

## an Address

President of Tohoku University

**Akihisa Inoue**

---

“2008”: Tohoku University has taken a new step toward creating the next 100 years’ history. In the context of rapid change in the environment surrounding the university, we who are entrusted with making a great contribution to humanity need to achieve innovation in the fields of research and education, to improve and advance ourselves through persistent efforts and profound study.

In these circumstances, I consider that the introduction of the system of Distinguished Professors is significant for the further development of this university, and a necessary step toward targeting “world-leading University” status in the future.

The system of Distinguished Professors is intended to honor those professors who play important leading roles in the fields of education, research and social contribution at this university. This system aims to support their activities, as well as to promote the recruitment of outstanding human resources by conveying our respect worldwide.

The Distinguished Professors selected in this system have outstanding achievements in each academic area based on their elite level of expert knowledge; in their research, they work with a philosophy comprising three key words: “Challenge”, “Creation” and “Innovation”. In a manner of speaking, they are the treasures of the University.

I believe that their achievements to date will serve as good examples and a source of encouragement for other faculty members and students throughout this university, so that one day the achievements of those they have inspired may lead to the contribution to improvement of human society.

I would like to ask the cooperation of the 30 elected professors’ in participating in the events held by this university, such as the entrance ceremony and science cafe over the coming 3 years, as we have begun this year a new century of university history. Furthermore, I expect them to play an important leading role in disseminating their education and research activities, and in their contribution to society through daily activities.

