today's new era of advanced globalization.

C O N T E N T S

1	Mission Statement History	〈Environment/Organization/Operation〉
3	Aiming to Be a World-Leading University News and Events (April 2007 - August 2008) Inoue Plan 2007 (Revised 2008)	15 Distinguished Professor System 17 Establishing Environment and System for Developing World-Leading Research 〈Education Results〉
	〈Academic Results〉	21 Education Program under Continuous Innovation 23 A Bright and Active Campus Life 〈Industry-Academia Collaboration〉
5	Expanding the Possibilities of Image Media	25 Providing Intellectual Resources to the World through University-Industry Cooperation 〈International Exchanges〉
6	Problem of Social Stratification and Inequality	27 Further Expansion and Enrichment of International Exchanges 〈Social Contribution and Gender Equal Society〉
7	Ancient Indian Literature	29 Contributing to Society and Promoting Gender Equal Society 〈Centennial Commemoration/New Campus〉
8	New Aluminum Alloy to Generate Hydrogen	31 Tohoku University 100th Anniversary Projects
9	Approach to the Mystery of Plant Movement	33 New Campus Plan
10	Forefront of Spin Electronics	
11	Frontiers of Quantum Information and Communication Technology	35 Divisional Major Achievements
12	Efficient Meat Production Mechanism	37 Data and Overview of Tohoku University Location of Tohoku University
13	Prize Winners for 2007 (April 2007 - August 2008)	38 Contacts

Annual Review 2008 covers activities conducted at the University from April 2007 to August 2008.

[Picture] Planned site for the University's new Aobayama Campus