

Message from the President

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

Since its founding in 1897, Kyoto University has advanced education and research of the highest standards, cultivating a tradition of open-minded dialogue and a philosophy of academic freedom. Located in the global city of Kyoto, we have maintained a spirit of autonomy and independence for 115 years, pursuing our mission to seek harmonious coexistence among the planet's human and ecological community.

Recognized as one of Japan's foremost research institutions, the achievements of Kyoto University's scholars are acknowledged throughout the world. A prominent recent example was the award of the 2012 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine to Dr. Shinya Yamanaka of our Center for iPS Cell Research and Application for his epoch-making discoveries in the field of stem cell research. The achievements of Dr. Yamanaka and his team have overturned preconceived notions in the field of biology, and are expected to pave the way for further remarkable advances in basic research into biology, medicine, and regenerative medicine. I believe that the influence of his award-winning research will extend beyond the realms of biology and medical science to have a wide-reaching effect on the advancement of science and technology as a whole, and on the future of the human race.

Dr. Yamanaka is the eighth Kyoto University researcher to receive a Nobel Prize since Dr. Hideki Yukawa, Japan's first Nobel laureate, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1949. I believe that the university's ability to consistently cultivate such outstanding talent is due to a combination of several factors, the foremost among which is a commitment to our tradition of academic freedom and independent thinking. At Kyoto University, researchers are encouraged to follow the path of their own thoughts, unfettered by preconceptions or the opinions and beliefs of others. They are even urged to liberate themselves from the experience and learning that has already accumulated in

their own minds. As a researcher myself, I have experienced the benefits of that fertile and stimulating environment personally, and the influence of our traditions extends beyond visible achievements such as internationally recognized awards and honors, it is a current which runs through all of the university's activities, and which manifests itself in the attitude and approach of each and every Kyoto University student and researcher—in their creativity, passion, and courageous pursuit of innovation.

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

January 2013



Hiroshi Matsumoto

