

Aiming to Be a World-Leading University

Ever since Tohoku University was established in 1907, our philosophy has always been “*Research First*” and maintain an “*Open-Door*” policy for emphasizing a “*Practice-Oriented Research and Education*.” Over the years, this has enabled us to offer our students world-class education and for them to carry out world-class research. Moreover, the results of our research have proven useful in solving many problems facing society, and by educating leaders; we have contributed in establishing a just and peaceful society. Our university’s history has been built through diligent accomplishments and efforts of those who have passed through the halls of our campuses and facilities during ten decades of education. The alumni, the educators, administrative staff and the supporting community have all taken part in the development of our unique institution.



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-leading university” in helping humanity overcome various challenges that it faces today.

Resolved to become a world-class university and capable of playing a leading role, solving the problems facing humanity; we have come to realize that in trying to direct the future course of development, Tohoku University should revolve its efforts around three key words: “*Challenge*,” “*Creation*,” and “*Innovation*.” At its core, there must be a spirit of “*Challenge*” which will motivate us to achieve a level of excellence required to build the society of the future.

As a “*transmitter of knowledge*,” Tohoku University aims to serve society by training a large number of graduates equipped with indomitable spirit and by developing human resources capable of playing leading roles in various fields on the international stage.

Furthermore, as a “*creator of knowledge*,” our goal will use the energies generated by our spirit of challenge to create a world-class knowledge and contribute to the progress of human society by employing practical applications of this knowledge. We will promote interdisciplinary research with a transdisciplinary emphasis in an effort to find innovative solutions to problems in the areas of environment, energy, food, life sciences, and social welfare.

As an “*enterprise of knowledge*” which welcomes input from both inside and outside the university, we are able to develop strategies to accomplish our goals. By taking advantage of the best minds available, from both within the university and those beyond its walls, and by fully exploiting the capacities we have developed over the years, I am fully convinced that we will be able to open the way to a very bright future for ourselves as an absolute world-class research-intensive university.

As we aim to become a “world-leading university,” Tohoku University has formulated a practical strategy based on these three principles called the “Inoue Plan 2007” (March, 2007) which is based upon three principles and consists of 5 areas - education, research, community service, the campus environment and organization/management.

Looking back to accomplishments in our first year since the plan started, we find ourselves with numerous projects which are steadily making progress. In the area of education, our university has reestablished a liberal arts curriculum which improves implementation structures indigenous to Tohoku University. The university has also actively adopted overseas internship programs.