



TOHOKU  
UNIVERSITY



Main Administrative Units Building Katahira Campus



# TOHOKU UNIVERSITY

# Message from the President



On April 1st, 2012, I was appointed President of Tohoku University. In the following, I would like to outline my thoughts on the tasks that should be tackled through the coming six years term of my office.

Since its foundation in 1907, Tohoku University, as a comprehensive educational institution with over a century of history to look at, has been producing under the principles of “Research First,” “Open Doors,” and “Practice-Oriented Research and Education” not only excellent human resources, but also disseminating numerous research results to the world. Now, we are faced with difficult challenges, such as working up the experience of the Great East Japan Earthquake, the decline in industrial earning capacities, the dwindling birth rate, the intensification of international competition by globalization and also the environmental problems on global level. In a situation like this, Tohoku University will meet its responsibilities towards society and in order to fulfill its original mission on an even higher standard, we pursue the two goals “Leap to World-class” and “Leading the Way towards Reconstruction and Regeneration.”

## “Leap to World-class”

First, we plan to further improve the level of education and research and aim at the “Leap for World-class.” In the field of education, accumulating knowledge alone is not sufficient, we also need to polish, work on and with it, making use of that intellect for the benefit of society; therefore, we will review the role of liberal arts in the light of human resource training. Besides this, we will prepare an environment introducing various and interdisciplinary study opportunities for the people of diverse nationalities and fields of specialization, and we will never stop producing talented people with outstanding language and communication skills, capable of responding to global society. What we all sensed deeply while experiencing the recent disaster is the crucial lack of social leaders capable of identifying the real nature of our problems and making decisions thereupon. While observing the changing society, it is necessary to reflect on how to train leaders to be global players, what liberal arts in the context of modern society means, how to combine them with professional education, and how to enhance opportunities for personal learning including extracurricular and other activities; either of these questions will be investigated with highest priority.

In the area of research, we, as a center of excellence for world leading research, will proactively promote advanced and interdisciplinary research projects while at the same time expanding research on fundamental level. The present situation and tasks of every graduate school and research institute will be thoroughly analyzed, and after the direction of innovation has been made clear, we plan for steady functional enhancement. Excellent fields of study will be further expended while weak points will be strengthened. Originally, research at universities starts with independent research activities based on the ideas of individuals, but taking into consideration the responsibility entrusted by the Japanese people and society, a more strategic focus might become necessary. Taking into account the changing values in society after the great earthquake and the nuclear power plant accident, Tohoku University as a whole will endeavor to reveal common issues for human kind from a general and interdisciplinary viewpoint while making use of all its resources to engage in these. At the same time, we also regard fundamental research as very important. Fundamental research might not be immediately useful, but will in a broad sense contribute to the enrichment of society. Through the coexistence / fusion of fundamental and applied research, new fields of research will be discovered; such undertakings will be strongly promoted.



## Message from the President

### “Leading the Way towards Reconstruction and Regeneration” ~ Tohoku University Reconstruction Actions

Second, we will fulfill our leading role towards reconstruction and regeneration. Signs of reconstruction can be already observed in disaster affected areas, but a sharp vision for reconstruction has yet to be developed. Tohoku University, as a comprehensive educational institution in the center of the disaster area, has the mission to devote its whole strength and resources for reconstruction. We will create new knowledge and strongly support the regeneration of the region. Based on industry - government - academia cooperation, we will start new businesses and plan to revitalize the region by increasing employment. In addition, Tohoku University will function as an engine for knowledge, a striving force pulling out Japan from its economic stagnation. We already promote various projects for reconstruction and regeneration at the “Institute for Disaster Reconstruction and Regeneration Research” which was established shortly after the great earthquake disaster, the “International Research Institute for Disaster Science” and the newly established “Tohoku Medical Megabank Organization”. In the future we will construct a cooperative network system not only stretching over Japan but the whole world.

### Responsibility for Creating the Future

I believe that Tohoku University will be ahead of our time, creating the future and by that positioning itself in history. As a center for education and research on world-class level shouldering the future of human society, I'm determined to realize this mission reaching beyond national and regional borders. For that reason, while building up a responsible management and promoting system, we will discuss detailed strategies that will make the direction our university is aiming for clearer. Through your understanding of our mission and activities, and with the cooperation of many other people I will continue my efforts to realize all this and contribute to the development of a just and peaceful human society.

June 2012

**Susumu Satomi**

President, Tohoku University

Professor Kotaro Honda (1870-1954), the 6th President of Tohoku University, was a founder and director of one of the first research institutes at a national university in Japan, the institute for Materials Research. He created KS steel, which at the time was the strongest magnetic material in the world. Following this invention, he and the institute for Materials Research have remained at the forefront of research in the field of permanent magnets over many years.



Dr. Albert Einstein's visit to Tohoku University in December, 1922  
(Second from left). Professor Honda welcomed him as a guide.



Professor Kōtarō Honda's Memorial Room

# Tohoku University is a University with Clear Ideas.

Tohoku University is a national university with 10 faculties, 16 graduate schools, 3 professional graduate schools and 6 research institutes. It is one of Japan's leading universities with approximately 6,000 faculty and staff, and 18,000 students. (As of May, 2012)

The university's greatest characteristics and ideals are clear by reviewing the institution's history since its foundation. These are the *Research First Principle*, the *Open-Door Policy*, and *Practice-Oriented Research and Education*.

Tohoku University, formerly known as the Tohoku Imperial University, was founded in 1907. Under Japan's prior educational system, the former imperial universities exclusively accepted graduates from the former "higher schools," but Tohoku University opened its doors to graduates of higher technical schools and higher normal schools as well. In 1913, despite government oppositions, Tohoku University became the first Japanese university to accept women with the admission of three female students. This showed the world that Tohoku University had embraced the *Open-Door Policy* as a steadfast ideal.

Upon its establishment, Tohoku University gathered a pool of exceptional young talents globally trained in various academic disciplines to serve as faculty. They eventually advanced creative research with outstanding findings one after another and made use of their research in student education, firmly establishing the university's *Research First Principle*.

Tohoku University was one of the first universities in Japan to launch local venture businesses even before World War II and contributed to the development of regional industry. It served as the main center of research on family law (which is the legislation most closely related to our daily lives) in Japan, and otherwise fostered the tradition of *Practice-Oriented Research and Education* with leading global research findings that support society and people's daily lives.

In this matter, Tohoku University has continuously upheld the *Research First Principle*, *Open-Door Policy*, and *Practice-Oriented Research and Education* ever since it was founded.



Katahira Campus Main Gate



Kawauchi Campus



# Tohoku University is a Globally Recognized Leading Japanese University

AIMR aims to establish a Premier Research Center for materials science, to reform the conventional Japanese system, and to construct a visible center. To achieve this goal, excellent researchers in the fields of materials science, physics, chemistry, engineering and mathematics will come together under the environment appropriate to a top world-level research center. A mathematical viewpoint is added to identify common principles, as well as eventually to establish a new path to “materials science research added with a mathematical viewpoint.” AIMR creates new fundamental paradigms and also promotes the application of research projects with the new materials and system architecture which generates direct societal impacts especially for green innovation; thus exhibiting the qualities necessary to become a world-leading international center of materials science.

Internationalization of higher education is one of the most important issues that Japan is addressing. Tohoku University was selected as a core university for two MEXT projects to enhance globalization of education in universities: (1) the “Project for Establishing University Network for Internationalization – Global 30 –” (2009) along with (2) the “Project for Promotion of Global Human Resource Development” (2012). The former project aims to increase the number of incoming students from abroad with outstanding ability. As a result, Tohoku University has established in total 16 courses (3 undergraduate and 13 graduate) taught in English. The latter project’s goal is to encourage domestic students to obtain first-hand experience from various cultures in order to prepare themselves to work in a globally competitive society. We will encourage students studying at our campuses to become competent citizens who can contribute to national/ international society in the future.

## Tohoku University is a Member of International University Associations and Promotes International Network Creation.

Tohoku University is a member of international university networks such as Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU), Association of East Asian Research Universities (AEARU), Top Industrial Managers for Europe (T.I.M.E.), Global Education for European Engineers and Entrepreneurs (GE4) and HeKKSaGOn\*. Tohoku University actively participates in their programs and projects.

\*HeKKSaGOn is a consortium consisting of six leading research universities from Germany and Japan: Heidelberg University, Kyoto University, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Tohoku University (in Sendai), University of Göttingen and Osaka University



## Lu Xun studied in Sendai.

Tohoku University has long tradition of accepting overseas students. Renowned Chinese author Lu Xun (Zhou Shuren; 1881-1936), known for being the spiritual pillar of modern China, entered Sendai Medical College (which is now Tohoku University School of Medicine) in 1904 as the first foreign student to study in Sendai. Lu Xun eventually determined that he wanted to save the Chinese people through literary activities rather than medicine, so he left Sendai Medical College before completing his studies. Lu Xun was profoundly impressed by the academic spirit and compassionate guidance of Sendai Medical College anatomy professor Genkuro Fujino, and subsequently wrote "*Professor Fujino*" which became a symbol of Sino-Japanese friendship.

Chen Jiangong (1893-1971), who is considered one of the founders of modern Chinese mathematics, researched the theory on trigonometrical series at Tohoku Imperial University Graduate School and became the first foreign student to receive a Ph.D. in science from a Japanese university in 1929. Su Buqing (1902-2003) also received a Ph.D. in science from Tohoku Imperial University in 1931, which turned out the second case. After returning to China, Su Buqing became a professor at Zhejiang University. He later served as President of Fudan University and held an important government post as Vice President of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. Su Buqing trained many mathematics researchers in China and their group is known as the "Su School".

As of May 1, 2012, Tohoku University has 1,431 overseas students from 78 different countries and regions around the world.

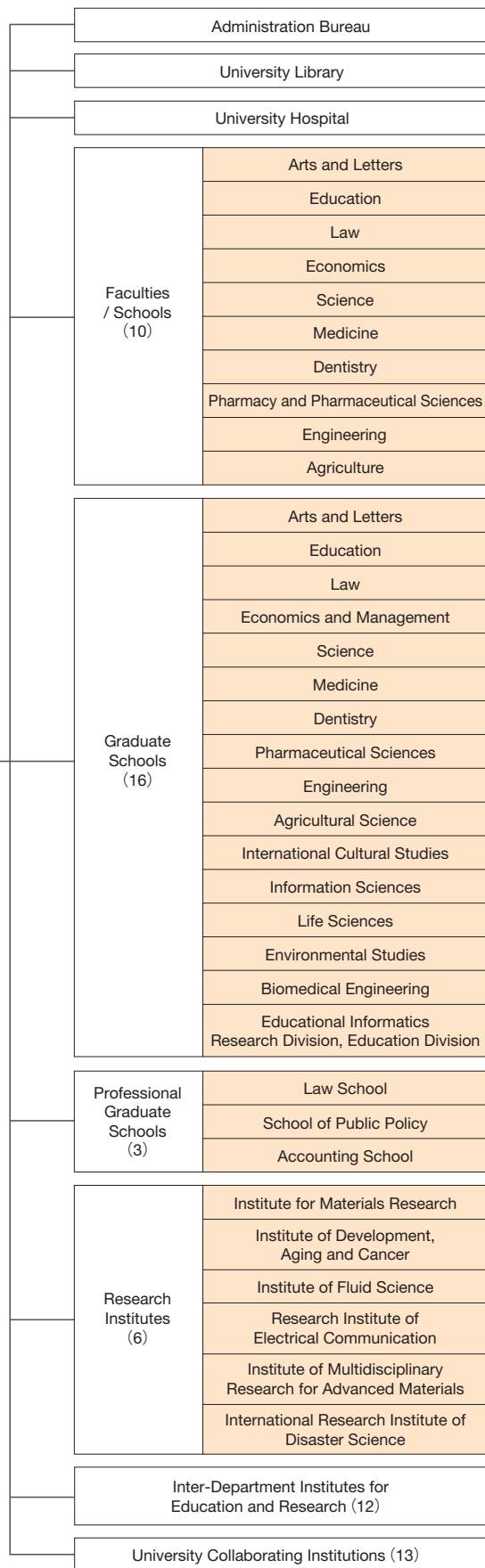
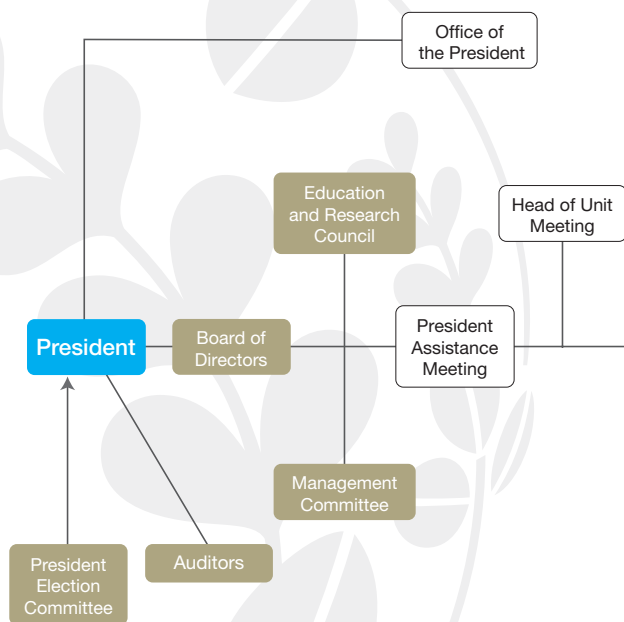


Lu Xun statue



Lecture Room where Lu Xun studied

# Organization Chart



# Access

## Flight

Sendai International Airport (SDJ) offers regular international flights to East Asian cities and also to many domestic cities.

From Seoul : 2 hrs 10 mins

From Beijing : 4 hrs 50 mins

From Shanghai : 2 hrs 50 mins

From Tokyo-Narita Int'l Airport : 1 hr.

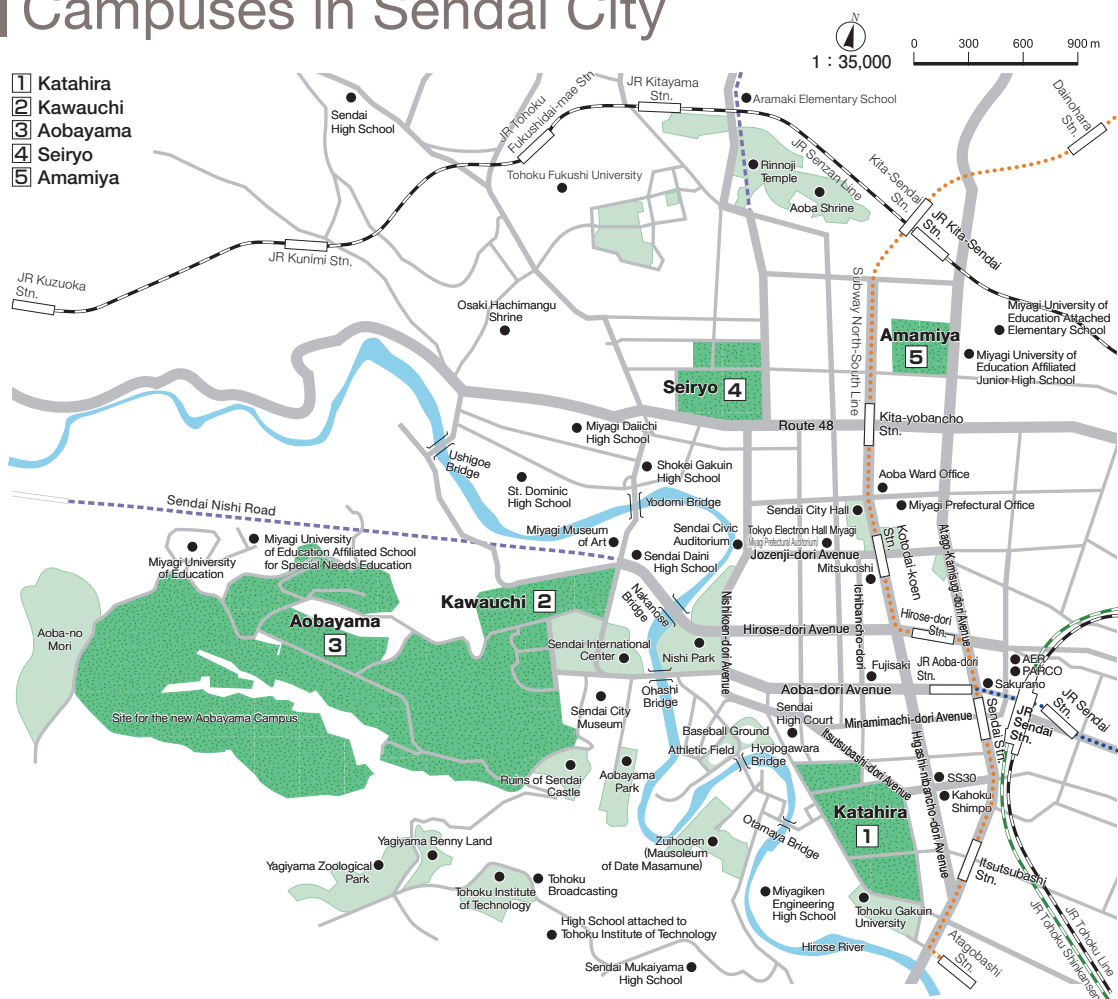
## "Tohoku Shinkansen" Bullet Train

From Tokyo to Sendai : 1 hr 40mins



# Campuses in Sendai City

- 1 Katahira
- 2 Kawauchi
- 3 Aobayama
- 4 Seiryō
- 5 Amamiya



# Contacts

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