

# 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," maintain an "Open-Door" policy, and to emphasize "Practice-Oriented Research and Education." Under these principles, we have conducted research and education at the world's highest level. Tohoku University's Annual Review 2011 describes our remarkable achievements and highlights of the previous academic year.

Human society today is facing a variety of difficult and complex challenges that 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 developing human society.

That is why Tohoku University announced the "Inoue Plan 2007" in March 2007, which outlined an action plan with five pillars: Education, Research, Social contribution, Campus environment, and Organization/Management.

Four years have now passed since the plan was drawn up, and during this period the university has made steady progress. In the field of education, for example, we have moved forward to develop our new proprietary liberal arts curriculum and globalize our educational programs, 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 foster researchers who will lead science in the 21st century with their excellent, creative and comprehensive knowledge. We also 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 with participation in The Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU), the Top Industrial Managers for Europe (T.I.M.E.), and The Association of

East Asian Research Universities (AEARU); 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).

2011 — Even a hub of research and education such as Tohoku University must question its purpose during this time of ongoing and unprecedented global upheaval. The tragedy of the March 11, 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake made all engaged in academic research keenly aware that as specialists they cannot just dismiss their obligations by saying a disaster was "unforeseeable," but rather it is their responsibility to take up the challenges that such events pose with renewed determination. Tohoku University's mission hereafter will be to build public understanding for the steps that must now be taken, in addition to striving side-by-side with a multitude of others in order to contribute to the development of human society as a university worthy of the trust, respect and affection that the community has given it.

President of Tohoku University  
Akihisa Inoue



## Tohoku University News and Events (April 2010 — July 2011)

### 2010

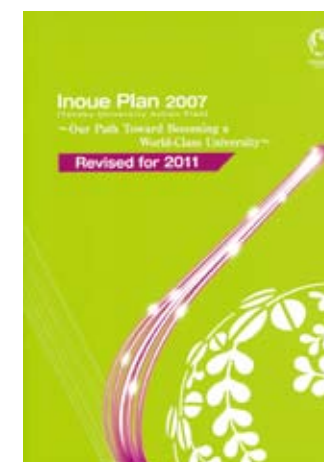
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| Apr 2       | "Inoue Plan 2007 (Tohoku University Action Plan, Revised for 2010)" announced                 |
| Apr 6       | 2010 Tohoku University Entrance Ceremony  |
| Jul 28, 29  | Tohoku University Open Campus   |
| Sep 24      | Tohoku University Commencement Ceremony   |
| Oct 9, 10   | Tohoku University Homecoming Day  |
| Oct 28 - 31 | Tohoku University Festival 2010   |
| December 31 | "Yosuke Yamashita's Silvester," Silvester Concert at the Tohoku University Kawauchi Hagi Hall |

### 2011

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| Feb 25, 26 | 2011 Tohoku University Entrance Examination: First Examination for General Admission |
| Mar 11     | Great East Japan Earthquake occurred   |
| May 6      | Faculty Commencement Ceremony/Orientation for New Students of each Faculty           |
| May 7      | All Campus Orientation/New Students Special Seminar                                  |
| Jun 30     | "Inoue Plan 2007 (Tohoku University Action Plan, Revised for 2011)" announced        |
| Jul 27, 28 | Tohoku University Open campus  |

## Inoue Plan 2007 (Revised for 2011)

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: education, research, social contribution, the 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.



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|---------------------------|--|
| 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 Social contribution     | 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.   |

<http://www.bureau.tohoku.ac.jp/president/open/plan/plan2011.pdf>