

Principles of Strategy for International Exchange

The mission of Tohoku University is to search for truth and create and disseminate human knowledge, thereby contributing to the realization of a society where humanity can live in peace and dignity. More specifically, as an inclusive university, bringing together a collaborative and mutually stimulating mix of academic fields, our aims are to honor the wisdom of the world throughout history, identify current and future agendas for scholarship, share our knowledge and discoveries with the community and the world, and actively cultivate individuals with the desire and capability to contribute to humanity.

Throughout the last century, this university upheld three principles: “Research First,” “Open-Door,” and “Practice-Oriented Research and Education,” demonstrating that the members of this institution have been keenly aware that internationalization in research and education is an indispensable condition for achieving our mission and aims.

In August 2000, Tohoku University stated its intention of becoming a world-class research and educational institution through international exchanges. Subsequently, when Tohoku University became a legally independent institution in April 2004, it was decided that the highest priority would henceforth be granted to the “realization of internationally competitive research and education.” Furthermore, in November of 2004, Tohoku University declared that it is striving for global excellence under the slogan “Tohoku University, Creating Global Excellence (Tohoku University provides opportunities for world-class research and education)”

As evident from these statements, the promotion of international exchange has become increasingly pivotal to accomplishing the university’s mission and aims. Clearly required in the planning and carrying out of international exchanges are the strategies by which we can promote the above mission and goals. In keeping with this mission to foster both breadth and depth of strategic international exchange and collaboration, Tohoku University is committed to the following basic goals:

- 1) Promote research of the highest world standards through active participation in an international academic network.
- 2) Invite highly motivated, capable and talented individuals from all over the globe and cultivate international leaders who can contribute to the advancement of world development.
- 3) Communicate our accomplishments in education and research internationally and contribute them to the international community.
- 4) Strengthen the foundations of research and education and increase the university’s international recognition to support realization of the above three goals.

Activities for International Exchange

AEARU: The Association of East Asian Research Universities

<http://www.aearu.org/>

The Association of East Asian Research Universities (AEARU) is a regional organization founded in January 1996, with the goals of forming a forum for the presidents of leading research-oriented universities in East Asia and of carrying out mutual exchanges between the major universities in the region. Expectations are that this regional union, on the basis of common academic and cultural backgrounds among the member universities, will contribute not only to the development of higher education and research but also to the opening up of a new era leading to cultural, economic and social progress in the East Asian region. AEARU activities include workshops, student summer camps, student physical competitions, and various types of international symposia. These activities are held throughout the year to promote mutual exchanges of ideas and information and to develop close bonds between the member universities.

AEARU is now composed of 17 universities from China (6), Japan (6), Korea (3), and Taiwan (2). Tohoku University joined AEARU in 1998 and has actively engaged in its activities as a member university.

Activities for International Exchange



"Collaborations with Industry, City, and Public" AEARU International Symposium March 27, 2008



T.I.M.E.: Top Industrial Managers for Europe

<https://www.time-association.org/>

T.I.M.E. was established in 1989 as an international network of leading higher educational institutions which specializes in engineering. Its door has opened for non-European institutions since 2005 and Tohoku University was accepted as the first Asian member together with Keio University in 2007.

It is now composed of 51 member institutions from 21 countries and its main focus is master-level Double Degree Programs and now has over 2,500 bilingual, bicultural engineer graduates. T.I.M.E. launches other innovative exchange programs through task forces formed by member institutions to foster internationally competitive engineers for tomorrow's world.

In July 2008, Tohoku University was selected for Support Program for International Cooperation and Collaboration - support for comprehensive strategy - by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), for unprecedented large-scaled exchange programs with T.I.M.E. member institutions.



Besides the activities above, Tohoku University actively promotes sending our students abroad as well as receiving international students, within the framework of international consortium such as GE3 (The Global Engineering Education Exchange; an exchange program administrated by Institute of International Education which is an independent nonprofit founded in 1919), and GE4 (Global Education for European Engineers and Entrepreneurs; a private association created in 1996).

Double Degree Program with Overseas Institutions

As society becomes increasingly globalized, Tohoku University launches a double degree master's programs with elite institutes of higher education in France and China, to develop the next-generation of human resources, able to spearhead the 21st century. From fiscal 2006, the Écoles Centrale Group (composed of five Écoles Centrale [Lille, Lyon, Marseille, Nantes, Paris]) and the Institut National des Sciences Appliquées de Lyon (INSA-Lyon) become our program partners in France. All are grandes écoles, leading institutes which attract top students from France and other countries around the world, offering the finest in education. The partner in China is Tsinghua University, an institute of higher learning which is presently attracting much international attention. The Double Degree Programs of Tohoku University are in the undergraduate and graduate fields of science and engineering.