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Historical Background

Tohoku University, formerly known as the Tohoku Imperial University, was founded in 1907. From its start, it displayed to the world an unswerving commitment to an "Open Door" policy. Departing from the norms of other imperial universities, it accepted graduates from technical schools and higher normal schools, and despite opposition from the government at that time, became Japan's First University to admit female students in 1913 (admitting three in that year).

At the time of its founding, Tohoku University was able to attract a group of young and brilliant researchers who had trained around the world to serve on its faculty. For this reason, a "Research First" principle was established, calling upon scholars to not only pursue highly productive research but to also put their findings to work in the teaching of their students. In addition to this, Tohoku University has nurtured a tradition of "Practice Oriented Research and Education," in which the results of cutting edge research are being put to use for the good of society and the improvement of living standards. Evidence of our pioneering practice includes the establishment of local venture businesses which have contributed to regional industry, and our status as the nation's center for research on family law; the domestic branch of law which is closely associated with our daily lives.

Although Tohoku University was severely damaged in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011, great efforts have been made to restore the basic educational and research functions of our university, and with the traditions, the spirit of Tohoku University as its foundation, we will work toward the reconstruction of the Tohoku region and the revitalization of Japan.