



## Message from the President

---

Since its establishment in 1949 as a national university under the new educational system, Akita University has upheld the basic principles of “Promotion of world-class education and research,” “A commitment to regional development and the resolution of global issues” and “Development of capable human resources who can assume important roles both in Japan and overseas.”

The University’s development has been based on the three pillars of education, research, and public contributions. Its origins can be traced back to Akita Training College founded in 1873, as well as the historic educational institutions of Akita Mining College, Akita Normal School, and Akita Youth Normal School. Carrying on this long-standing tradition of learning, our University has established itself in Akita and has grown in step with the local community.

Many of our graduates have gone on to make their mark in education, healthcare, industry, and government in Akita Prefecture and beyond, as well as on the international stage, and their achievements are a source of pride for our University. The roots of this success lie in an education that nurtures the individuality and potential of each student, and practical research that works with the local community to find solutions to real-world problems.

In order to respond to the diversification of social needs and technological innovation in recent years, the faculties of our

University have been reorganized. Starting from the 2025 academic year, the University will have five faculties, including the Faculty of Integrated Science and Engineering for Environments (formerly the faculty of Engineering Science) and the newly-established Faculty of Informatics and Data Science. As a result, we are evolving into an educational and research institution that covers a broader range of advanced academic fields to meet the diverse needs of modern society.

The Faculty of International Resource Sciences is the only university institution in Japan to have such a comprehensive education and research framework for resources science. Japan has a dearth of natural resources and energy: we are engaged in research to find solutions to these challenges on a global scale and have established a track record of world-leading results. We have also set up branches and laboratories overseas and are actively developing student exchange and international collaborative research initiatives. In their third year, students participate in the mandatory “Resource Sciences Fieldwork Abroad” program for two to four weeks, which gives them a front-line perspective on research into international resource development. Through this type of learning, we are producing global leaders in the field of resource science. We are taking on the challenge of identifying and efficiently producing the precious resources we have on Earth, and are developing and utilizing new resources such as renewable energy, as well as the long-established resources of oil and natural gas. Students at the Faculty of International Resource Sciences also have the opportunity to expand their knowledge in the social sciences, including economics, policy theory, international cooperation, and international law.

The Faculty of Education and Human Studies comprises the Department of School Education, which is responsible for teacher training, and the Department of Regional Studies and Humanities, which is at the core of our regional cooperation work. The Department of School Education trains teachers who will contribute to the revitalization of education in the community while maintaining close ties with the overall field of education. We have a track record of training staff who will become the pillars of the educational system, with Akita enjoying a reputation for having the brightest elementary and high school students in Japan. In the Department of Regional Studies and Humanities, we help students to explore solutions to regional problems from a multifaceted perspective and train human resources who can contribute to regional revitalization. By equipping students with the education they need to cope with any challenge and nurturing flexible thinking, we produce talented resources who can tackle and resolve local issues from a global perspective.

The Faculty of Medicine contributes to medical care both in Akita Prefecture and elsewhere in Japan, as well as worldwide, through the education of medical professionals to help alleviate the shortage of doctors. We have also produced many leading doctors throughout Japan. The University hospital is the only special functioning hospital in the prefecture and provides cutting-edge medical care. In recent years, during the pandemic, we played a leading role in the implementation of COVID-19 countermeasures in Akita Prefecture. In addition, our pass rate in the National Medical Practitioners Qualifying Examinations ranks very highly on a national basis. In the School of Health Sciences, we maintain our commitment to providing support for those who need it and to maintaining high pass rates in all national examinations for general nurses, specialist public health nurses, midwives, as well as physical therapists and occupational therapists.

---

In the Faculty of Integrated Science and Engineering for Environments, four departments and eight courses have been integrated into three departments to strengthen education and research in the fields of science and technology to work towards a green society through comprehensive study of the fundamentals and applications of science and engineering. We aim to train talented students who can acquire the expertise to thrive in the new era, nurturing their ability to utilize digital technology in their specialty field with the ability to understand and cooperate with others who have different areas of expertise.

The newly established Faculty of Informatics and Data Science will foster digital human resources who can leverage the latest digital technology to create and implement new value out of the abundance of data and information worldwide. It will also conduct research on the advancement and utilization of digital technologies needed to find solutions for societal issues. Significantly, the teaching of this Faculty encompasses not only the fields of information and data science, but also the field of intelligent robotics.

I was appointed as the 14th president of Akita University in April 2024. When I assumed the position, the vision that I adopted was “Make your dreams come true”. Our University’s most important mission is to give all students who come to Akita University the environment and opportunity to rise to the challenge of achieving their dreams. We live in an era of particular uncertainty over the outlook for the future, but the key to successfully navigating the future is a belief in one’s own potential and the ability to continue to strive at challenges. That is why each and every one of us should have a vision of their own future and be willing to work hard to fulfill their dreams. The University is fully committed to supporting them all the way in this journey.

To achieve this vision of making dreams come true, Akita University has formulated the Akita University Reform Plan and has launched reforms to dramatically improve the quality of education, research and public contributions. We are implementing multifaceted measures including university-wide organizational restructuring, initiatives to improve research capabilities and secure external funding, educational reform, financial restructuring and contributions to resolving regional issues.

As part of these efforts, we are also focusing on establishing University-wide organizations to support the activities of each faculty. In April 2025, we established the Future Cooperative Research Organization and the Regional Co-Creation Organization by integrating and reorganizing our existing research support organizations.

The Future Cooperative Research Organization oversees the Research Promotion and Support Office, the Focus Research Laboratory, and the Research Promotion Facility on an integrated basis manner to make optimal use of research resources. In particular, it will promote research activities centered on our five core research fields (global resources, electrification of mobility, green innovation, intelligence applications, and life sciences), while steadily enhancing functions related to research management and industry-academia-government collaboration, where there is scope for improvement across the University.

The Regional Co-Creation Organization comprises three divisions: the Recurrent Education Department, the Regional Cooperation Department and the Regional Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Department. It works with the community to implement regional revitalization initiatives, promote research for the growth of local industry, and develop human talent who will serve the community, thereby contributing to the promotion and revitalization of local industry.

The University’s seamless education from undergraduate to graduate school and each center serves as the foundation of Akita University’s mission of “repaying society through the contribution of outstanding alumni and the delivery of excellent research.” In the THE Japan University Rankings 2025, we were ranked 53rd out of around 800 national, public and private universities in Japan. This is a testament to our University’s high standing in society in terms of our efforts and progress, as well our future potential.

Akita University students are highly regarded nationwide for their integrity and sincerity, their strong desire to contribute to the community, and their commitment to collaboration. We offer a diverse and expanding variety of learning opportunities, including volunteering, joint projects with local governments and companies, and on-site training both in Japan and overseas. This has strengthened the credibility and broad appeal of our University.

The dreams and goals of each individual are important when choosing a path to university, employment, or becoming a researcher or educator. We work closely with each and every student, faculty and staff member, supporting them as a university in the fulfillment of their diverse dreams and goals. This is the steadfast mission of the University. With Akita University as our alma mater, we are all united - current students, teaching staff and alumni - soaring towards the future while maintaining firm roots in the local community. Akita University will continue to strive as a forum where dreams flourish and bear fruit, while staying committed to a future where everyone can shine.

Akita University President

**MINAMIYA Yoshihiro**