

On April 1st, 2012, I have been appointed President of Tohoku University. In the following, I would like to outline my thoughts on the tasks that should be tackled through the coming 6 years term of my office.

Since its foundation in 1907, Tohoku University, as a comprehensive educational institution with over a century of history to look at, has been producing under the principles of “Research First,” “Open Doors,” and “Practice-Oriented Research and Education” not only excellent human resources, but also disseminating numerous research results to the world. Now, we are faced with difficult challenges, such as working up the experience of the Great East Japan Earthquake, the decline in industrial earning capacities, the dwindling birth rate, the intensification of international competition by globalization and also the environmental problems on global level. In a situation like this, Tohoku University will meet its responsibilities towards society and in order to fulfill its original mission on a even higher standard, we want to achieve the two goals “Leap to World-class” and “Leading the Way towards Reconstruction and Regeneration.”



“Leap to World-class”

First, we plan to further improve the level of education and research and aim at the “Leap for World-class.” In the field of education, accumulating knowledge alone is not sufficient, we also need to polish, work on and with it, making use of that intellect for the benefit of society; therefore, we will review the role of liberal arts in the light of human resource training. Besides this, we will prepare an environment introducing various and interdisciplinary study opportunities for the people of diverse nationalities and fields of specialization, and we will never stop producing talented people with outstanding language and communication skills, capable of responding to global society. What we all sensed deeply while experiencing the recent disaster is the crucial lack of social leaders capable of identifying the real nature of our problems and making decisions thereupon. While observing the changing society, it is necessary reflect on how to train leaders to be global players, what liberal arts in the context of modern society means, how to combine them with professional education, and how to enhance opportunities for personal learning including extracurricular and other activities; either of these questions will be investigated with highest priority.

In the area of research, we, as a center of excellence for world leading research, will proactively promote advanced and interdisciplinary research projects while at the same time expanding research on fundamental level. The present situation and tasks of every graduate school and research institute will be thoroughly analyzed, and after the direction of innovation has been made clear, we plan for steady functional enhancement. Excellent fields of study will be further expended while weak points will be strengthened. Originally, research at universities starts with independent research activities based on the ideas of individuals, but taking into consideration the responsibility entrusted by the Japanese people and society, a more strategic focus might become necessary. Taking into account the changing values in society after the great earthquake and the nuclear power plant accident, Tohoku University as a whole will endeavor to reveal common issues for human kind from a general and interdisciplinary viewpoint while making use of all its resources to engage these. At the same time, we also regard fundamental research as very important. Fundamental research might not be immediately useful, but will in a broad sense contribute to the enrichment of society. Through the coexistence / fusion of fundamental and applied research, new fields of research will be discovered; such undertakings will be strongly promoted.

“Leading the Way towards Reconstruction and Regeneration” ~ Tohoku University Reconstruction Actions

Second, we will fulfill our leading role towards reconstruction and regeneration. Signs of reconstruction can be already observed in disaster affected areas, but a sharp vision for reconstruction has yet to be developed. Tohoku University, as a comprehensive educational institution in the center of the disaster area, has the mission to devote its whole strength and resources for reconstruction. We will create new knowledge and strongly support the regeneration of the region. Based on industry - government - academia cooperation, we will start new businesses and plan to revitalize the region by increasing employment. In addition, Tohoku University will function as an engine for knowledge, a striving force pulling out Japan from its economic stagnation. We already promote various projects for reconstruction and regeneration at the “Institute for Disaster Reconstruction and Regeneration Research” which was established shortly after the great earthquake disaster, the “International Research Institute for Disaster Science” and the newly established Tohoku Medical Megabank Organization. In the future we will construct a cooperative network system not only stretching over Japan but the whole world.

Responsibility for Creating the Future

I believe that Tohoku University will be ahead of our time, creating the future and by that positioning itself in history. As a center for education and research on world-class level shouldering the future of human society, I'm determined to realize this mission reaching beyond national and regional borders. For that reason, while building up a responsible management and promoting system, we will discuss detailed strategies that will make the direction our university is aiming for clearer. Through your understanding of our mission and activities, and with the cooperation of many other people I will continue my efforts to realize all this and contribute to the development of a just and peaceful human society.

June 2012

Susumu Satomi

President, Tohoku University

■ Tohoku University's Official Symbol, School Colors, Song and Logo



Aiming to create a clearer identity and enhance its international recognition and status, Tohoku University unveiled its official school symbol, colors and song in June 2007.

With the key concepts of ‘creativity’, ‘globality’ and ‘tradition’ in mind, the university adopted the ‘Hagi’ (Bush clover) plant, a traditional symbol of Sendai and Miyagino, as its school symbol. The Hagi, which has also been used in the school logo since 2005, represents a dynamic movement spreading throughout the world with dignity.

The colors purple and black were selected as Tohoku University's official colors. Purple, which is used in the school symbol, symbolizes intelligence and creativity, while black represents diligence and the power of practice.

Ever since its foundation in 1907, Tohoku University has been committed to its ‘Research first’ and ‘Open door’ policies. It has accepted diverse talent from across the world, and has striven to develop leadership talent and cutting-edge research. On the basis of these traditions, it is hoped that the school symbol will express the essence of Tohoku University's past and future as a world class research and educational institution.

‘Aobamoyuru konomichinoku’ was selected as the official song of Tohoku University. This beloved song was originally sung by the Tohoku University Students' Association in 1953 and has been passed down the generations since then.