

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Exploring Pre-science through Interdisciplinary Fusion

PUBLISHED since 2011, Kyoto University Research Activities aims to regularly showcase diverse examples of the university's current research undertakings.

Pursuing the exploration of pre-science is one of Kyoto University's policies for the enhancement of our research. This policy demonstrates our commitment to challenging common wisdom and opening new scientific frontiers. Under its philosophy of academic freedom, Kyoto University has developed a number of new and unique academic fields since its founding. In recent years, we have increasingly emphasized collaborative efforts which cross the boundaries that have conventionally divided academic fields, as well as national, academic, and societal boundaries.

This issue highlights several interdisciplinary initiatives being undertaken at Kyoto University, and also includes a feature on the pioneering group of philosophers known as the "Kyoto School," which was formed when Kyoto University was still known as Kyoto Imperial University. The Kyoto School included the two renowned philosophical scholars Kitaro Nishida and Hajime Tanabe, and the group developed an original brand of thought which continues to influence thinkers to this day.

I hope that this edition of Research Activities will convey to our readers some of our passion and enthusiasm for cultivating new scholarship that stretches beyond established boundaries, and which can contribute to harmonious coexistence among the human and ecological community on this planet.

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