

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kyoto University with ASEAN and Beyond

KYOTO UNIVERSITY'S mission is to “sustain and develop its historical commitment to academic freedom and to pursue harmonious coexistence within the human and ecological community on this planet.” In 2013, the university launched The 2x by 2020 (double by twenty-twenty) Initiative, a new international strategy with the aims of increasing engagement with the international community, promoting world-class research, and emphasizing collaborative approaches.

Based on those aims, the Kyoto University ASEAN Center opened in June 2014, and its establishment represents a significant step forward in creating new opportunities for research and educational exchange and international collaboration across the ASEAN region. The center will promote activities that develop and capitalize on the potential in the region and seek to address urgent contemporary issues. It aims to become a “one-stop service” for the advancement of collaboration in the ASEAN region by supporting knowledge exchange, bringing together ASEAN and Kyoto University scholars with similar research interests, and disseminating original ideas and research results to the wider community.

By creating larger research and education networks, the center will enable the exploration of frontline research, with a focus on collaboration. In accordance with Kyoto University's Mission Statement, the center will also play an important role in strengthening the university's international engagement. Through the center, we look forward to working with our friends and colleagues throughout Asia to reinforce existing partnerships and develop new collaborative networks.

To commemorate the opening of the new center, this issue of Research Activities will feature a selection of Kyoto University's projects and research undertakings in the ASEAN region and throughout Asia at large. I hope that through these pages our readers will gain a sense of Kyoto University's deep engagement and long history of collaboration and exchange in the Asian region.

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Hiroshi Matsumoto
President, Kyoto University

