



## Message from the President April.2015

---

At Akita University, the Faculty of International Resource Science was newly established, and with the Faculty of Medicine, reorganized Faculty of Engineering Science, and Faculty of Education and Human Studies, we have set out on a new beginning with a 4-faculty organization.

With its roots in the former Mining College the Faculty of Engineering and Resource Science established spirit of inquiry, and the students of the Faculties of Engineering Science and International Resource Science will follow in the footsteps of those before them, continuing to nurture that knowledge and ambition. Akita is suffering from Japanese's declining and aging population, however the children raised here are recognized as being "No.1 in Academics" in Japan, and are truly important resource for Akita. Our commitment to these children goes hand-in-hand with the pedagogical philosophy that drives the Faculty of Education and Human Studies, and also its dreams of the future.

With the recent reorganization and newly developed Regional Cultures Department, we hope to build up our track record for cultivating talented students who can contribute to the region and the world.

Moving on to the Faculty of Medicine, it was founded in 1970 as the first Faculty of Medicine in post-war Japan, due to the enthusiastic support of the people of Akita who rallied together in a campaign to the government protesting the lagging medical facilities in the prefecture. In other words, the origin of the Faculty of Medicine was the "hope" that protects the lives of the people of this area. In all of our Faculties, each possessing such unique features, let us carry on our studies, and strive to become a far-sighted leader for the world and the region.

The world is now in a great race, where people, goods and information circulate instantaneously. In this movement, there are no

country borders creating "barriers." Young people definitely have the potential to help Japan evolve into a country that is reliable, respected, and can exhibit its presence in the international community for years to come. You are given the time to learn as a "student" and the place to learn at "Akita University" to be an essential one. As building your character, polish your "words" that will allow you to accommodate globalization. Akita University will provide the utmost support to its students, who abound in youth and talent.

On campus there are over 200 students from 29 different countries and regions studying diligently, the abundance of nature as is witnessed during the four seasons, and the warm welcome from the local Akita people will surely aid in creating a rewarding international study experience. As humans we share common emotions and intellect, and various ways of thinking and feeling as influenced by our own cultures. These sensibilities are indispensable to us as world citizens, and we invite you to refine them in Akita alongside the Japanese students.

Akita University is the core university of the natural resource-rich northern Tohoku region, and has set forth to develop and grow with the region, as is stated in the university's mission. We accept earnest Japanese and foreign students, provide a place for educational research taking into account the circumstances of the region, while striving to cultivate excellent human resources and presenting innovative global achievements. We have further enhanced our ties to local areas through our Yokote, Kita Akita, and Oga Namahage campuses. Our cooperation with other universities is also being strengthened.

We are attempting innovative challenges in regional and global settings.

Akita University's mission statement works towards fulfilling the dreams and promise of all those who gather here.  
Akita National University President

**Dr. Kenichi Sawada, M.D.**