

Message from the President

Welcome to Tohoku University! Situated in the beautiful city of Sendai, our university was founded in 1907 as the third imperial university of Japan. At the time of its inauguration, Tohoku Imperial University was composed of the College of Agriculture and the College of Science. Today, the university boasts ten undergraduate schools, fifteen graduate schools, five research institutes, and many educational and research centers. Our student body, including both graduate and undergraduate students, numbers 17,900 in total, of whom 4,100 are women and 1,200 are international students. Tohoku University today has 5,000 faculty and administrative and technical staff.



Renamed Tohoku University in 1947, our institution today maintains the traditions, values, and ideals established at the time of our founding. We continue to pursue the policies and principles of *“Research First,” “Open Door”* and *“Practice-Oriented Research and Education,”* and we have also developed the new policy of *“A University Open to the World and the Community”* with the aim of *“The Development of Future Leaders.”*

Our educational goal is to foster students who have strong interpersonal skills, personal integrity, a proactive and pioneering spirit, creativity based on mastery of core academic knowledge and skills, and the ability to promote bold and innovative ideas. In research, our primary aim is to realize our ambitions as a *“Research-Intensive University”* and a top-level, world-class research institution. We make every effort to maximize research funding for our core academic activities through support from the government as well as from various foundations and private-sector organizations, thus fortifying our education and research infrastructures which advance our strategic plan for the future of our university. At the same time, we hope to develop new frontiers by strengthening the features of our university in the areas of both research and education.

On April 1, 2004, our university became a national university corporation which means that we are now an independent entity. While continuing to be a “creator and transmitter of knowledge,” Tohoku University is revolutionizing the conventional concept of a university as a “community of knowledge” into the vision of the university as an all-encompassing “enterprise of knowledge.” The steady implementation of this reform is a critical issue for the future of Tohoku University. As Tohoku University is an “enterprise of knowledge,” it is vital that our faculty and administrative and technical staff all work together as a dynamic team to contribute to the enhancement of the university, while moving forward in concert with our alumni and interacting with the world community.

As I assume the office of president, I look forward to obtaining the cooperation and support of the faculty and friends of the university and am delighted to share my thoughts regarding the university’s future. In 2007, our university will hold celebratory events to mark our centenary and will invite many of our domestic and international partner institutions and friends. With the support of our partners, we will promote our education and research as well as our professional programs for the betterment of all humankind. Our daily progress is our most important asset, and we will continue to share our achievements with the world community.

Akihisa INOUE, Ph.D.
President of Tohoku University