The Program for Promoting the Enhancement of Research Universities

Period of Implementation: FY 2013-FY 2022

Name	Contents
The Program for Promoting the Enhancement of Research Universities	In recent years, various statistics such as Japan's world share of publications, have shown a declining trend. To counteract this trend, immediate actions for boosting Japanese universities' global competitiveness are required. Necessary actions and efforts include the progressive improvement of the environment surrounding research activities, including support, management and promotion systems, in particular the establishment of a strong research administration system, through securing skillful research management personnel, is needed. This ten-year-period project supports such efforts.

● Tohoku University Initiatives

■We will improve the Research Administration Center, which is part of the Organization for Research Promotion, and conduct analyses of worldwide research, social trends, and our university's research capacity. By analyzing global trends in research and society, we will support the planning of research strategies by increasing the number of visiting researchers from selected benchmark universities and research institutions.

■We will establish the Tohoku Forum for Creativity as a visiting/resident research center to develop pioneering fields of research that will contribute to solving problems common among human societies.

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Tohoku Forum for Creativity (TFC)	The Tohoku Forum for Creativity (TFC) is an international visitor research institute which was established in 2013 at Tohoku University to facilitate collaborative research. In order to identify important problems across all of the sciences and humanities, the TFC brings together both junior and senior researchers in a stimulating environment that promotes creative approaches to new and interdisciplinary research areas. The TFC especially encourages junior researchers, such as graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, to participate in the thematic programs. Through discussions and close contact with distinguished researchers, including Nobel Laureates and Fields Medallists, junior researchers will be stimulated to develop their own original ideas and to eventually become pioneers in new research areas.

■We will establish Overseas Research Stations, which will allow young researchers (potential global leaders) to conduct mid/long-term studies at overseas research institutes. International research cooperation/collaboration projects will dramatically accelerate the ideas they incubate overseas.

■A reception system, comprised of the Research Reception Center and International Cooperation Bureau, will be created to facilitate the smooth arrival of visiting/resident researchers. The International Support Center, which also has the function of the Research Reception Center, will play a central role in accelerating the internationalization of administrative staff at Tohoku University.