

# 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 elementary and junior high school students and their parents.

## 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 2016 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 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 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 contributions, we make our educational resources freely available to local citizens. Through interdepartmental collaboration we have invited lecturers from each of our departments: for example, the Head of the Graduate School of Medicine has become a “Science Cafe Master”, talking on medicine and health-related topics from a variety of perspectives.

## 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, 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.

### ■ 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.



## Regional Innovation Center

In collaboration with the community, we have reorganized and integrated the Center for Regional Development, which contributes to the community's revitalization and development through supporting regional co-operation and regional disaster prevention activities, with our existing organizations, the Venture Business Laboratory and the Venture Business Incubator. These were established to support new business creation and human resource development activities, such as innovative research and development or education for young researchers in the creation of new businesses, along with the promotion of collaborative industry-academic initiatives. We relaunched

the Center for Regional Development in April this year, incorporating both the Regional Co-operation and Disaster Prevention Department and the Regional Business Research Department.

As a university which serves as a base for learning in the pursuit of regional development, we contribute to the promotion and revitalization of local businesses and the development of human resources serving the community, through collaborative research and support initiatives which promote the local economy and prevent disasters in the region, as well as helping the growth of local industry.

