

## An Open University Increases Opportunities for Exchanges and Expands Unlimited Possibilities Deep Involvement In Social Contribution and Approaches to Gender Equality

### Tohoku University's Approaches to The Iwate-Miyagi Inland Earthquake

At 8:43 a.m. on June 14, 2008, the Iwate-Miyagi Inland Earthquake of Magnitude 7.2 (M7.2) has occurred. The epicenter was in the southern inland of Iwate Prefecture. On June 15, the Japan Association for Earthquake Engineering has put together a joint investigation group lead by Professor Motoki Kazama at Graduate School of Engineering with cooperation of the Japan Society of Civil Engineering and the Japanese Geotechnical Society. Research Center for Prediction of Earthquakes and Volcanic Eruptions, Graduate School of Science has installed the GPS-based observation network for close investigation of the inland earthquake mechanism and the crustal structure around the epicenter. The center played a role as a representative of a joint observation group consisting of universities and research institutions in Japan.

A meeting of Japanese Society of Community Psychology in collaboration with the Center for the Advancement of Higher Education, Tohoku University was held on June 20, 2008, and has provided special lectures on restoration from the Iwate-Miyagi Inland Earthquake and recovery of communities. On July 14,



A disk-shaped device in front of a person is a GPS receiving antenna, and a rectangular device on the bank slope in the back is solar panels to supply power. These solar cells make it possible to acquire data during the power outage caused by the earthquake.



A symposium was held by Disaster Control Research Center (DCRC,) Graduate School of Engineering on July 14, 2008.



A series of six books "Considering Disaster Prevention" As of July 2009, two of them have already been published. Published by Toshindo, Tel. 03-3818-5521

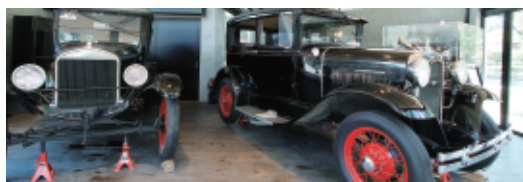
2008, one month after the Earthquake, the university held a symposium with the attendance of researchers in various fields.

Meanwhile, researchers mainly in liberal arts and social sciences of Tohoku University have published a series of six books "Considering Disaster Prevention" to approach from the above field in January 2009. The new perspective has drawn attention, and lectures for Disaster Prevention by our faculty members were carried in a series in the Kahoku Shimpō newspaper from April 2009 through June 2009.

The Museum of Past and Future Automobiles was opened on November 1, 2008. The museum includes 1926 Ford Model T, 1931 Ford Model A, and TOYOTA F1 racing car engine that was donated to celebrate the Tohoku University 100th Anniversary.

This facility is at the site of Graduate School of Engineering, and its glass-walled building draws attention. It is open to the public free of charge, and has become a popular spot in the university.

### Opening Ceremony of Museum of Past and Future Automobiles



## Topics! The 3rd Tohoku University Sendai Seminar "Tohoku Future Project" A Gift from the Universe – To Know the Most Advanced Aerospace

An aerospace seminar was held by Tohoku University, The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA,) and the Kahoku Shimpō at Kawauchi Hagi Hall on December 13, 2008. About 800 people have gathered to listen attentively to the lectures on a clue to the mysteries of the universe and the development of next-generation aircraft. The content of the seminar included a keynote speech by Mr. Yasunori Matogawa, Councilor for technology at JAXA, and a video letter from Ms. Naoko Yamazaki, a Japanese astronaut. A School of Space also opened to give elementary, junior and senior high school students an opportunity to be familiar with space. Participants learned about the latest aerospace.



## Sparkling ☆ Exciting Science For students of elementary, junior and senior high schools

The science program is to provide fifth and sixth graders, junior and senior high school students with a chance to see, hear and be exposed to the most advanced research results in various fields. Students can understand a relation between academic studies and daily lives, and the meaning of science.

Tohoku University carried out two programs in academic year 2008, and other universities has worked on similar programs on other themes.

### ● July 27, 2008

#### Exploration of The Mind through Interviews

#### – Let's ask a question of Professional Baseball Players and Professional Musicians – ①

#### Professor Katsurou Kitamura

Graduate School of Educational Informatics Research Division

Children conducted interviews with Olympic athletes and world-renowned music players to find out a clue to fully express their potential.



### ● August 2 and 9, 2008 (same content for both days)

#### Ensuring safety before a great quake comes

#### – The forefront of measures against earthquakes ②

#### Professor Masato Motosaka

Disaster Control Research Center (DCRC,) Graduate School of Engineering

Professor Motosaka has presented a technology to precisely predict the occurrence of upcoming Miyagi Offshore Earthquake. A prediction is made by using data on seismic waveforms transmitted to Tohoku University by a seismometer that is installed at a public facility on the Sanriku coast and an earthquake early warning system.

## The 7th Tohoku University Gender Equality Symposium

Tohoku University has established the Gender Equality Committee in 2001, and has held a symposium annually since 2002 to promote gender equality. The university admitted women for the first time in Japan under its Open-Door policy.

The 7th Gender Equality Symposium was held at the Sendai International Center on November 22, 2008. The 6th Sawayanagi Award or Tohoku University Prize for the Encouragement of Gender Equality for academic research was given to the Parents' Association of Kawauchi Keyaki Nursery of Tohoku University. The reason to be awarded is network construction to establish a child-care facility that takes advantage of the university. Ms. T. Odontuya, a doctoral student at Graduate School of

Environmental Studies received the special prize for the project category of the same award for her Social Anthropological Analysis on Expansion of Violence to Women in Mongolia.

Award lectures were presented by the Parents' Association of Kawauchi Keyaki Nursery and Associate Professor Koichi Hashimoto at Graduate School of Education, University of Tokyo. His lecture was on Career Development of Women Researchers and the Institutional Environment. The Associate Professor won the 4th Sawayanagi Award for the project category when he was Assistant Professor at Graduate School of Education, Tohoku University.

Mr. Åge B. Grutle, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway in Japan has made a keynote speech on the current state of Gender Equality in Norway. Professor Ichiro Yonenaga at Institute for Materials Research and other participants have discussed the same issue in universities.

## Topics! Tohoku University has been on top for three consecutive years of the number of patents publication by university

According to the number of patent publication by university released by the Patent Office, Tohoku University has been on top since 2006. This fact indicates the high level of research and a strong motivation to return research results to society in the university. Our policy of Research First and Practical Sciences First has brought about the above achievement

### 1st place/Tohoku University, 326patents

2nd place/University of Tokyo, 280patents

3rd place/Osaka University, 273patents

4th place/Tokyo Institute of Technology, 231patents

5th place/Kyoto University, 188patents