

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

“A window to society, the world, and all of the possibilities therein.”

My term as the 26th president of Kyoto University began on October 1, 2014. It is my hope that the six years of my term will mark the beginning of a new era in the long history of Kyoto University—one which will see the university bring its rich and unique academic traditions into even greater play as a leader in the international academic community. In addition to welcoming you to this 2015 edition of Kyoto University at a Glance, I would like to present you with a brief overview of the principles that will orient and guide me as I lead the university through the next six years.

Since its foundation in 1897, Kyoto University has fostered a culture of academic freedom grounded in a spirit of self-reliance and self-respect. I believe that, for its students and researchers, the university should function as a “window” to society and the world at large, and that it must be an institution which can respond to the needs and demands of the current era. Together with all of Kyoto University’s faculty and staff members, it is my goal, therefore, to open a window to society, the world, and all of the possibilities therein, and give our talented and ambitious students a helping hand to get out there and realize their full potential. In line with this concept, I have adopted the word “WINDOW” as the keyword for Kyoto University’s next phase, with each of its letters standing to remind us of our current key objectives.

W Wild and Wise

The first “W” stands for “Wild and Wise,” as these are qualities that we seek to foster in our students. We offer our students a place where they can acquire the practical skills and resources to forge ahead into the unknown, and upon encountering the unexpected, the new, or the strange, they will have the judgment and decision-making skills to choose the path and methods that are best for them to proceed.

I International and Innovative

When testing one’s thoughts and ideas in the global arena, it is necessary to have the skills to communicate freely and effectively with people around the world. Innovation is born from such international and interdisciplinary communication. Since its founding Kyoto University has emphasized the value and importance of frank and open dialogue, and we will enhance our education and research environment to further encourage and stimulate such interaction, providing ever more fertile ground for innovation and new developments.

N Natural and Noble

The historic city of Kyoto, abundantly blessed with the gifts of nature, has been an important environmental factor in the development of Kyoto University’s creativity and its ability to produce so many new ideas and develop new fields of academic endeavor. We are increasing our efforts to ensure that the university as a whole will never forget that there is always more to be learned from nature, and to ensure that we will always maintain an awareness of our human dignity as a part of the natural world.

D Diverse and Dynamic

With the advent of globalization, modern society has entered an era of diverse cultural intermingling. Kyoto University maintains an open mind towards diverse cultures and ways of thinking. It must be a place where diverse fields can be studied freely, and for that reason, we must retain a degree of detachment from the movements of society, maintaining a vantage from which diverse thoughts and ideas can be surveyed with a broad perspective and an open mind.

Juichi Yamagiwa

Date of Birth: February 21, 1952
Research Interests and Experience:
Anthropology, Primatology

- 1975 Bachelor of Sciences, Kyoto University
- 1977 Master of Sciences, Kyoto University
- 1987 Doctor of Sciences, Kyoto University
- 2002 Professor, Graduate School of Science, Kyoto University
- 2009 Member, Education and Research Council, Kyoto University
- 2011 Dean, Graduate School and Faculty of Science, Kyoto University
- 2012 March 2013 Member, Administrative Council, Kyoto University
- 2014 President, Kyoto University



O Original and Optimistic

Kyoto University is proud of its creative spirit, and the cultivation of that spirit is inherent in the education that we provide. Fostering creativity, however, is not such a simple matter. We must absorb the thoughts and experiences of many people, and while doing so, find new challenges and avenues for development, all the while discussing matters thoroughly with our peers to verify our thinking. Creativity is born of the search for one's own approach to new challenges. In that process, we will experience failures, and our ideas will be subject to the criticism of others. In the face of such trials, it is vital to maintain an optimistic outlook. At Kyoto University, discussions and debates do not entail one party seeking to defeat or invalidate the thoughts of the other. Rather, it is a way for both parties to mutually enhance their knowledge and understanding by taking the other's thoughts on board. For this reason, Kyoto University is a place for trans-disciplinary discussions, which are a wellspring of creativity.

W Women, leaders in the Workplace

In order to flourish and effectively serve society in an increasingly globalized higher education environment, it is essential for universities to support the advancement of women in faculty, research, and executive positions, and facilitate their contribution to scholarship and society. At Kyoto University we are making every effort to ensure that men and women are unhampered by biological differences, and work together on an equal footing towards a society imbued with hope and potential.

I aim to realize all of these aspects of Kyoto University's WINDOW, thereby enhancing the university's system to promote creative, world-leading research, making it even more interdisciplinary, and more internationally oriented. I aim to develop educational curricula wherein students can engage in cutting edge research from their first year, and through experiments, fieldwork, and dialogue, they can get the full benefit of the unique qualities of Kyoto University.

I look forward to welcoming you to our campuses, so that you can experience our unique brand of academic freedom and creativity for yourself. We have prepared a place for you—a place where you can excel and realize your potential.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'J. Yamagiwa'.

Juichi Yamagiwa