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Historical Background

Tohoku University, formerly known as Tohoku Imperial University, was founded in 1907. Unlike other imperial universities of that time, it initiated an "Open Door" policy, accepting graduates from both technical and regular high schools. In 1913, it went a step further and, despite opposition from the government, became Japan's first university to admit female students.

At the time of its founding, Tohoku University was able to attract young and brilliant researchers from around the world to serve as faculty members. A "Research First" principle was thus established, calling on scholars to not only pursue highly productive research, but to also put their findings to work in the teaching of their students.

Over the years, Tohoku University developed a proud tradition of "Practice-oriented Research and Education," in which the results of cutting-edge research are put to use for the good of society and the improvement of living standards. Achievements include the establishment of local venture businesses which have contributed to regional industry, and the recognition of the university as the nation's center for research on family law.

In 2011, Tohoku University was severely damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake. In addition to focusing on its own recovery, the university also responded to the disaster by providing expertise and support to the region through numerous reconstruction efforts. More than a decade on, the university remains committed to its role in the recovery and reconstruction process.