

### Introduction

In its more than 100 years of history 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.”

Two years have passed already since the March 11, 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. As one of the universities in the center of the disaster area, Tohoku University’s mission is to work for the reconstruction of the Tohoku region, but also for the revitalization of Japan, which was trapped in a stagnant mood even before the disaster occurred.

Therefore, I want us to firmly pursue the two goals of “Leading the Restoration of Tohoku and Japan” and “Achieving World-Class Status and Leaping Ahead” that I set upon assuming the office of President in April last year.



### Achieving World-Class Status and Leaping Ahead

First, we will work to raise the level of our education and research even further in order to make a great “Leap Ahead.” Regarding education, we will reexamine the question of what liberal arts are required to produce graduates who, beyond just acquiring knowledge, will have sharp intellects that they will use for the benefit of society. We will assemble an environment in which people of different nationalities and fields can gather and receive an interdisciplinary, diversified education. This will create individuals with exceptional language and communication skills who will be able to respond to the needs of our global community. One of the painful lessons of the earthquake was that we critically lack leaders capable of perceiving the essence of problems and making decisions. How do we foster leaders who will remain aware of social change and be accepted internationally? What liberal arts are necessary to modern society, and how should they be combined with specialized education? How should we improve extracurricular activities to provide opportunities for well-rounded learning? What reforms should be made in the humanities? These are issues that demand urgent consideration.

In terms of research, as a world-leading research center we will promote advanced, integrated research while expanding basic research. We will analyze the status and issues of each graduate school and research institute, and work towards making substantial functional improvements after establishing a clear trajectory for change. We will expand fields of research in which we are strong, and strengthen those in which we are weak. Although university research is predicated on free research based on the ideas of individuals, a strategic focus is also necessary in consideration of our mandate from the taxpayers and society. Given the fact that social values are greatly fluctuating in the aftermath of the earthquake and nuclear crisis, our entire university will work to clarify problems common to all nations from a comprehensive, multidisciplinary perspective, and focus its efforts on finding solutions. This April, we established the Frontier Research Institute for Interdisciplinary Sciences in order to create new knowledge and value while establishing and promoting multidisciplinary research through the integration of different fields. In the future too, we will expand the horizons of new research by combining and integrating creative foundations with practical research, and vigorously implementing similar initiatives.

### Leading the Restoration of Tohoku and Japan: Tohoku University’s Recovery Activities

Second, Tohoku University will continue to play a role in “Leading the Restoration of Tohoku and Japan.” Although we are beginning to see glimpses of recovery in the areas affected by the disaster, a vision for a full-scale restoration has yet to be laid out. As a university located in the center

of the affected area, Tohoku University's mission is to exert every effort toward reconstruction. We will firmly support regional revitalization by creating new knowledge. Through cooperation with industry, government, and academia we will create new industries, which will increase employment and revitalize the Tohoku region. By extension, we will act as an engine of knowledge and driving force that will give traction to Japan and help free it from its stagnant mood. The activities of the Tohoku University Institute for Disaster Reconstruction and Regeneration Research (IDRRR), which was founded directly after the earthquake, led to the creation of the International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS). IDRRR is moving forward with various projects for restoration and revitalization, such as the establishment of the Tohoku Medical Megabank Organization, the implementation of systems for re-educating medical personnel and fostering human resources for regional medical care, and the establishment of Resilient ICT Research Center. Hereafter, it is our intention to create a Japan-wide cooperative system that we will expand globally in order to bring the knowledge of the world to bear on overcoming this crisis.

### The Future of Tohoku University

For this fiscal year, I want us to implement the aforementioned two visions, which we have established as the road-map for carrying out our mission and continuing to contribute to the development of the international community. This will give us a perspective on trends domestically and abroad, allow us to assess our university's strengths, weaknesses, and potential, and help us determine where we should be in five years and the policies and schedule that will get us there.

I believe that Tohoku University will lead the generation in building the future, and make a place for itself in history. This year marks the 100th anniversary of Tohoku University's decision to accept female students. It was the first university in Japan to do so. This milestone gave us a mission to fulfill and defined the issues that we should address. With your understanding, we will work together with many people as we strive to realize our goals in order to contribute to the development of a peaceful and just world community.

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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.