



Message from the President

In 2014, Akita University embarked upon a major restructuring of its organization, creating four faculties – International Resource Sciences, Education and Human Studies, Medicine, and Engineering Science. The organization was further streamlined in 2016 with four graduate schools – International Resource Sciences, Education, Medicine, and Engineering Science. These changes have enhanced the comprehensive education and research framework at our institution. Akita University now has a renewed focus on advanced education and research activities and our new organizational structure has enhanced the already firm foundation for these endeavors, allowing us to fulfil both our mission and the expectations of society.

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), as part of its National University Reform Plan, is reforming the university expense grant system, which forms the foundation of management for national university corporations throughout Japan. The Ministry's new policy requires the selection of one of three target areas as a basis to evaluate outcomes: (1) Developing Educational and Research Bases at an International Level; (2) National Educational and Research Bases; and (3) Core Bases for Regional Invigoration. Akita University has selected (3) Core Bases for Regional Invigoration, meaning that our institution will renew its commitment to carrying out cutting-edge

education and research to further enhance our contributions to the region.

Until now, Akita University has pursued its vision of (1) cultivating future regional and global leaders; (2) designing the future from regional and local perspectives; (3) working in partnership with the region to create a prosperous society; and (4) utilizing our local roots for global ambitions. The key to achieving these goals is world-class research to benefit both the regional and global society, as well as cultivating human resources capable of carrying out this vital research. Every single faculty member at Akita University puts students first – this is our founding principle. Our institution encourages intellectual curiosity among students by providing a comprehensive, tailor-made learning environment, preparing them for their entrance into regional and global society.

Akita University has four undergraduate faculties, all with local roots and global ambitions. Each faculty incorporates the history and pride we have cultivated over the years.

Faculty of Education and Human Studies

Elementary and junior high school students in Akita Prefecture have the highest level of academic achievement in the nation. This Faculty has a proven track record of cultivating teachers who become pillars of the educational system. The Department of School Education provides a comprehensive educational program as well as a teacher training program with a focus on tradition. Teachers are responsible for nurturing the next generation and we ensure that they are sent out into the world as worthy successors as they face the challenges of the modern world. The Department of Regional Studies and Humanities aims to provide students with a broad education that will enable them to tackle any challenge. We encourage flexibility in thinking to assist our students in facing the uncertainties of this era.

Faculty of International Resource Sciences

Akita was once a vital source of natural resources and this field is now connecting us to the world. This is the reason behind the name of the Faculty of International Resource Sciences. What started out as mining technical college later developed into the Faculty of Engineering and Resources, producing world-class human resources and research outcomes. Our comprehensive educational and research program in the field of resource sciences is unique in the world. In their third year, students are separated into groups of three or four to carry out resource-related fieldwork overseas. Our students travel to countries that their high school friends at other universities might never get to visit. This fieldwork is the foundation of resource sciences. Through this hands-on involvement, our students stand at the front line of Japanese research overseas and can experience this constantly evolving field for themselves.

Faculty of Engineering Science

The Faculty of Engineering Science has taken the engineering component of the former Faculty of Engineering and Resources to create a new school. Labs at Akita University are proud to have produced a series of world-class research results. One example is the development of a nanocoil formation technique to create composite materials for aviation applications. This project is aiming to create lightweight, low-cost composite materials. The research has received global attention for its potential applications in the form of materials for the next generation of aircraft.

Faculty of Medicine

The Faculty of Medicine is the source of world-class education and research outcomes and also contributes to the enhancement of medical care in the local area. Our Faculty ranks highly among medical schools in Japan due to the large proportion of students who pass the National Examination for Medical Practitioners. This is proof of the effectiveness of our comprehensive educational program. The School of Health Sciences is also continuing its efforts to support others. Our students have achieved a pass rate close to 100% for national examinations in nursing, physiotherapy and occupational therapy.

The Faculty is also committed to carrying out education and research that benefits the local community. The Regional Revitalization Center, established in 2016, has two departments – the Regional Partnership and Disaster Prevention Department and the Regional Industry Research Department. Through its efforts, the Center aims to enhance contributions to the revitalization of Akita Prefecture and the region. The Regional Partnership and Disaster Prevention Department has three branch offices within Akita Prefecture to facilitate work in collaboration with local residents, students and teachers. Participants can rediscover the rich culture of Akita through activities such as rice planting and making iburi gakkō pickles. The Center is working hard to cultivate local pride. The Regional Industry Research Department is engaged in research projects related to key policies implemented by Akita Prefecture. We believe that the development of industry within Akita Prefecture will make a significant contribution to improving employment among local students, which is one of the aims of the Center of Community (COC+) Program.

Our institution provides a seamless transition between undergraduate and graduate study and each of our centers has a clear mission to achieve. Akita University's fundamental mission is to deliver skilled graduates into society and contribute back to society through advanced research. Graduates of Akita University can be proud that their alma mater is continuing to contribute talented graduates to society and enhancing the vitality of Akita.

Akita University President

Dr. Fumio Yamamoto, M.D.