

## Inheriting the "Open Door" Principle; Academia for Social Development Contributing to Society and Promoting Gender Equal Society

### "Tohoku Women's Hurdling Project" to Support Women Researchers

<http://www.morihime.tohoku.ac.jp/index.html>

In 1913, Tohoku University first opened its door to women in Japan. In 2001 it established the Gender Equal Commitment Committee, to improve gender gaps, and research and labor environments for women, and to enhance the work and life balance support system. The Tohoku Women's Hurdling Project was selected as a support model in the Project for Developing Women Researchers Support Models in the Special Coordination Funds for Promoting Science and Technology of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

The Tohoku Women's Hurdling Project aims to have systems to help women researchers, hurdle various barriers to their career paths, and was implemented by the Support and Promotion Office for the Tohoku Women's Hurdling Project in three Programs: Support for Care of Children and Aged Families, Environmental Improvement, and Development of Next-generation Women Researchers.



#### Cultivating Next-generation Female Researchers through "Alma Mater Visiting Seminar"

Under the Program for Development of Next-generation Women Researchers in the Tohoku Women's Hurdling Project, the science angel (SA) system was created where SAs are women students of the graduate schools of natural sciences. SAs visit their alma maters and provide seminars to be role models for those students at their alma maters who wish to be researchers.



### "Tohoku University Science Café Special" Gained Popularity

<http://cafe.tohoku.ac.jp/>

Science Café, which was begun in the United Kingdom in 1998, has been spreading through many countries. In Japan, Tohoku University opened the first of its kind in Japan in August 2005, as the place where the citizens and researchers have chats about science. This event is held on a monthly basis. In 2007, Science Café Special was held at the Katahira Sakura Hall of Tohoku University as the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration project, and was very popular. It is planned that Science Café will be held in areas outside Sendai in the second half year of FY 2008 onward.



### Contribution to Revitalize the Region in a Project-based Education and Research Program

The Graduate School of Economics and Management of Tohoku University established the Regional Innovation Research Center to enhance the innovation capabilities of the Tohoku region in July 2005. The Center started its "Project-based Education and Research Program" in 2006. This program is designed to organize projects to solve regional issues where university professors,

graduate students, and practitioners collaborate to conduct research activities and make action plans for regional innovation. The program not only contributes to the solution of regional issues by promoting research activities, but also provides graduate students and practitioners opportunities for training and career development.



### Inauguration of the Abe Jiro Memorial Prize for Senior High School Students

<http://www.sal.tohoku.ac.jp/abe2008/index.html>

On the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the university, the Faculty of Arts and Letters created the Abe Jiro Memorial Prize for Essays by Young People. Professor Jiro Abe (1883-1959) was one of the foremost thinkers of the university, and Santaro's Diary, his collection of essays, has been regarded as essential reading for the youth since it was first published in 1914. Tohoku University founded the Abe Jiro Memorial Museum in 1999. The Prize, intended to commemorate Abe's quest for the self and the quintessence of Japanese culture, is awarded to essays submitted by senior high school students from throughout Japan.

