



ADAPTING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

As the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic continues to bear down on economies and disrupt the lives of billions of people around the world, Japan's universities and schools have remained vigilant about safeguarding the health of their students, faculty and staff. While most classes are still conducted remotely, all schools are preparing to reopen classrooms once the pandemic is contained.

The country's most renowned universities have exhibited much resilience during this prolonged health crisis. With their reputations intact, Japanese schools have stayed top-of-mind, judging from the number of international applicants to the country's most prestigious universities.

"We currently provide online courses to foreign students who, according to our survey, were very happy that we provided them with that opportunity. They would have been happier if they got to study in the campus, but the situation didn't allow us to do so. We thought we wouldn't get the same number of students this year, but our graduate school enrollment actually increased," said **Tohoku University President Hideo Ohno**.

Unfortunately, some universities were not prepared to handle the disruption caused by the global pandemic. Due to sudden international travel restrictions, they saw a slow-down in their student exchanges.

For Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, the situation might have been daunting. But it boldly faced difficulties and looks to the future with confidence and optimism.

"It was especially challenging for an international university like us because we recruit around 50 percent of our students from outside the country and want to have all domestic students spend their time abroad during their time at APU. So you can imagine that during this pandemic, when travelling is severely restricted, it was a huge challenge for us. But one of our strengths, as a university, is resilience," said **Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University Vice President Marian Beise-Zee**.

Despite the challenges, Japanese universities have proven their resilience by quickly adapting and creating opportunities to strengthen their current systems.

"Although the Japanese government restricted receiving foreigners and sending students to foreign countries because of COVID-19, we succeeded to operate through an online system. We are using this online system to have some sort of student exchange program. This is only a substitute, but we must utilize the system because most of the students won't get the chance to go abroad. That's how we have made the most out of the situation," said **Kanagawa University Vice President Akihiro Matoba**.

On the practical level, many universities faced the challenge to create effective connections with its students thousands of miles away and building a community of

students located in different places and even different countries.

"Last March, I sent a message to students of TIU around the world, stating that although some of our students were not able to enter Japan, we were all connected and linked to the university and that we would do our best to still provide opportunities and education, albeit remotely. I felt it was a very important message to send: that we were not abandoning our international students or leaving them

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Chairman and President
RYOHEI TAKAYOSHI

Foresight for the Next 100 years

- Philanthropy and Public Interest
- Advanced Knowledge and Technology in Science
- Empathy in Patient Care
- Small Group Learning
- A Global University

Organized by the Center of Innovation in Dental Education

Promoting International Exchange

OSAKA DENTAL UNIVERSITY

大阪歯科大学

behind just because they could not enter Japan," **Tokyo International University Chancellor Nobuyasu Kurata** said.

"Another challenge for our international students in particular was how they could support their cost of living because they were away from their families. We were one of the first universities to respond by providing financial assistance to those students in need," Kurata added.

Others, like **Hitotsubashi University**, used the disruption to build stronger and wider connections with international partners during a time when travel is restricted and student exchange programs are suspended.

"Hitotsubashi University, Singapore Management University and Renmin University in China are members of SIGMA (Societal Impact and Global Management Alliance), together with top European business universities, like Copenhagen Business School and WU Wien (Austria). It is very important for us to develop this kind of alliances with SIGMA and other universities," **Hitotsubashi President Satoshi Nakano** stressed.

In the last 40 years, Japan has stayed committed to internationalize its higher education system. The wider use of the English language has allowed Japanese students to adapt more easily when they go abroad and has attracted more international applicants wishing to study in the country. With regards to economic development and demographic terms, it is a win-win policy.

The internationalization of the Japanese higher education system has also nurtured a new breed of Japanese, one with a more globalized outlook and a wider perspective of the world. Working closely with the government, the Japan Association of National Universities (JANU) has taken the lead in promoting student exchange programs.

"JANU, has several important agreements with similar groups in the UK, France, Australia, the US, like the American Council of Education. Those agreements allow us to encourage national universities to send students abroad and recruit international students to Japan. At the same time, the government is also preparing to make competitive study grants available," said **JANU President Dr. Kyosuke Nagata**.

Fully supportive of the efforts of the Hyogo prefectural government and its colleagues, **University of Hyogo** hopes to increase enrollment of students from around the world.

"We want to take in students from around the world, particularly from developing countries in Southeast Asia, South Asia, Eastern Europe, Africa and Latin America, rather than those only in Europe and the United States. That's because we want, from the first year, to develop intellectuals who understand Japanese culture and consequently, develop human resources who will be bridges between Japan or Hyogo and their home countries in the future. This will lead not only to the achievement of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) but also, by extension, contribute to world peace," **University of Hyogo President Isao Ohta** said.

Among its peers, **International University of Japan** stands out for its initiative to internationalize. Not only has IUJ taken in more international students, a significant part from developing countries, (Only 10 percent of its student body is Japanese), it also conducts all its classes in English.

"We have been welcoming students from many developing countries. We are also developing new programs, like the International Public Policy program, which will bring together students, diplomats, and government officials from Japan and western Pacific countries here in our campus. They



Students of the Global Business Course (GBC) in the School of Economics and Management attend classes in English and receive their Bachelor of Economics degree upon graduation. All first-year international and Japanese students live in Global House, the on-campus, international dormitory, where they learn about one another's cultures by communicating in English.

GBC's international students come from more than 20 countries and regions all over the world, mostly from Southeast and South Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe. They receive a wide variety of financial support, including the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship. The Department of Global Business also offers a master's degree in the Graduate School of Social Sciences, wherein students carry out research in English and earn an MBA upon completion.

Furthermore, because University of Hyogo is a research university, there are opportunities for international students in the other Graduate Schools (such as Engineering, Science, and Information Science) to conduct education and advanced research in cooperation with the world-renowned large-scale research facilities such as "SPring-8" and Supercomputer "Fugaku," among others.



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ASAHI UNIVERSITY

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will be able to build a network for the future and hopefully, help build better diplomatic relations in the Western Pacific," **International University of Japan President Hiroyuki Itami** said.

Meanwhile, **International Christian University (ICU)** plans to send its students abroad again in the near future, and is working with key partners to resurrect the various Study Abroad programs that have been largely on hold for the past eighteen months.

At the same time, for those who are not able to travel abroad, ICU is also committed to offering virtual study abroad opportunities to all students who remain on campus.

"With our commitment to provide a global experience to each and every student here, we are seeking to build on our current percentage of approximately 60% of students participating in one of our Study Abroad opportunities during their four years here at ICU. To this end, we are committed to developing new partnerships and to expanding the extent of our collaborations with existing partners. We are also looking to increase the scope of the activities initiated by our service learning center and using this to develop new ventures in regions such as Africa and Southeast Asia", said **ICU President Shoichiro Iwakiri**.

Reflective of the close ties between Japan and the United States, many Japanese universities have formed partnerships with several prestigious American universities.

Since 1993, the cooperation between **Asahi University** and University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) continues to benefit both sides in terms of research, knowledge sharing and cultural understanding.

"When I was little, my parents took me to an English school.

It was the first time I met a teacher from another country. I was nervous because I couldn't speak the language. But through time, I learned that the language itself wasn't the only thing needed in order to communicate with non-Japanese. I learned there were differences in body language, expressions, and culture that came along with it. It was then that I realized that partnerships and face-to-face interactions played an important role in becoming an individual who is globally aware. That is something I have been doing ever since," **Asahi University President Katsuyuki Ohtomo** said.

"Asahi University provides unique experiences to both international and local students through its face-to-face interactions. From the start, internationalization was at the core of the university and we remain committed to fostering partnerships. We train our students to contribute to the future of society through their knowledge and ability. We look to develop their intelligence and creative spirit in line with that," Ohtomo also said.

With the growing awareness and increasing importance of sustainable development around the world, several Japanese universities have wholeheartedly integrated SDGs into their programs.

"Okayama Region is one of the best places in the world to see how education for sustainable development (ESD) is integrated in advancing the SDGs in a multi-stakeholder partnership manner. As the first UNESCO Chair in ESD across Asia and the only national university that received a special prize at the Japan SDGs Award from the Government of Japan, we led a profound cultural shift for higher education institutions and they implemented SDG-based management systems," **Okayama University President Hirofumi Makino** said. ■



KU **KANAGAWA UNIVERSITY**
To the world, to the future

Education For All in International Port City – Yokohama
Kanagawa University began as a humble but ambitious project to establish a school for the common worker in the international port city of Yokohama in Kanagawa Prefecture. Starting as a night school in 1928, Yokohama Academy became Yokohama College the following year and began offering both day and night classes, keeping its commitment to provide education for everyone, including the economically disadvantaged. A fellowship scholarship system was established in 1933, one of the first of its kind and a source of deep pride. Since being renamed in 1949 after post-war educational reform, Kanagawa University has continued that tradition and its alumni can be found hard at work around the world.

International Education and Research
Looking to its centennial in 2028, Kanagawa University continues to be a proactive member of global society, not only by sending out students and graduates but also by collaborating with international partners in education and research.

Minato Mirai Campus Established in 2021
Aside from returning to roots in the Port of Yokohama, the university's new Minato Mirai Campus established in April 2021 is a symbol of its efforts to look to the future and to the outside world.

Comprehensive University
Founder Yoneda Yoshimori believed the purpose of education was to form students that contributed to the betterment of society and were independent, reliable, forward-thinking, international and open-minded. Those principles have remained the foundation of what has become the international comprehensive university with 8 faculties and 8 graduate schools that we see today.

www.kanagawa-u.ac.jp/english/welcome

Acting locally, thinking globally

A mere mention of Japan conjures up images of its sprawling, densely populated, ultramodern urban centers, like Tokyo and Osaka. Apart from those well-known hubs, the country boasts other regions and cities that play an important part in the country's development and its engagement with the wider world.

University of Nagasaki has contributed to efforts to strengthen Japan's links with the rest of the world. It was among the first universities in the country to set up an information security department, which has since attracted the attention of Japanese multinationals like Fujitsu.

"Because of positive reviews and a growing demand for its graduates from several other companies, the Department of Information Security has doubled its enrollment for its courses in the field this year. Other initiatives of the university include partnerships with local and international organizations, like lectures arranged by the Department of International Management, which aims to provide students with a more globalized outlook. One lecture, delivered by the U.S. chief consul, was so popular we had to also broadcast it online because the venue could not accommodate all the participants," said **University of Nagasaki President Tsutomu Kimura**.

The lecture series, Kimura added, has also encouraged a significant number of students to seek further studies in the United States and thus prompted him to eagerly widen its U.S. partnerships.

In Yamanashi prefecture, **Tsuru University** has built strong partnerships with the local government and the community. The prefecture is the largest local producer of grapes, plums, peaches, and wines in Japan, as well as a major source of bottled mineral water. The university, located at the foot of Mt. Fuji, maintains a particularly distinguished record in teacher education.

"Our university was founded and continues to be supported by the city of Tsuru. As a public institution, we value regionality, internationality, and a distinctive learning environment extremely highly. The university's Regional Exchange Center provides many educational, cultural and sports programs for the people of the community, also promoting and managing regular field work initiatives," said **Tsuru University President Hidenori Fujita**.

"Exchange programs are also critical. They help us improve our students' cultural knowledge and sensitivity, and allow them to open up their future. We want to use our resources to develop both our university and our city. These efforts will consequently benefit the university, local communities, society and the world," Fujita added.

Located in the subtropical region of Japan, Okinawa boasts of a rich history and distinct qualities that no other part of the country holds. Sharing similar characteristics to Pacific islands like, Hawaii, the Ryuku islands play an important position in international collaboration and knowledge exchange regarding



University of Nagasaki was one of the first universities in Japan to establish a department that specializes in information security. The photo on the left shows the dedicated training room. In this room with high-spec hardware, students are exposed to sophisticated and persistent attacks in cyberspace. In this way, the students learn effective defense methods. The Department of Information Security has attracted the attention of many companies, and requests for joint research are pouring in. For this reason, it decided to build an industry-university joint research center. The construction of the center is being carried out at a rapid pace on campus.

University of Nagasaki focuses on the development of global human resources. Some of its initiatives include overseas training and seminars by American diplomats. The Diplomats' Seminar is a Nagasaki Prefecture-wide initiative co-sponsored by the U.S. Consulate in Fukuoka and attended by many high schools in Nagasaki Prefecture. The photo on the right shows Principal Officer John C. Taylor delivering the keynote address. He spoke to a group of college and high school students about what it takes to be a good leader in his talk entitled "Enrichment through International Experiences."

University of Nagasaki

長崎県立大学
UNIVERSITY OF NAGASAKI



the preservation of local ecosystems.

"In the country, our university is ranked 6th in the promotion of the preservation of underwater life, aside from being classified No. 1 in the promotion of quality education. This is quite significant as it certainly shows our strength in being able to give back and develop the local community," said **University of the Ryukyus President Mutsumi Nishida**.

With its reputation as an excellent research institute, the university not only commits its efforts towards academics, but also caters to the revival of local heritage sites such as the Shurijo Castle.

"The castle was burned down in 2019 and was a cultural icon and symbol of the independence of Okinawa. We wanted to take the initiative to use our expertise and academic network to reconstruct and revive an important part of our history," Nishida added. ■

Keepers of Japanese culture

The Japanese aesthetic possesses a singular status in the world. Because of its long period of isolation, art forms in the country developed virtually absent of Western influence and planted very deep roots among the Japanese.

With the end of Japan's isolation, Japanese art reached the West and reignited the creativity of several artists there. More than a century after, the influence of Japanese art and design is very visible in the buildings we inhabit, the products we use, the pictures we hang on our walls, and the clothes we wear.

Through their international partnerships, Japan's art universities have served as bridges with the global community, guardians of the country's culture and promoters of its art and design. One such school is **Musashino Art University (MAU)** in Tokyo.

Founded in 1929 as Teikoku Art School, the university has grown to become one of Japan's most prestigious art schools. In addition to encompassing all the existing areas of an art university, MAU established the College of Creative Thinking for Social Innovation in 2019 to develop new disciplines in the field.

With two undergraduate and two post-graduate schools, MAU is now one of the largest art universities in Japan. Its groundbreaking educational innovations for the next generation have attracted a great deal of attention both in

Japan and overseas as unprecedented forms of instruction.

"With agreements with 37 major art universities around the world, and MAU's tradition of global educational development, it was recognized by MEXT as the first Japanese art university to develop global human resources. Global programs are offered in both classes and as projects on a daily basis. Its achievements and scale have long led Japanese art universities," **Musashino Art University President Tadanori Nagasawa** said.

For more than 120 years, **Joshi University of Art and Design** has trained female artists, many of whom have achieved success not only in Japan, but also in New York, Paris, London and Milan. It was the first women-only fine arts institution and the oldest private art school in the country.

"We are proud of our graduates. It's interesting to see that applicants come to us because they look up to our graduates. We have this strength in training these students and passing them along to the wider world," said **Joshi University of Art and Design President Fumiko Ogura**.

"We are also proud to have bred many artists that have received the Order of Culture as well as artists that have been selected as Persons of Cultural Merit in the field of Japanese paintings, and Western paintings and crafts. We have the most number of these awards among other art schools and universities," she added. ■



The Tokyo International University Pledge

Tokyo International University is strongly committed to "nurturing truly internationally-minded individuals" who harbor a sense of Kotokushin (公德心) or "unbiased harmony".

This spring we launched the Faculty of Health Sciences with the aim of further contributing to society. In the fall 2023, we will open the "Ikebukuro Campus" in metropolitan Tokyo.

We continue to strive to improve the university in both academic and athletic activities and to play a role as a leading institution of higher education in the world community.



Nobuyasu Kurata
Chancellor and Chair,
Tokyo International University

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Partners in social development

Among Japan's most serious and longest running demographic challenges is its rapidly ageing population. Despite incentives from the government to reverse the trend, population growth remains negative, while the number of marriages has decreased since the early 1970s.

To address this protracted problem, successive governments have relaxed immigration laws and have encouraged non-Japanese to study, work and live in the country. To further ease assimilation, Japanese universities have instituted English-only degree programs.

At the same time, Japan has needed to strengthen government programs to support its elderly population and look after their health. Playing a key role in this mission are the country's many medical and dental universities and schools.

"Even though we are small now, we are focused on spreading awareness of the importance of dental health, which is not only about our teeth but about oral health as a whole. That is one of Fukuoka Dental College's main goals. We want to change people's perception of dentistry, given that Japan already targets a large global market for general medicine," said **Fukuoka Dental College Chairperson Dr. Sachiyo Suita**.

Osaka Dental University shares the same goal, which is to educate more people about the huge role of dental health in one's general wellbeing and improve the quality of dental education in the country by gathering information from around

the world and incorporating the latest knowledge and breakthroughs into its programs.

"We believe deeply the founding spirit of our university – Philanthropy and Public Interest – will save countless lives, not only through dentistry but also through medicine as a profession. Looking towards the future, we aim for sustainable expansion and development as a comprehensive medical university by nurturing medical professionals that will look after patients closely and live out our founding spirit," said **Osaka Dental University President and Chairman Takayoshi Kawazoe**.

A deeply patriarchal society, Japan has not fared as well in terms of gender equality as other highly advanced economies. Reflective of its very conservative values, the country has many all-female universities and educational institutions which, while they differ in terms of style of instruction and focus, have not compromised on quality of education.

"We are a private school. Compared to some others, we are relatively small. But, we look at our students as individuals, not as a group. We have a more human-centered or individual-centered approach. The most important thing for us is that each faculty consults with each student to know if they have any problems and know what we need to improve. Those are very important things we focus on," **Kobe Women's University President Nobutaka Kurihara**. ■



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MAU Musashino Art University
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Founded in 1900
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The first higher educational institution in the arts that accepted female students.

 **JOSHIBI UNIVERSITY OF ART AND DESIGN** 

Society 5.0: Building smarter, living better

Consistently a trailblazer, Japan has led the world in imagining the future, starting with the high-speed bullet train, pocket calculators, the Sony Walkman and android robots. The country has always found solutions to do things faster with less cumbersome equipment and ideally, with fewer people involved.

Dubbed Society 5.0, former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe first mentioned this ambitious initiative in 2017. This vision for a “super smart” society aims to bring together technologies, like big data, Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence (AI), and robots, and incorporate them into every industry and across all social segments, resulting in solutions to difficult problems and in more comfortable lives.

While this vision for the future directly involves infrastructure, finance technology, healthcare, logistics and AI, it will have significant implications on the education sector, as well. After all, Japan’s schools and universities are the training grounds of the country’s future workforce, business leaders, engineers and entrepreneurs.

Already, several universities have expressed their full support for Society 5.0 and have begun to institute changes to support the initiative.

“Our goal is to equip our students with new ideas and resources that will benefit society in the long-term future. We hope they convey this message to the wider world and demonstrate, in their future endeavors, how the things they learned here, along with the techniques and technologies

they mastered, can support all people and their communities,” said **Tohoku Institute of Technology President Hironori Watanabe**.

Meanwhile, Japan’s Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology continues to step up efforts to advance Society 5.0 and revise the country’s education model to adopt technological innovation and utilize them to build a more intelligent environment. Should they succeed, the government hopes it will provide the world with a model on how to teach and fully capitalize on advanced technology.

“We want to collaborate more with world-leading industries and organizations, in addition to acquiring national grants, creating new businesses and improving our education system. As diversity and inclusion are very important for our university, we will accept more international professors and students. It should be important as a university to stimulate our Japanese and international students to become more active and globalized,” said **Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology (Tokyo NoKo University) President Kazuhiro Chiba**.

As digital technology and artificial intelligence become more developed and more present in our daily lives, the Japanese government believes Society 5.0 allows the country’s schools and universities to adopt a flexible approach in their task to strengthen communication, leadership, as well as reading and comprehension skills.

Many universities strongly agree and strive to comply with

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Tokyo NoKo University

Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology

Maximizing Human Value on a Foundation of Science

Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology or Tokyo NoKo University (Japanese stands for Agriculture and Technology) has evolved with the development of industrial society. Furthermore, it continues to develop into a world-leading research university that intellectually and socially maximizes human value based on science. We pave the way for sustainable development in collaboration with the international community, local communities and other institutions. We ignite students’ creativity. And we acquire the power to play an active role in the world of science, technology and business. We will continue to work toward the important goal of “building the foundation of the earth” where people can flourish and we will always focus on people, who create future values.



CHIBA Kazuhiro

President
Tokyo University of Agriculture
and Technology



Tokyo University of
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Faculty of Agriculture / Faculty of Engineering / Graduate School of Engineering / Graduate School of Agriculture /
Graduate School of Bio-Applications and Systems Engineering / United Graduate School of Agricultural Science



the vision the government has presented for the country's education system. Meanwhile, **Kyoto University of Advanced Science** has worked actively to establish its own vision for the future and nurture the kind of graduates that society needs today and will need in the centuries to come.

"KUAS is a new university. We've been around for only three years. However, we built a university from the ground up, producing the kind of top tier talent and professionals that business leaders and business owners want for their companies and organizations," said **Kyoto University of Advanced Science President Masafumi Maeda**.

Other universities have focused on practical training for their students ahead of their entry into the workplace.

"In Hakodate, we talk directly to local people to find out the challenges they face. That gives us an idea of where

technology should be heading. That's how we can contribute to Society 5.0. We have a lot of technology-minded faculty members and many excellent students who can use their skills and know-how into designing this new model," said **Future University Hakodate President Yasuhiro Katagiri**.

Under this new education regime, schools will require a mastery of basic skills from students starting from the 5th year until the 7th year at the elementary level. Underperforming students will not be promoted to the next year until they gain a satisfactory mastery of those basic skills. Also, to prepare students for a "super smart" society, schools will focus less on subjects and more on skills proficiency.

Because of the ever-changing needs of society, there has been a significant increase in the number of smaller, more specialized schools in Japan over recent years. In line with government guidelines and societal trends, **Kobe Institute of Computing Graduate School of Information Technology (KIC)** has focused on developing and preparing individuals for roles in the IT industry regardless of their previous background.

"Our main mission is to improve society through the application of technology. As a professional graduate school, our purpose is to not only give lectures but to also monitor and encourage our graduates to make an impact," said **KIC President Toshiki Sumitani**.

As Japan leads Society 5.0, there is an opportunity for schools not only to make a local impact but also to serve as an example globally, specifically to developing countries.

"Our distinct feature is that we have more international students than Japanese students. That said, we highly encourage and invite individuals from all over the world, including those in the smaller regions of Asia, Africa, and the Middle East," Sumitani added. ■



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Website



Aiming to be a global frontrunner in oral medicine

Fukuoka Dental College IMAGINES THE FUTURE

Celebrating its 50th anniversary next year, Fukuoka Dental College was founded in 1972 with the approval from the Ministry of Education, now the Ministry of Education Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. It received its first batch of students the following year.

Nearly half a century later, the college has not waned in its commitment to form competent dentists and develop pioneers in oral medicine. So far, more than 4,700 graduates have made successful careers in the medical field, the academe and in their own local communities.

From dentistry to oral medicine

Dental medicine does not cover only lesions of the teeth and surrounding tissues. The field covers a wide range of diseases affecting the oral cavity, including the lips, palate, tongue, salivary glands, jawbone, and temporomandibular joint.

This widened coverage came as a response to expanded knowledge about the structure of diseases, the demographic changes due to the declining birthrate and ageing population in Japan, the increasing prevalence of general medical diseases among dental patients and the improvement of dental technology.

In addition, oral care contributes greatly to the prevention of aspiration pneumonia and improves the quality of life of the elderly among in Japan's ageing population. Thus, the relationship between dentistry and general

medical care has grown even closer.

In order to promote "patient-centered medicine," Fukuoka Dental College believes it is essential for their students to acquire a comprehensive knowledge of systemic medicine. It incorporates elements of general medicine and welfare into conventional dentistry, with the aim of training dentists who will "protect the health of the whole body through oral health".

"To reflect the college's new approach to the outside world, in 2013, we changed the name of our faculty from 'Faculty of Dentistry' and 'Division of Dentistry' to 'Faculty of Oral Dentistry' and 'Division of Oral Dentistry,' said Chairperson Dr. Sachiyo Suita.

Practiced-oriented research

In 2020, Fukuoka Dental College ranked 11th among 802 Japanese universities in terms of the ratio of students and researchers under 40 years old selected for the grants-in-aid for scientific research administered by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

"As a place that cultivates excellent personnel, we will continue to make further progress in education, research, and in our contribution to society, with all students, faculty, and staff working together to provide happiness to people," Suita said. ■



Sachiyo Suita, M.D., Ph.D., MACS (Hon), FAAP (Hon), Chairperson of Board of Trustees of the educational institution Fukuoka Gakuen



Faculty and students of Fukuoka Dental College and their international partners benefit mutually from their exchange programs.



The educational institution Fukuoka Gakuen is made up of Fukuoka Dental College, Fukuoka Nursing College and Fukuoka College of Health Sciences, all of which collaborate closely to provide excellent education and pioneering research.



Fukuoka Nursing College



Fukuoka Dental College Medical and Dental Hospital

Tohoku University:

Wireless, Borderless, Limitless

Located in the cosmopolitan city of Sendai in Japan's Northeast region, Tohoku University is renowned for its innovative research and dynamic global network.

It was among the first to be conferred the status of a Designated National University by the government in 2017, and is currently ranked number one on Times Higher Education's list of top Japanese Universities for a second year in a row.

Progressive Education

A trailblazer since its founding in 1907, Tohoku University was the first university in Japan to admit female students, and also one of the first to welcome foreigners. These days, 10 percent of its 18,000 students are international, spread across 10 faculties, 15 graduate schools and six research institutes.



The diversity on campus is best reflected in University House, the largest student housing complex to be built at a Japanese national university. There, international and Japanese students share apartments, in a multicultural living environment that is both supportive and inclusive.

In 2020, at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Tohoku University took immediate action, moving all classes online to protect its students and staff. By leveraging its strengths in information technology and by utilizing the benefits of digital connections and resources, it was able to complete the academic year without significant disruption.

A year and a half into the pandemic, Tohoku University is adjusting its activities to incorporate a combination of real and virtual interactions. International exchange programmes have also had to adapt. To accommodate travel restrictions, the university established the Be Global Project, which offers joint academic courses and co-curricular cultural programmes online.

Innovative Research

Among the early inventions that were born at Tohoku University are the split-anode magnetron used in microwave ovens, the steel-wire recorder and the Yagi-Uda antenna, the university's first foray into a wireless world that put it well ahead of its time.

With a vision to "collaborate, innovate and activate," the university takes an interdisciplinary approach to research. Its large campus includes a science park that is conducive to in-development tests and experiments, as well as industry co-creation of production-grade new materials and technology.

Tohoku University is also focused on developing new academic fields. For example, in the aftermath of the 2011 Great East Japan



Earthquake, it pioneered research in disaster science, giving local and global communities the tools and knowledge to be better prepared for natural disasters. At the same time, the Tohoku Medical Megabank Organization began the world's first large scale three-generation cohort survey, to develop more effective medical treatment and personalized healthcare for the future.

More recently, Tohoku University has been all-in in the fight against COVID-19. Its Clinical Skills Lab has been providing ECMO simulation training to medical personnel from around the region to help them treat COVID-19 patients, as well as research projects that cover a range of topics, from medicine, testing and public health to the various technologies that support the search for treatments and a cure. International research collaborations have also been stepped up.

Present Future

But COVID-19 is not the only challenge the world is currently facing. With climate change and widening social disparities also a perennial threat, Tohoku University recognizes the importance of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Under the umbrella of a Green Goals Initiative, it is committed to developing green technology, and putting in place actions that focus on recovery and resilience, as well as social innovation and inclusion.

And the university's vision forward extends beyond the familiarities of Earth. Through partnerships with JAXA and other space agencies, the Space Robotics Lab at the Department of Aerospace Engineering has already contributed to critical domestic and international space projects, such as the Hayabusa2 asteroid sample-return mission, and the Google Lunar XPRIZE race to the moon. It is now planning to launch university-based microsatellite missions from Earth into lunar orbits; and developing a multi-limbed climbing robot capable of reaching challenging locations, such as lunar caves and asteroid surfaces.

At Tohoku University, the story of innovation never ends, and the next step in its journey of discovery is already wireless, borderless... and limitless. ■

