

# Contributions to Society

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 opportunities geared towards high school students and their parents, as well as to elementary and junior high school students.

## Akita University’s Social Contribution Project

### ■ 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 2015 please refer to Akita University Official Website.

### ■ Satellite Project

In municipalities around Akita prefecture and in the greater Tokyo area, Akita University faculty members present lectures, science lessons geared toward children, and other fun and interesting educational events. This project is 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 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.

### ■ Elementary and Junior High School Student Tours

The university regularly conducts campus tours as part of the “integrated study” and workplace experience for elementary and junior high school students, and for PTA training seminars, and other similar occasions. The faculty introduces our university as they guide groups through campus and answer visitors’ questions. Visiting a research lab and interviewing faculty and/or students is also possible if desired.



### ■ Cooperating with Communities

Our university makes its education and research resources available 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 rooted in the community,” we promote social activities, hold public lectures, and organize interactions between our Japanese/international students and the local community. As of May 1, 2015, we have formed partnership agreements with 15 municipalities in Akita Prefecture.

### ■ “Medical Science Café Next”

As part of Akita University’s social contributions, we have continued to provide easy access to educational resources for all local



citizens. Interdepartmental collaboration has led to a variety of lectures from professors of diverse fields, and both the Dean and the Head of the Medical School have become “Science Café Masters”, providing information about medicine and health care from multiple perspectives. Beverages are offered at the venue so that participants, be they high school students or local citizens, can feel at ease as 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 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. Train talented students 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 the cities, towns, and villages within it regarding disaster prevention measures

- ① Provide instruction and advice necessary to implement earthquake disaster prevention measures as well as forecast earthquake damage in Akita Prefecture.
- ② Provide instructions and advice regarding disaster prevention and mitigation measures to prefectural municipalities 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. This department investigates and researches potential earthquake damage and disaster prevention measures for the community. Further more, with the three campuses of Oga Namahage campus, Yokote campus and Kita Akita campus, Akita University has expanded its reach throughout the region, allowing it to more effectively give back to the local community through the development of educational and intellectual resources. Since 2013 the Center of Community (COC) has been an important link between Akita University and the local citizens, allowing the university to identify regional problems and work with the citizens to find a successful and sympathetic solution.

