

# Message from the President



Since its foundation in 1897, Kyoto University has cultivated a spirit of creativity and originality in its students and researchers through an institutional philosophy of academic freedom founded on frank and open dialogue. From its earliest days, the university has placed great importance on steadily increasing its international presence—expanding its partnerships and making a meaningful contribution to the international community.

Kyoto University's international exchange and collaboration is pursued through close partnerships with institutions overseas, student and researcher exchange programs, interdisciplinary research collaboration, and a multitude of other activities. The creative and groundbreaking accomplishments of the university's researchers continue to garner international recognition in the form of prestigious accolades, such as the Nobel Prize, Fields Medal, and other prestigious awards.

One unique feature of Kyoto University's syllabus is that it provides our undergraduate students with opportunities to experience innovative and advanced research right from their first-year of study—an approach rooted in the university's long-standing tradition of fostering a spirit of adventurous self-reliance and independence in its students, as well as stressing the importance of hands-on interaction and dialogue.

In 2017, Kyoto University was assigned by the Japanese government as one of the first Designated National Universities (DNU). DNU status has enabled the university to implement even more ambitious initiatives in the areas of university management, education, and research, and it positions Kyoto University at the forefront of a new era of international academic exchange and collaboration. In the field of industry-government-academia collaboration, the university has established a new "KyotoU Model," which includes four university subsidiary companies that make diverse use of the university's advanced knowledge "seeds" to further engage with and contribute to society.

Currently, multiple complex issues threaten the health and lives of all people on Earth. Such issues include the unexpectedly rapid worsening of climate change, large-scale natural disasters, and environmental degradation, as well as the escalation of international conflicts, widening economic disparity, and the international spread of infectious diseases, such as the novel coronavirus. We must now reaffirm our commitment to Kyoto University's mission—we must earnestly and determinedly seek solutions to the multifaceted and complex issues being faced around the world, and consistently share our progress with society.

2022 will mark the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kyoto University's founding. Throughout its history the university's pioneering spirit of creativity and diversity has borne much fruit, but to maintain the production of such nourishing fruit in the future, we must plant seedlings and cultivate them properly. By firmly linking the university's chain of achievements throughout the past 125 years to its future, we will continue to make the utmost efforts to contribute to society through the creation of new intellectual value and the cultivation of outstanding human resources.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Minato".

**Nagahiro Minato**  
October 2021