

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A Gateway for New Meetings and Opportunities

Founded in 1897 in the historic and culturally vibrant former capital of Japan, Kyoto University has, through open-minded dialogue and a liberal academic culture, fostered an academic spirit of independence and self-reliance, and developed its own distinct brand of higher education and advanced research. Today, the university maintains those long-held values as a means to develop versatile and innovative solutions to pressing international issues, such as climate change and economic upheaval, and to contribute to the harmonious coexistence of the world's human and ecological community.

Research Activities was launched in 2011 to regularly provide up-to-date information on prominent examples of Kyoto University's current research activities. Previous issues have introduced a broad cross-section of the university's leading researchers, together with their ongoing projects and their achievements to date. In this issue we make a particular effort to highlight the activities of our younger generation of up-and-coming researchers, who we anticipate will play crucial roles in the next generation of cutting-edge academic inquiry.

I sincerely hope that you will enjoy reading about our young scholars, and that some of their activities will capture your imagination. Should you find your interest piqued by any of the projects in this volume, please visit the website addresses provided in each article. There you can find more information, as well as a means of contacting the authors of the articles. It is my hope that through facilitating such contact, Research Activities will serve as a gateway for new meetings and new opportunities.

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