

Brilliant Talent Illuminates the World, and Guides Researchers of the Future

Distinguished Professor System



The Distinguished Professor System is designed to support professors who are leading in the fields of education, research and social contribution. Tohoku University intends to show its appreciation of these distinguished professors to the world, and to increase the university's international profile, and to ensure world-class human resources.

Appointed as Distinguished Professors for the first time in this system are 30 professors (25 on April 1, 2008 and 5 on August 1, 2008) who have made great achievements based on the highest expertise. All

of them have a research mentality of "Challenge," "Creation," and "Innovation," which are three keywords developed in Tohoku University.

The activities of the Distinguished Professors are expected to stimulate other teaching staff and be a model for students, and to encourage them to make a contribution to human society.

During a term of three years beginning in the academic year of 2008, when Tohoku University starts another 100 years of its history, they will spread various activities of the university throughout society.

Name	Organization	Reason for appointment
Appointed on April 1, 2008		
Teruo Asakawa	Center for the Advancement of Higher Education	He has contributed to the promotion of English teaching at the university by playing a leading role in innovation, associated with constructing course contents and curricula of English teaching.
Tatsuo Uchida	Graduate School of Engineering	He has followed an untrodden path in the research of liquid crystal display, and has achieved outstanding results through a great contribution to the practical application of high performance liquid crystal displays.
Noriko Osumi	Graduate School of Medicine	She has played an active role in the most advanced research field as the representative for the center of the global COE in the field of life science, as well as taking a leading role in social contribution.
Eiji Ohtani	Graduate School of Science	He has contributed to both education and research through publishing a number of world-class articles, and played a role as the representative for the center of the 21 st century COE program.
Hideo Ohno	Research Institute of Electrical Communication	He has achieved excellent results in the new research area of fused semiconductor physics with magnetism, and has been developing world-leading research in the new field of semiconductor spin-electronics.
Yoshitomo Oka	Graduate School of Medicine	He has been greatly appreciated in the field of internal medicine, especially regarding his research into diabetes and life-style related disease, and has played a leading role in internal medicine in Japan.
Ryuta Kawashima	Institute of Development, Aging and Cancer	He has conducted groundbreaking research in brain function imaging and achieved the most advanced research results in the world, as well as enthusiastically making a great contribution to society with his achievements in research.
Takashi Kobayashi	Graduate School of Arts and Letters	He has achieved outstanding results in the research of dialectology and has conducted remarkable research as the top dialectology researcher, receiving awards including the "Kiyosuke Kindaichi Prize" and the "Isuru Niimura Prize".
Mitumasa Koyanagi	Graduate School of Engineering	He has contributed to the improvement of research in semiconductors through his advanced research, leading the field associated with large integration / high-capacity semiconductor memory, both in Japan and worldwide.
Eimei Sato	Graduate School of Agricultural Science	He has been highly praised for his outstanding research in agricultural science, especially in animal reproduction, and has also been highly acclaimed among educationists both inside and outside the university.

Name	Organization	Reason for appointment
Shigeru Sato	Graduate School of International Cultural Studies	He has contributed advanced research into the neuroscience of language associated with the multi-lingual brain, and has also contributed to practical education related to foreign languages.
Motoyuki Sato	Center for Northeast Asian Studies	He has developed next-generation landmine detectors in the field of demining detection / development of demining technology, and has contributed to international demining activities indispensable for reconstruction and development in the conflict-affected regions in the world.
Seiji Samukawa	Institute of Fluid Science	He has achieved world-leading research concerning plasma process in the field of semiconductors, and has greatly contributed to society by realizing the practical application of technologies such as pulse-time-modulated plasma.
Tetsuo Shoji	Graduate School of Engineering	He has achieved outstanding research results associated with the breakthrough in aging degradation of energy conversion in plants, and methodology for plant life-time prediction and management. He has also contributed to society in the practical aspect of degradation diagnosis.
Miyoko Tsujimura	Graduate School of Law	She has played an important role as a top constitutional scholar in Japan, and at the same time, she was the program leader of the center for the 21 st century COE. She has contributed research into the world view of laws and policy for a gender-equal society.
Tetsuya Terasaki	Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences	He has achieved outstanding results in his research for pharmacy and pharmaceutical studies on a world basis, especially in his research into blood-brain barriers, and has been actively promoting research in leading pharmaceutical studies nationally and internationally.
Nobuhiko Terui	Graduate School of Economics and Management	He has achieved world-class research in theoretical econometrics, and has been developing leading research activities as one of the international front-runners in this field.
Masataka Nakazawa	Research Institute of Electrical Communication	He has succeeded in achieving a number of the world's first research projects in the field of optical communication technology, and has contributed significantly to innovational research and development, leading the world in electrical communication.
Masahiro Hirama	Graduate School of Science	He has developed leading research in the field of organic chemistry / synthetic organic chemistry, and has achieved outstanding research which has received great attention worldwide.
Sadamichi Maekawa	Institute for Materials Research	He has been leading the world in the research field associated with magnetic conductors, including the effect of tunnel magnetoresistance, and he has achieved world-leading results in the research of electric property centered in the property of magnetism and the phenomenon of conductors.
Kensaku Mizuno	Graduate School of Life Science	He has published a number of research articles in the world's leading journals in the field of cell biology, and in life science he has been recognized as one of the leading researchers in the world.
Katsutoshi Mizuhara	Graduate School of Education	As a consequence of the implementation of educational reforms changing the curriculum to students' participatory education, he has received the 1 st Tohoku University chancellor award, and has widely contributed to society and the education administration among local regions, such as Miyagi prefecture and Sendai city.
Tokuji Miyashita	Institute of Multidisciplinary Research for Advanced Materials	He has succeeded in being the first in the world to develop a polymer ultra thin nano-film, and he has achieved conducting outstanding research in polymer nano-material chemistry, especially in the field of new polymer nano-sheets materials, on an international basis.
Akira Miyamoto	New Industry Creation Hatchery Center	He has succeeded in developing chemistry software based on original mathematical logic, and he has contributed socially to the realization of innovational material design and process design through university-industrial cooperation.
Hiroshi Yoshino	Graduate School of Engineering	He has achieved great results in building environmental engineering, particularly concerning issues of thermal environment, indoor air quality and energy conservation in residential buildings, and he has made a remarkable contribution to society in various fields.
Appointed on August 8, 2008		
Kunio Inoue	Graduate School of Science	He has revealed the solution of the solar neutrino problems as a result of measurement of reactor anti-neutrinos with Kamland, and developed the research field in neutrino geophysics and astrophysics. He has propelled world-leading research into neutrinos as a director of RCNS and a leader of the global COE program.
Motoko Kotani	Graduate School of Science	She received the 25 th Saruhashi Prize for her contribution to "Discrete geometric analysis on a crystal lattice", achieving discrete geometric analysis which connects Geometry and Probability Theory, and she has been recognized as a mathematician of worldwide standing. At the same time, she has been playing a leading role in social contribution and the project for a gender equal society.
Yoshimichi Sato	Graduate School of Arts and Letters	He has achieved outstanding research associated with the analysis of social stratification and social changes. He has been contributing to research achievement through propelling worldwide research leads to Japan as a leader of the 21 st Century COE program and the global COE program.
Tohru Nakashizuka	Graduate School of Life Science	He has achieved research of international repute in the field of forest ecology and received the Midori Scientific Award. He has also propelled global research associated with global environmental problems, ecosystem management and ecosystem integrity as a leader of a global COE in the area of interdisciplinary Composition, New Field.
Shigenao Maruyama	Institute of Fluid Science	He has achieved a number of outstanding research results in wide areas relating to thermal engineering and thermodynamics. As a leader of the 21 st Century COE program and a leader of the global COE program, he has been promoting the expansion of research to fuse interdisciplinary areas. He has played a remarkable leadership role in conducting world-leading research.