Message from the President

Celebrating the 20th Anniversary

When the University of Aizu was opened, the founder and first president Dr. Kunii wrote an article titled "The Founding Principles of the University of Aizu" for the University 's publication "The Aspirations of the University of Aizu." In his opening, he set the high goal for the University of "advancing knowledge from local regions to the world." This goal was broken down into seven objectives, including creating close relations with local culture, establishing distinctive education, gathering faculty members from around the globe to realize a Center of Excellence, and promoting local industry into global industry.

I am confident that this thought-provoking philosophy is guiding us forward. Our distinctive education led to our students' self-reliant behavior during the 3.11 Great East Japan Earthquake and nuclear power plant accidents. When the University had no alternative but to call off the graduation ceremony scheduled just several days after the Earthquake, our students took the initiative to hold a graduation ceremony themselves. On the day of the ceremony, the Vice President and Dean of the Undergraduate School conferred diplomas to each of the 83 graduating students attending the ceremony. I heard that the media was greatly impressed by our students ' action. In addition to that event, our students attained numerous great achievements by winning the Nifty gold medal, a prize at an international hackathon, and an excellent paper award at an international conference. I was very pleased and honored to introduce great achievements of our students who went through our distinctive education to the people of Fukushima during a time of great difficulty for the prefecture. As for research activities, the "Research Center for Advanced Information Science and Technology (CAIST)" was established in 2009 in order to clarify our activities as a research university. CAIST 's three research areas include; "space science", which aims to help children, who are our future leaders, dream big; "environmental informatics", which aims to contribute to regional agriculture and safety through local weather prediction; and "medical engineering and informatics", which aims to collect and analyze the health information of citizens. These three areas are nicknamed "Ten-Chi-Jin," Japanese for "space, earth and people." The CAIST Space Cluster participated in JAXA 's Hayabusa Project, for which the University received the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Award. The Environment Cluster is making contributions on a global scale through its research projects commissioned by the APEC Climate Center and the Indian National Government. The Medical Cluster is about to start a collaboration with the Fukushima Medical University

with the goal of improving the health of the people of Fukushima. . In January of this year, we took a big step toward the realization of becoming a Center of Excellence when our proposal for establishing a Revitalization Center was adopted by government's Industry-Collaborative Innovation Promotion Program. Our proposal was submitted to the program, which is run by the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI), alongside four national universities. The Revitalization Center will focus on the creation of new approaches for industry-academia collaboration through our specialist development program combined with advanced IT research utilizing the Center's cloud data platform. METI has highly praised our global-scale activities in the IT field, and regards us as the leading IT R&D hub in the Tohoku region.

Now that universities all over the world are expected to have their own distinctive features, I am confident that because we have followed the clearly-stated philosophy established at the time of its opening, the University of Aizu will keep progressing.. We would like to make the best use of our results for society and business/industry. My best and warmest regards to all of you.

2014-02-20 14:21:29
Shigeaki Tsunoyama
President