

Message from the President



2011 was a year that saw change and reform occur throughout the whole of Japanese society in the wake of the devastating earthquake and tsunami disaster of March 11 and the consequent disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. In the face of those tragic events, Kyoto University is also resolved to change and evolve in order to fulfill our duty as a university and effectively respond to society's needs.

Since its foundation in 1897, Kyoto University has been dedicated to cultivating a liberal and vibrant academic environment conducive to quality education, interdisciplinary dialogue and groundbreaking research. As a result of those efforts we have become recognized as one of the most diverse research-oriented universities in Japan. The strength of our approach is testified by the accolades conferred on our alumni and researchers, notably seven Nobel Prize laureates, two Fields Medalists and one Gauss Prize laureate.

In this publication I am proud to present some prominent examples of our most recent research accomplishments. I am confident that these projects deserve their place in Kyoto University's legacy of innovative world-leading research, and I hope that you will enjoy reading about them. I also hope that this brochure will function as one small part of our efforts to effectively convey the wealth of knowledge generated at Kyoto University beyond our campuses, so that it can be effectively employed for the benefit of international society, industry, academia and the world at large.



President
Hiroshi Matsumoto



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