

Contributions to Society

In FY2004 Akita University became a National University Corporation, and acted upon this chance to make education, research, and contributions to society as a focal point of its 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 education is not only for students, but that it is a lifelong process, and that we should make proactive efforts to provide educational resources to society as a whole, as well. This concept has been the basis for the expansion of various activities. Furthermore we offer activities geared towards high school students and their parents, as well as elementary and junior high school students.

Akita University’s Societal Contribution Project

■Open lectures

Every year open lectures are held on a wide variety of topics as an excellent educational resource for any municipal or prefectural citizens who wish to attend as part of the lifelong learning process.



*For the list of open lectures offered during FY2014 please refer to Akita University’s homepage.

■Satellite Project

In municipalities around Akita prefecture, and in the greater Tokyo area, Akita University faculty members present lectures, science lessons geared toward children, etc. This is a project in cooperation with 3 other universities: Akita Prefectural University, Akita International University, and Akita University of Art.



■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 their interest in the university through touring the university, watching experiments in laboratories, viewing the skies through the astronomical telescope, etc.



■Elementary and Junior High School Student Tours

The university is constantly conducting tours as part of the “integrated study” and workplace experience for elementary and junior high school



students, and for PTA training seminars, etc. The faculty introduces Akita University as they guide groups through the school and answer their questions. Visiting a research lab and interview faculty and students is also possible if desired.

■Cooperating with Communities

In an effort to provide Akita University’s education and research resources and to encourage community vitalization, we have



concluded a partnership agreement with municipalities in Akita Prefecture. In an effort to be a “university rooted in the community”, we promote our social activities; holding public lectures and interactions between our Japanese/international students and the local community, etc.

As of May 1, 2014, we have partnership agreements with 13 municipalities in Akita Prefecture.

■“Medical Science Café Next”

Until FY2011 faculty members of Akita University Graduate School of Medicine explained the results of the latest medical



research in simple terms, and exchanged opinions freely on the topic with participants at the “Akita Medical Science Café”. As a new initiative from FY2012, Faculty of Education and Human Studies, and from FY2013 Graduate School of Engineering and Resource Science have collaborated to create the campus-wide “Medical Science Café, Next”. Beverages are offered at the venue to help the participants feel at ease, and the university’s education and research resources are shared in a relaxed atmosphere.

Local Disaster Prevention

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

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



2. Train human resources who can be active in the community regarding disaster prevention



- ① Conduct disaster education at municipalities and neighborhood associations so that in the event of an earthquake local residents can carry out disaster mitigation measures on their own.
- ② Conduct disaster education at daycare facilities, kindergartens, elementary, junior high and high schools throughout the prefecture.

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

- ① Provide instruction and advice necessary to implement earthquake disaster prevention measures as well as projected earthquake damage in Akita Prefecture.
- ② Provide instructions and advice regarding the disaster prevention and mitigation measures prefectural municipalities generate while taking the region's characteristics into account.

A Bridge to the Community

The Community Construction Center was established on April 1, 2013 with the aim to “contribute to development of communities and the formation of a safe and secure society by cooperating with the community and providing advice regarding the community’s revitalization, educational activities, and resident activities and researching and providing support regarding disaster prevention for the community, from the viewpoint of creating knowledge for the purpose of local regeneration”. By giving

clarity to Akita University’s “Community Cooperation Department” through its “Cooperating with the Community and Contributing to the Community” activities, we are contributing to the sustainable development of the community. Also on September 1, 2013 the “Community Disaster Prevention Department” was established, through which investigation and research is being conducted regarding earthquake damage and disaster prevention measures for the community are being addressed. The Community Construction Center considers problems for the community challenges for the university, and we work together as one with the community towards resolving the problems.

