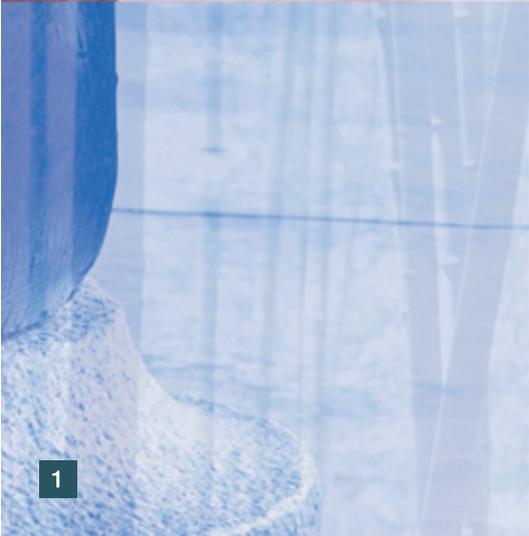


KYOTO UNIVERSITY

2007 / 2008
PROFILE





Message from the President



Kyoto University was founded over a hundred years ago as one of two imperial universities. Since that time, many changes have swept the world, but the university has remained faithful to its principle of academic freedom and its commitment to addressing the highly complex and diverse issues that affect the citizens of the world.

The university's academic endeavors are maintained to the highest internationally recognized standards, earning the university its internationally respected status. Kyoto University is proud to claim five Nobel Prize laureates among its alumni.

New directions in the world of education today are reflected at Kyoto University in the increasing use of computers in classrooms and laboratories, and in our long-distance learning program which has expanded the university's global reach. State-of-the-art facilities and new buildings continue to be constructed on the university's three campuses, offering technologically innovative, world-class facilities.

As important as facilities and equipment are, we do not overlook our human resources. Top priority is placed on fostering highly cultured and ethical researchers and scholars who will contribute to the harmonious coexistence of countries around the globe. The Kyoto University Museum is the latest example of our commitment to share our knowledge with the local community.

Kyoto University's students, researchers and teaching staff hail from countries all over the world, ensuring that the university reflects the needs and concerns of today's multicultural societies. International symposia and research projects, held domestically and sponsored overseas, attract leading scholars and contribute to the continuing dialogue between cultures and nations.

The university was incorporated as part of the central government's administrative reform in April 2004. The competitive environment in education will become more pronounced as universities intensify their struggle to maintain public or private status. Strict outside evaluations will require thorough reviews and responsibility in both managerial and educational aspects.

Kyoto University is committed to maintaining its position among the top-ranking universities of the world by continually improving its areas of specialization and strengthening its management strategies to protect its tradition of education and research, while maintaining its independence and autonomy.

Kazuo OIKE







Kyoto Imperial University was founded in 1897 and the College of Science and Engineering was established at that time (see the chronological table in the accompanying *Facts and Figures* booklet). In the following year, the College of Law, the College of Medicine, the University Hospital and the University Library were all opened and the organization was completed. In 1919 the colleges were renamed as faculties, and in 1947, with the passing of a new law, Kyoto Imperial University was renamed Kyoto University. Since then, new faculties, graduate schools, research institutes and centers and other new facilities have continued to be established. At present, Kyoto University consists of seventeen graduate schools, ten undergraduate faculties, and more than thirty research institutes and centers. In recent years Kyoto University has placed a greater emphasis on graduate level studies and has established several new graduate schools to tackle emerging issues which are expected to be of critical importance in this century.

During its long history, Kyoto University has devoted much of its energy to developing scholarship in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences. Creative research in venture businesses for information technology and electrical engineering has been initiated, and substantial progress in advanced applied research fields, such as biotechnology and energy science continues, assuring that our efforts contribute to society.

Yoshida Campus, the main campus of Kyoto University is near the centre of Kyoto City. The facilities at Yoshida Campus are housed in century-old red brick buildings as well as state-of-the-art laboratories. Uji Campus, where the university's natural science and energy research facilities are located, is about twelve kilometers to the south. Katsura Campus, seven kilometers west of the main campus, opened in October 2003. This campus, named after the region in which it is located, is made up of four clusters of buildings, and aims to merge technology and science disciplines to form a "Techno-Science Hill." The Graduate Schools of Engineering and Informatics are in the process of moving to Katsura Campus from Yoshida Campus.





■ Two of Kyoto University's Nobel Prize laureates, Hideki Yukawa, seated second from the left, and Sin-Itiro Tomonaga, seated third from the left.



With “self-reliant learning” as its motto, Kyoto University values the use of critical thinking in the classroom. Consequently, our students can choose a field of interest outside their major very early in their university life. Low enrollment-capped seminars are open to students to encourage their interests in diverse subjects, irrespective of their faculty affiliation. We encourage students to expand their horizons and deepen their thinking through the knowledge broadening opportunities provided by these seminars. Furthermore, we aim to provide the facilities and curricula which will endow students with the language skills and informational literacy indispensable for success in today’s global society. We also provide real time distance-learning lectures.

Kyoto University is a research-oriented university which has produced five Nobel Prize laureates and world-class researchers in various fields. In the field of philosophy, the “Kyoto School of Thought” is well known. In other disciplines, our field work techniques yield trailblazing results. Large-scale surveys and other research is making steady progress in vital areas relating to the global environmental problems of the 21st century.

The existing research sections at the university’s institutes and the Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies work together in an attempt to find solutions to increasingly urgent global problems. We are seeking the answers to difficult questions relating to energy, food, life and welfare. In the field of natural disasters, the graduate schools’ related research sections, research institutes, and centers cooperate to actively develop international joint research projects for the protection of property and lives. We have established overseas research stations to carry out very efficient traditional field work. The Center for Southeast Asian Studies has established liaison stations in Bangkok (Thailand) and Jakarta (Indonesia). The Bangkok Liaison Station, established in 1963, has been developing a large research base that encompasses all of Thailand and surrounding countries. Additionally, the Jakarta Liaison Station, set up in 1973, is not only for information gathering but also serves as a base for joint projects by researchers from both countries, and provides Indonesian researchers and students with the opportunity to come to Kyoto and other locations in Japan to further their studies.





Kyoto University 21COE Thai-Research Station
Bangkok Office

■ Kyoto University 21 COE Thai-Research Station.





In December 2002, the Shanghai Research Center was founded at the Graduate School of Economics, and the following year, in January 2003, a branch office was established at Fudan University, China. The center's main focus is research on present-day China and its relation to East Asian economies. There is a faculty exchange program between Kyoto University and Fudan University, and an educational program to train top-level specialists in fields relating to the economy of East Asia is underway. For example, lectures are given in analyzing the economies and management systems of China and Japan. In October 2005, Kyoto University's Graduate School of Engineering launched the Japan-China Cooperative Research Laboratory on Environmental Technology endowed project. This joint project conducted in conjunction with Tsinghua University will be based at the Cooperative Research and Education Center for Environmental Technology of Kyoto University & Tsinghua University, which is located on the campus of Tsinghua University. This is our first endowed project overseas. We expect this program to become a locus of joint research and education between Japan and China in the field of environmental technology as well as a focal point for industry-academia partnerships.

The cutting-edge research undertaken at Kyoto University is highly respected both internationally and domestically, and correspondingly expectations are high for current projects such as the university's MEXT^{*} COE Program projects. Almost half of Kyoto University's 23 COE projects have established overseas research stations. Additionally, the Research Institute for Sustainable Humansphere and the Center for Ecological Research have set up observatories and field stations in Malaysia and Indonesia to engage in research surveys. In the near future, these overseas stations (currently 32 in total) will form a network which will function as local admissions offices in addition to conducting research.

In 2007 Kyoto University's Institute for Integrated Cell-Material Sciences proposal was adopted for inclusion in MEXT's World Premier International Research Center (WPI) Initiative, an initiative providing priority support for projects aimed at creating world-class research centers.

Note:

*MEXT: the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

**The 21st Century Centers of Excellence (COE) Program aims to elevate the standards of education and research at Japanese universities. Its priority is the formation of world-class research and education centers based on the principle of excellence as judged by third-party evaluators. In 2002 MEXT began implementing COE programs to assist Japanese universities in competing internationally at the world's highest standards. Based on an assessment of the 21st Century COE Program, and with the intention of continuing its fundamental principles, MEXT established the Global COE Program in 2007. Kyoto University has six programs which have been adopted as Global COE Programs.





■ Kyoto University International Symposium in Bandung, July 2007.





With the advent of the Internet, the development of information and communications technology has soared to new levels. It is now a simple matter to communicate with anybody on earth from one's home. However, face-to-face communication builds mutual trust and remains highly valued.

Kyoto University is engaged in numerous academic exchange programs in various scientific fields and has concluded agreements with many research-oriented universities and institutions worldwide, representing our country among the universities of the world. Exchanges of both information and human resources with the world's academic institutions are increasing because forums and symposia have merged the traditional fields of the natural sciences, humanities, and social sciences with energy science, information science, and life science. The university has become the site for pioneering research backed by the 21st Century COE Program and other initiatives, and is continually forming links with first-rate researchers overseas. In fields related to science, engineering, and agricultural studies, efforts are made to support developing countries through cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), and other organizations.





■ 21st AEARU Board of Directors Meeting in Kyoto, Aug 2007.





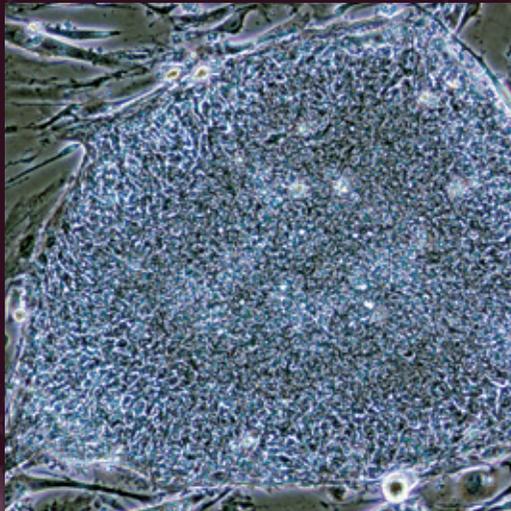
Kyoto University is cultivating human resources to meet the needs of the world in the 21st century. Among our university's student exchange programs is the Kyoto University International Education Program (KUINEP), a half-year or one-year program that offers lectures in English on subjects such as life sciences, environmental studies, biotechnology, statistics, physics, economics, information science, politics, social studies and the arts. We are also engaged in ongoing bilateral academic exchanges in science and technology and other fields. The university is deeply involved in the development of multilateral ties within the Asia Pacific region through its involvement with international organizations and university alliances such as the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) and the Association of East Asian Research Universities (AEARU). In 2008 Kyoto University will begin a two year term as the chair university of AEARU.

Kyoto University makes a concerted effort to disseminate the results of its research overseas, and Kyoto University International Symposia have been held in various countries with the intent of expanding the two-way flow of research information through exchange and discussion among prestigious researchers. These symposia have enabled participants in countries such as the United States, England, Canada, Singapore, China, Thailand and Indonesia to gain valuable experience in many diverse fields, including information science, economics, energy science, psychology, life science and plant science.

To enhance our international exchange and cooperation activities, Kyoto University established the Organization for the Promotion of International Relations (OPIR) in April 2005. The principle guiding our international exchange endeavors is the improvement of mutual benefits for both Kyoto University and our partners. In addition, our exchange undertakings are intended to encourage activities that are original and creative, and in so doing, enrich our university's international reputation. The activities of the OPIR are based on the following four themes: (1) A shift in information flow, from a "receiving mode" to a "disseminating mode;" (2) Progression from the enrichment of bilateral exchanges to the development of multilateral exchanges; (3) Focused support for exchange activities in specially designated fields; and (4) Enrichment of the university's international exchange infrastructure.

Kyoto University is continuing to develop outstanding academic facilities, and provide opportunities for scholars, researchers and students from all over the world to collaborate in the pursuit of education and research of the highest standards. In so doing, the university has established itself as a hub of knowledge and a center for international exchange and communication.









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