

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A Proactive Approach to International Relations

Kyoto is a historic city with a thousand-year-old accumulation of art and culture, but it is not a city which clings stubbornly to tradition or dwells excessively on past glories. Kyoto has always been a city that has continued to cultivate a fresh and vibrant culture through maintaining a broad interaction with the world. As a vital element of that cultural heritage, the scholars of Kyoto University have, since the institution's foundation, continued to direct their efforts towards new fields of study and engage in research activities that span the globe. In this issue, we introduce one such researcher: the ecologist and anthropologist Kinji Imanishi, widely known as one of the founders of primatology in Japan. The spirit of such pioneers continues to permeate Kyoto University to this day.

In June 2013, Kyoto University finalized its new international strategy: The 2x by 2020 Initiative, and we began to accelerate our internationalization efforts throughout the university. Through this initiative, we seek not only to support the efforts of individual researchers, but to actively engage with the international community, concentrating on the strategy's three central pillars of research, education, and international service.

This issue of Research Activities focuses on Kyoto University's international relations endeavors. I hope that you will find it of interest, and that its pages will convey some of our passion and enthusiasm for this area of development.

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Hiroshi Matsumoto
President, Kyoto University

