

Message from the President

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to Kyoto University.

Kyoto University has a long history of academic excellence, colored by the unique cultural heritage and philosophy of Kyoto. Our academic tradition was founded on the concepts of self-reliance and self-respect (written in Japanese as 自重自敬 *jichō jikei*). These words were memorialized in calligraphy by Professor Hiroji Kinoshita, the first president of the university, and they continue to guide our approach to education and research today.

Our campuses have been home to many historically respected scholars, such as Japan's first Nobel Laureate, Professor Hideki Yukawa, whose pioneering interdisciplinary research led to profound breakthroughs in the field of theoretical physics. To this day, we continue to emphasize dialogue and cooperation, pursuing interdisciplinary collaborative research that crosses the boundaries which have conventionally divided the natural sciences and the humanities. The dedication and achievements of Kyoto University's scholars continue to be acknowledged worldwide. To give one recent example, our Institute for Integrated Cell-Material Sciences (iCeMS) garnered international acclaim for breakthrough advances in stem-cell research shortly after its establishment in 2007. In the wake of those achievements, we established the Center for iPS Cell Research and Application (CiRA) in April 2010. As the world's first facility devoted solely to research into iPS cells, the center aims to make a significant contribution to regenerative medicine through both basic and applied research. Those recently established facilities have further consolidated Kyoto University's standing as one of Japan's most diverse research-oriented universities. The university currently comprises 10 faculties, 17 graduate schools, 14 research institutes and 27 centers and other facilities.

Advances in science and technology, coupled with the environmental issues we face today, are changing the very ways in which humanity and nature are perceived and understood. In this age of such profound change, Kyoto University is committed to a mission to pursue harmonious coexistence within the human and ecological community on this planet. I should clarify that, in the context of our Mission Statement, the term "community" extends to the Earth's plants and animals, mountains and rivers, sea and sky, and even its lithosphere and surrounding interplanetary space. We aim to inspire students and researchers from around the world to not only become specialists in their chosen fields, but also to help tackle the world's most urgent problems and contribute to the global community.

I invite you to join us, and I look forward to welcoming you to our campuses in the heart of Kyoto when you commence your academic journey.

March 2011



Hiroshi Matsumoto

