

Message from the President



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 are recognized as one of the most diverse research-oriented universities in Japan. Kyoto University's education, research and social services, such as the healthcare provided by the university hospital, all benefit from our full institutional autonomy and our philosophy of academic freedom. 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.



President
Hiroshi Matsumoto

The Mission Statement of Kyoto University declares our overarching goal to sustain and develop our historical commitment to academic freedom, and pursue harmonious coexistence within the human and ecological community on this planet. Within the scope of those aims, the statement goes on to define Kyoto University's research undertakings as follows:

Kyoto University will generate world-class knowledge through freedom and autonomy in research that conforms to high ethical standards.

As a university that comprehends many graduate schools, faculties, research institutes and centers, Kyoto University will strive for diverse development in pure and applied research in the humanities, sciences and technology, while seeking to integrate those various perspectives.

In this publication I am proud to present some prominent examples of our most recent research achievements, including special features on the fascinating results produced by six of our thirteen Global Centers of Excellence (COE) Programs. The Global COE Program was established by Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) to support the establishment of world-leading research centers in pioneering academic fields at Japanese universities. The program also seeks to foster talented internationally-minded researchers.

Of course, the knowledge generated by our scholars only realizes its true value and potential when it is conveyed beyond our campuses, to be effectively applied for the benefit of international society, industry, academia and the world at large. I hope that this brochure will contribute to that diffusion of knowledge, and I also hope that you will find its contents to be interesting and inspiring.



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Hiroshi Matsumoto