

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? Upon assuming the office of President, I set two goals for our university: “Achieving World-Class Status and Leaping Ahead” and “Leading the Restoration of Tohoku and Japan” which sought to bring together the various talents of different parts of the university. I feel that since then, we have seen definite successes on our path to these goals, and forged a new path for the university. In the three years since announcing “Satomi Vision” we have begun to implement many of the projects it outlines.



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.

In education, through our Global Leader Program, we have sent many talented students to countries around the world, with the goal of cultivating future leaders who can act on the global stage and raising the global consciousness of participants. Additionally, in April of 2015, we founded our International Joint Graduate Program, with the aim of fostering students with a global mindset and a field of view through cooperation with leading overseas universities.

In research, we have opened our “Frontier Research Institute for Interdisciplinary Sciences”, which works toward attracting leading young researchers from both Japan and abroad, as well as our “Tohoku Forum for Creativity”, an international visitor research institute that aims to gather top-level researchers at the university to stimulate and encourage the growth and further development of our young researchers.

Leading the Restoration of Tohoku and Japan

As a comprehensive university at the heart of the region stricken by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, Tohoku University believes that it has an important role to play in the recovery of the Tohoku region and in taking the lead in necessary social changes. In March, 2015, the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction was held in Sendai. On that occasion, the university presented the activities of the Institute for Disaster Reconstruction and Regeneration Research (IDRRR), a full-university organization that was established immediately following the disaster, to a truly global audience. As the only comprehensive university to experience such a disaster first hand, this meeting was a valuable chance to share the lessons learned from the disaster and make valuable contributions