

## Our Path Toward Becoming a World-Class University

Ever since Tohoku University was established in 1907, our philosophy has always been to put "Research First" while maintaining an "Open-Door" policy in order to emphasize "Practice-Oriented Research and Education." We have conducted research and education at the world's highest level. Tohoku University's Annual Review 2010 describes our remarkable achievements and highlights of the previous year.

Humanity today is facing a variety of difficult and complex challenges which need to be addressed on a global basis. By applying the knowledge we have accumulated over the past century, and by continuing our efforts to achieve innovation in the fields of research and education, our university is determined to play a leading role as a "world-class university" in helping humanity overcome the challenges it faces today.

Tohoku University announced "Inoue Plan 2007" in March 2007, an action plan that consists of five pillars: education, research, social contribution, campus environment, and organization/management.

Three years have now passed since the plan was introduced, and during this period the University continues to make steady progress. In the field of education, for example, we are moving forward with the development of our new proprietary liberal arts curriculum and globalization, including the expansion of the overseas internship program, and the Global 30 Project for Establishing Core Universities for Internationalization. Further, we founded the "International Advanced Research and Education Organization" to raise researchers who will lead sciences in the 21st century with excellent, creative

and comprehensive knowledge, and inaugurated the Advanced Institute for Materials Research (WPI-AIMR) following the adoption of the World Premier International Research Center Initiative (WPI). Thus, we have created novel research frontiers that integrate different fields. We are also pursuing a number of highly original strategies: improving our global presence by participation in APRU (Association of Pacific Rim Universities), T.I.M.E. (Top Industrial Managers for Europe) and AEARU (the Association of East Asian Research Universities); developing our campus to meet international standards; introducing a personnel system to improve global competitiveness; establishing the Tohoku University Foundation; and implementing external evaluation by the European University Association (EUA).

2010—Even universities must question their *raison d'être* when faced with the tide of sudden changes on the unprecedented scale that we are facing. It is imperative that we clarify the path, carry out our mission and increase further the pace of reform. I believe that by helping all our stakeholders to understand our mission and the various activities carried out at Tohoku University, and by actively seeking the cooperation of a wide variety of peoples, we will become a university that is trusted, respected, and loved by society, and one which is truly capable of serving the needs of humanity.

**Akihisa Inoue**  
President of Tohoku University

### Tohoku University News and Events (April 2009–July 2010)

2009	
Apr 3	"Inoue Plan 2007 (Tohoku University Action Plan, Revised for 2009)" Announced
Apr 7	2009 Tohoku University Entrance Ceremony
Jul 30–31	Tohoku University Open Campus
Sep 25	Tohoku University Commencement Ceremony
Oct 10–11	Tohoku University Homecoming Day
Nov 21–23	Tohoku University Festival 2009
Dec 31	Tohoku University Silvester Concert 2009–2010
2010	
Jan 6	Unveiling Ceremony of Kawauchi Welfare Facilities Bldg. New Cafeteria
Jan 15	Commemorative Events for Life Sciences Project Research Laboratory Completion
Feb 25–26	2010 Tohoku University Entrance Examination: First Examination for General Admission
Mar 12	2010 Tohoku University Entrance Examination: Second Examination for General Admission
Mar 25	Tohoku University Commencement Ceremony
Apr 1	Trial Campus Bus Service Started
Apr 2	"Inoue Plan 2007 (Tohoku University Action Plan, Revised for 2010)" Announced
Apr 5	Opening of "BOOOK"
Apr 6	2010 Tohoku University Entrance Ceremony
May 13	Completion Ceremony for Fluctuation Free Facility for New Information Industry
Jul 27	Completion Ceremony for Extended Education & Research Building
Jul 28–29	Tohoku University Open Campus

#### Inoue Plan 2007 (Revised for 2010)

This is the latest edition of the Tohoku University Action Plan. It deals with challenges on which President Inoue wants to focus in aiming to be a world-leading university. It consists of the five pillars of education: research, social contribution campus environment, and organization/management. The university periodically reviews the plan according to changes in the university environment and steady progress made on the plan, and updates the contents to keep it on course.



[http://www.bureau.tohoku.ac.jp/president/open/plan/Inoue\\_Plan\\_2010.pdf](http://www.bureau.tohoku.ac.jp/president/open/plan/Inoue_Plan_2010.pdf)

1	Education	As a "Transmitter of knowledge," we will restructure the system of instruction we use to pass along our store of accumulated wisdom, and as a "Creator of knowledge," we will strive to produce future leaders with a strong liberal arts background, specialized expertise, and an international outlook.
2	Research	As a "Creator of knowledge" our goal must be to develop original, innovative research structures capable of producing world-class results through strategic, original research as well as through basic research carried out with a long-term perspective.
3	Contribution to Society	As an institution "open to the community and open to the world," we will contribute to the progress of human society by applying our human and intellectual resources to the community.
4	The Campus Environment	Establish a world-class campus environment to support the diverse research and educational activities that will need to be carried out by the university in its capacity as a "Creator of knowledge" and as a "Transmitter of knowledge."
5	Organization/Management	Establish a management infrastructure with a sound financial base capable of transforming our university into an "Enterprise of knowledge," which can adapt to changes in the environment surrounding the university and better respond to the needs of the times.