



**Hiroshi MATSUMOTO** Born in 1942, he graduated from a master's course at the Graduate School of Engineering at Kyoto University in 1967 and earned an Engineering doctoral degree in 1973 from the university. He became an associate professor of the Faculty of Engineering at the university in 1974, and from the following year, worked as a visiting researcher at many institutions such as the NASA Ames Research Center and Stanford University. He became an associate professor at Kyoto University's Radio Atmospheric Science Center in 1981. He then became a professor in 1987 and the head of the center in 1992. After his experience as the head of the Research Institute for Sustainable Humanosphere, he assumed his present post in October 2005.

Executive Vice-President Matsumoto has been working hard to improve the working environment for researchers. In order to win competitive funds such as scientific research funding, he established an office to help researchers with such practical procedures as arranging applications and collecting information. These have been successful in bringing fruitful results. He has also been highly praised for establishing the Center for Women Researchers and Start-up Research Funds for Young Researchers earlier than any other institution. Among his achievements is the Intramural Loan Program, which provides the necessary funds required to maintain the level of most advanced research and which has been gaining attention as a unique program only found at Kyoto University. Furthermore, he recognizes the importance of such basic studies as Humanities and Social Sciences in maintaining the character and culture of the university, and has secured a new budget for these studies called "University Cooperative Expenses".

"Finance and research are not separate issues. I guess that I could make some improvements because I am in charge of both of them. President Oike made a wise decision, though it keeps me really busy," says Executive Vice-President Matsumoto, laughing. He seems ready to continue his commitment for the rest of his term.

---

## What Could Highly Competitive Grants Bring-in for Kyoto University?

Kyoto University has experienced two major system changes since its foundation in 1897. In its one hundred and ten years history, these changes took place with an interval of about half a century. The first one was the reform from the imperial university to national university which took place in 1953. The second reform took place in 2004 based on legislation of "National University Corporations Law" in July, 2003. It aimed to transform national universities into ones with an independent administrative corporation style. Three and half years have past since the start of this new system. Kyoto University, like all other National University Corporations, gained full autonomy. That is, in addition to the academic freedom it has traditionally enjoyed, the university has the freedom and responsibility of self management.

Kyoto University will capitalize on this full institutional autonomy and academic freedom to pursue its missions as National University Corporation in the realms of education, research and social services (such as healthcare services provided by the university hospital). Though the Mission Statement of Kyoto University was settled before the second reform of the university system, it is continued to be succeeded and its importance has since reconfirmed after the reform. It declares that Kyoto University will sustain and

develop its historical commitment to academic freedom and pursue harmonious coexistence within human and ecological community on this planet. In the context of research, it describes that Kyoto University will generate world-class knowledge through freedom and autonomy in research that conforms with high ethical standards. As a university that comprehends many graduate schools, faculties, research institutes and centers, Kyoto University will strive for diverse developments in pure and applied research in the humanities, sciences and technology, while seeking for the integration of these various perspectives. Concerning education, the Mission Statement declares that Kyoto University will educate outstanding and humane researchers and specialists, who will contribute responsibly to the world's human and ecological community. I strongly believe that education at research university such as Kyoto University can be and should be carried out in its full use of high level research activities. In other words, education through high-level and world-class research enables us to inspire our young students to become world leaders in their respective fields. Therefore, research programs which could bring in highly competitive grants will definitely provide a soul-touching inspiration for the young generation through their world-class research activities.

---

In the new system of National University Corporation, however, we are facing financial difficulties. The financial support from MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) in the form of “University Grants” has decreased with an annual rate of 1% and will continue to decrease, at least during the current Mid-term settled by the government. Furthermore, the university hospital is required to reduce its cost with an annual rate of 2%, which is another big reduction of our income from MEXT. In order to overcome these difficulties, we have to implement a new system of financial administration. While trying to reduce the management cost, we have made efforts of not decreasing the budget for education and research which is distributed to component institutions such as graduate schools and research institutes. The collaborative research with business industries has increased and contributed to increasing the university income. To enhance the business-academia collaboration at Kyoto University, we have reformed the internal structure of promotion section for Industry-Government-Academia Collaboration in July, 2007, establishing the “I-G-A Collaborations”. Moreover, the university promotes and provides supports to obtain competitive grants. The increase of income through competitive grants not only enhances the level of research in respective fields of the grant winners, but also enriches the university as a whole through strategic financial support programs based on the indirect income associated with the competitive grants. Certain percentages of the obtained grant will be allocated to the university so that it can be utilized to support the university’s education and research activities as a whole. Up to date, Kyoto University has succeeded in obtaining sizable competitive grants which contribute to recovering its income level, compensating for the decrease of the University Grants.

The current issue of Raku-Yu features reports of recently granted programs in Kyoto University. All of them have been successfully granted through very tough screening processes and were selected among numerous qualified competitors from rival universities and research institutions. Two different categories of competitive grants have been inaugurated by MEXT from this year. One is the Global COE Program,

while the other is the World Premier International Research Center (WPI) Program. The Global COE Program was established “to advance university reform, foster talented young researchers and elevate the standard of university research while pioneering new academic fields” (from the website of Japan Society for the Promotion of Science). The selection criteria were whether the proposal met program requirements and provided sufficient evidence that results would be globally recognized and enhance the university’s international competitiveness. Six Kyoto University programs have been awarded Global COE atatus thanks to the efforts of the respective program team leaders and their colleagues. The main text of this issue introduces the titles and content of the programs. The World Premier International Research Center Program is inaugurated by MEXT in FY2007 based on “The 3rd Science and Technology Basic Plan” set by the cabinet as well as “Comprehensive Strategy for Creating Innovation” set by the Council for Science and Technology Policy. The qualification demanded by the selection committee is to create a top world-level research institute with the world’s most leading researchers and an excellent research environment to carry out “globally visible” research activities. Among more than 20 applications from prestigious universities and research institutes, one project entitled “Institute for Integrated Cell-Material Sciences (iCeMS)” headed by Prof. Norio Nakatsuji of Kyoto University was selected and awarded. The iCeMS has already attracted World’s attentions through a recent extraordinary achievement on iPS cells (induced Pluripotent Stem cells) by a WPI-iCeMS member, Prof. Shinya Yamanaka. Kyoto University will provide a full-fledge support to the WPI-iCeMS activities and iPS cell research. Details of the iCeMS research program are also described in this issue.

I hope you will enjoy this issue of Raku-Yu.

Hiroshi Matsumoto

Executive Vice-President of Kyoto University

松本 紘