Ever since its foundation in 1897, Kyoto University has valued open-minded dialogue under a liberal academic culture, fostering the spirit of independence and self-reliance while promoting higher education and advanced academic research.

Our campuses have been home to many historically respected scholars, including seven Nobel Laureates and many other winners of world authoritative prizes and awards for academics and researchers.

Currently Kyoto University and other Japanese universities together, are sincerely exploring the ways in which the efforts of research universities can best contribute to the recovery process in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami disaster of March 11, 2011. We must continue contributing to higher education and academic research as a university existing in harmony with the local community of Kyoto and Japan, further more with the world’s human and ecological community. This must be accomplished while preserving and further developing its liberal academic culture and global 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, each of which is dedicated to making its own unique contributions to the international community.

This brochure is the second issue of the first volume to present some prominent examples of recent research activities at the university. I hope this information will be helpful as the initial publication which successfully have been estimated of its value in establishing new international relationships and networks with researchers in academics as well as in the industries, throughout the world.

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Hiroshi Matsumoto