

Regional revitalization/Industry-academia collaboration

In 2004 Akita University became an Incorporated National University. It embraced this opportunity to reaffirm that education, research, and social contributions were the focal points of university management policy. We have been promoting the “open university project” as the hub of public intellect. The root of the university’s social contributions is the belief that one’s education not only takes place as a student, but that it is a lifelong process. Therefore the university should make proactive efforts to provide educational resources to the whole community. This concept acts as the basis for the expansion of various

educational activities. Furthermore, We offer programs for high school students and their parents and guardians, as well as for elementary and junior school pupils. We newly established the Center for Regional Development in April 2016, making our university a base for regional learning and regeneration. The Center contributes to the promotion and revitalization of local businesses and to the development of talent which serves the community, through collaborative research and aid initiatives to promote the local economy and prevent regional disasters, and research to support the growth of local industry.

Regional Cooperation; Social Contribution initiatives

■ Open lectures

Every year open lectures are held on a wide variety of topics. These open lectures act as an excellent educational resource for anyone in the community at large who wishes to engage in lifelong learning.



*For the list of open lectures offered during 2017 please refer to Akita University Official Website.

■ Children’s Observation Day

Every year during summer vacation “Children’s Observation Day” is held for elementary school students and their parents. The purpose is to raise young students’ interest in the university through campus tours, watching experiments in laboratories, viewing the night sky at the campus observatory, and other fun, educational events.



■ Cooperating with Communities

Our university makes its education and research resources avail-

able to the community at large in order to encourage community vitalization through various partnership agreements with municipalities throughout Akita Prefecture. In an effort to be a “university with its roots in the community,” we undertake activities which make a valuable contribution to the community: public lectures, regional networking events, science sessions for children, and student exchanges with the local community. As of May 1, 2016, we have formed partnership agreements with 15 municipalities in Akita Prefecture.



■ Elementary and Junior High School Student Tours

The university regularly conducts campus tours as part of its “integrated study” initiatives, and workplace experience for elementary and junior high school students. Teaching staff introduce the university, guiding them inside our facilities and answering questions.

■ “Medical Science Café Next”

As part of Akita University’s social contribution, we make our educational resources freely available to local residents. Through interdepartmental collaboration we invite lecturers from each of our departments to speak: for example, we have a “Science Café Master” from the Medical Department, who talks on medicine and health-related topics from a variety of perspectives.

local residents can put disaster mitigation initiatives in place on their own.

3. Provide instruction and advice to the prefecture and the cities, towns, and villages within it regarding disaster prevention measures

We provide instruction and advice on disaster prevention and mitigation measures to prefectural municipalities, tailored to take account of Akita Prefecture’s natural characteristics, so they can put in place earthquake disaster prevention measures, as well as predict earthquake damage in the area.



Local Disaster Prevention

1. Investigation and Research regarding how local disaster prevention should be conducted considering the characteristics of Akita Prefecture

- ① Conduct basic research regarding earthquakes and disaster prevention within Akita Prefecture.
- ② Investigate the extent of the impact of previous *tsunami* that have occurred on Akita prefectural shores, and research ways to minimize *tsunami* damage.
- ③ Investigate and research earthquakes and *tsunami* that may have the potential to inflict enormous damage on Akita Prefecture in the future.

2. Giving instruction on disaster prevention

We conduct disaster education for local government, neighborhood associations and educational institutions, so that, in the event of an earthquake,



Regional Business Research

■ Resource development and environmental recycling research and development projects

Having begun to produce and consume natural mineral resources and energy resources, including oil and natural gas, we are conducting innovative research into techniques for repairing the environment through actions such as refining, purification, and recycling of rare metals. We are developing a sophisticated base for our research, with an international perspective.



■ New materials; functional materials research and development

We undertake research related to discovering new and advanced materials, based on the results of our core research at Akita University. Realizing our capability as one of the leading research institutes in the area, we aim to develop new businesses and new jobs, through the collective efforts of Akita's university, its companies, and its public institutions.

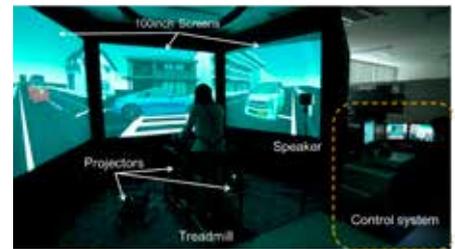


■ Research and development on new manufacturing technologies and on junction and bonding inspection technologies for composite materials (Research leader: Mikio Muraoka, Head of the Graduate School of Engineering Science)

We develop innovative, low-cost manufacturing and inspection technologies for composite materials used in aircraft fuselages. Together with local businesses in Akita Prefecture, we aim to create a manufacturing base and have established the Akita New Composite Technology Research Association to work on the commercial development of aircraft parts and components.

■ Mechanical systems, electrical and electronic devices research and development

We contribute to the development of aircraft and automobiles for the transportation industry through our research and development activities. We focus on molding and CAE structural design for composite materials, as well as high efficiency power systems and infrastructure to support drivers and pedestrians with respect to next generation aircraft and automobiles.



■ Aerospace research and development

We promote research and development with regard to new component technologies and the development of human resources for companies and universities in collaboration with organizations and institutions related to the aerospace industry in Akita Prefecture. In this way we promote the development of the aerospace industry in Akita, and help young people to settle and become established in the region.



ロケット展示会

県内企業とのロケット燃料試験

