

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 wisdom, of Tohoku University? For responding the request, I set our goals to pursue, upon assuming the office of President in April 2012, as following: “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 becoming a university that is respected around the world for excellence in both education and research that raises the level of global society, through creating a rich academic foundation and aiming for a higher level of education and research. This year, we will take action for outstanding issues by carrying out reforms in both our education and research fields. For education, as we can see a steady and ongoing increase in globalization, we must enhance the quality of our liberal arts education to cultivate people who can be an active part of innovation on a global level. For research, we will encourage holding the “Tohoku Forum for Creativity” program, as well as establishing the Organization for Advanced Studies. As we further strengthen our university’s robust and cutting-edge research fields, we will also find the flaws in our other fields and embark on a bold plan to bolster them. Additionally, we invite world-class, frontline researchers to our university, and thus create the chance for our students and researchers to have meaningful discussions with them. Through being able to have free discussions with researchers from different fields, we aim to pioneer new areas of research and cultivate a generation of global leaders.

Leading the Restoration of Tohoku and Japan

Tohoku University will continue to play a role in “Leading the Restoration of Tohoku and Japan” by maintaining our eight projects and over 100 action plans under the Institute for Disaster Reconstruction and Regeneration Research. More than three years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, and so we must produce visible results that benefit society as a whole. In March of next year, the “3rd United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction” will be held in Sendai. This conference being held in disaster-struck Sendai will give Tohoku University a valuable chance to make international contributions, show the world how much the disaster area has recovered, and how far we have progressed in disaster risk reduction.