

## Message from the President



Kyoto University was founded in 1897 in Kyoto, a city with a cultural heritage of over 1,200 years. First, the College of Science and Engineering was established, and then other colleges followed, such as the colleges of Law, Medicine and Letters, developing the university into an increasingly comprehensive institution with a characteristic emphasis on research rather than educating future government officials. In recent years the university has been making efforts to integrate the academic fields which are most vital for the future of humanity. At present, Kyoto University has 17 graduate schools, 10 faculties, 13 research institutes and 29 education and research centers and facilities. Currently, there are approximately 9,300 graduate and 13,400 undergraduate students, 2,900 faculty members and 2,500 administrative staff members.

Kyoto University's academic style is characterized by academic freedom, self-reliance and dialogue. Many students take the initiative to pursue study and research based on their own personal interests and concerns, and researchers are challenging uncharted frontiers and achieving innovative results. Among its alumni, the university counts seven Nobel Prize laureates in fundamental natural science fields.

As declared in our mission statement, Kyoto University continues to emphasize and encourage fundamental and applied research. Many distinguished researchers' groups are taking unconventional and thought-provoking approaches, resulting in cutting-edge world-class achievements. The broad scope of research in science and technology at Kyoto University encompasses subjects as diverse as physics, chemistry, biology, medical sciences, pharmaceutical sciences, engineering, energy sciences, informatics, agricultural sciences and environmental studies. Currently, chemistry and regenerative medicine, such as stem cell research and cell-material sciences, are particularly highlighted fields at Kyoto University. Maintaining a close relationship with industry, Kyoto University is involved in collaborative research in such diverse fields with many companies and other research organizations.

In the humanities and social sciences, Kyoto University has established unique international research centers that reflect the philosophic traditions of Kyoto. Our approach to these fields is distinguished by language- and history-consciousness, and a variety of disciplines flourish and interact, ranging from archeology and classical studies to analyses of modern life.

The university has a rich history of pioneering fieldwork, exemplified by our area studies in Southeast Asia and Africa. Our research into the tropical rainforest ecosystem and the work of our Primate Research Institute are acclaimed world-wide. Recently we have conducted an increasing number of joint research activities across the boundaries which conventionally divide the natural sciences and the humanities.





In recent years, an increasing number of joint research activities have been successfully conducted across the boundaries which conventionally divide the natural sciences and the humanities. This trend is symbolized by the establishment of the Research Institute for Sustainable Humanosphere in 2003 and the opening of the Kokoro Research Center in 2007.

The spirit which drives such flexible education and pioneering research is reflected in the fact that Kyoto University has been selected by the Japanese government for twenty-three 21st Century Center of Excellence (COE) programs, thirteen Global COE programs and one World Premier International Research Center Initiative (WPI) program. The launch in 2007 of the Institute for Integrated Cell-Material Sciences (iCeMS) marked the first step of the WPI program. Soon afterwards the institute achieved breakthrough research into induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells. The university has also recently been selected for the Japanese ministry of education's Global 30 (G30) Program, an initiative which aims to provide high quality education to students from overseas.

Advances in science and technology coupled with environmental upheaval have changed the ways in which humanity and nature are perceived and understood. Our Mission Statement declares our intention to pursue harmonious coexistence within the human and ecological community on this planet. In this context, the term "community" includes the Earth's plants and animals, mountains and rivers, sea and sky, and even its lithosphere and surrounding inter-planetary space. Inspired by the lofty ideals of this mission statement, we aim to offer students and researchers from around the world the opportunity not only to exceed the goal of becoming a specialist in their chosen field, but also to endeavor to address the issues most urgent for the global community.

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