

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 117 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 conventional wisdom and opened up new possibilities in the fields of biology and medicine.

The cultivation of such outstanding talent has its roots in the university's tradition of academic freedom and independent thinking, and in our dedication to providing a quality internationally-oriented research environment.

To stay abreast of rapidly advancing globalization and ensure our steady development as world-class institution of higher learning, the university has formulated a new international strategy: The 2x by 2020 Initiative (pronounced "double by twenty-twenty"). To achieve the aims of the new strategy, we are in the process of establishing the Kyoto University Global Academy*.

Based on our Mission Statement, The 2x by 2020 Initiative is formed around three central pillars of Research, Education, and International Service, and its driving force can be found in the academic traditions, creativity, and rich accumulation of culture for which Kyoto University is internationally renowned.

The aim of the Kyoto University Global Academy* is to begin cultivating talented, internationally-minded individuals from the undergraduate level, and to expand the university's cutting-edge international research collaboration. Several programs within the academy are already producing excellent results, such as the Leading Programs at the Graduate School of Advanced Leadership Studies and the Hakubi Project.

Through such ongoing endeavors, Kyoto University is continually striving to become an ever more vibrant institution and enhance its status as a global center of innovation and creativity.

January 2014

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "H. Matsumoto". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Hiroshi Matsumoto



* Provisional name