

Message from the President

Introduction

In the more than 100 years since its founding in 1907, Tohoku University has produced excellent graduates and numerous research achievements under its core values of “Research First,” “Open Doors,” and “Practice-Oriented Research and Education.”

Beginning with recovering from the catastrophic damage caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, we are faced with a wide variety of challenges. These include a loss of industrial strength and reduced earning capacity, a declining birth rate and a growing population of the elderly, increased globalization that has led to an escalation in international competition, as well as global environmental problems. In such a chaotic world, what is required of a university’s wisdom, of Tohoku University? To answer this question, upon assuming the office of President in April 2012, I set two goals for our university: “Achieving World-Class Status and Leaping Ahead” and “Leading the Restoration of Tohoku and Japan.”



Achieving World-Class Status and Leaping Ahead

“Achieving World-Class Status and Leaping Ahead” means Tohoku University aims to become a university that is respected around the world for excellence in both education and research which raises the level of global society, and creates a rich academic foundation that serves as a base as we aim for a higher level of education and research.

Continuing our efforts last year, we will continue to carry out reforms in education, building on the successes of the Institute for Excellence in Higher Education (founded in April, 2014) as we address the necessity of creating a GPA and course numbering system. Further, we will continue to promote the “Global Leader Program” and improve the study environment for making more student mobility.

In research, we pursue expansion of the support for our young researchers by building upon the achievements of our Institute for International Advanced Research and Education. Further, through our international visitor research institute “Tohoku Forum for Creativity”, we will allow our young researchers to engage in exchanges with noted researchers from overseas. Additionally, through using our Organization for Advanced Studies, we plan to create several research institutes similar to our WPI-AIMR.

Leading the Restoration of Tohoku and Japan

Out of the eight projects for reconstruction undertaken by the Institute for Disaster Reconstruction and Regeneration Research (IDRRR) we established amidst the disorder following the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, we have newly built our International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS), the Tohoku Medical Megabank Organization (ToMMo) and the Research Organization of Electrical Communication (ROEC). Additionally, we have rebuilt the Graduate School of Agricultural Science’s Onagawa Field Science Center following its destruction in the tsunami. These institutes continue to make new discoveries as they advance their research. Further, researchers from IRIDeS, as well as several others from our university, presented the results of their research at the 3rd United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction that was held in Sendai in March of this year. Also, in order to develop the human resources and research needed to decommission the disaster-stricken Fukushima Dai-Ichi Nuclear Power Plant, we will continue to advance the over 100 action plans developed after