KYOTO UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS are active in vast range of fields spanning the humanities and social sciences to science and engineering, and ranging from fundamental science to applied science. Various university facilities, established in different areas throughout Japan play an important role in supporting these diverse research and educational activities, serving as bases for unique research and field science projects.

Kyoto University currently has forty-three such research facilities throughout Japan, each of which is advancing unique research projects. In the stations affiliated with the Field Science Education and Research Center, scholars have been conducting climate and ecological research for many years in different forests and coastal areas spanning the entire Japanese archipelago. The Disaster Prevention Research Institute has volcano, seismological, and flood observatories in various locations. Through these facilities, it actively engages in international research collaboration and produces vital information as the country’s only joint-use center for disaster prevention research. The Research Reactor Institute, located in Kumatori, Osaka, is acknowledged as one of the country’s best research centers in the field of Boron Neutron Capture Therapy (BNCT), a promising contender for a next-generation cancer treatment method. The Primate Research Institute in Inuyama, Aichi Prefecture, which dates back to 1948 when Kinji Imanishi began his field research on wild Japanese monkeys, is renowned both in Japan and abroad for leading the world in this field of research.

This issue reports on some of the research achievements of the university’s facilities nationwide. Although the projects featured represent only the tip of the iceberg, reading this issue will give you a good overview of the many creative research and innovative initiatives going on at our different facilities. As a regular reader of Research Activities myself, even I am sometimes surprised at the accomplishments of our researchers! I hope that all of our readers will also find some surprises in this issue. I hope that you will gain a sense of how diverse and fascinating our various facilities are, as well as a sense of the passion and inventiveness of the researchers working at them.

This brochure is a “window,” through which you can take a peek at our university’s research and researchers. If you find something of particular interest, please knock on our door. We always welcome new opportunities to develop our academic exchange and research collaboration.

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