

Message from the President

I would like to thank the entire faculty members for their contributions to the annual review 2016 of our university based on their works in research, education and other activities. The annual review 2016 is an important material to release the present status of our university to the outside. There are topics which were conducted during the fiscal year 2016.

First, on Sunday, October 16, 2016 the, ACM-ICPC Asia Tsukuba Regional Contest was held at Tsukuba University. UoA team “575.cpp”, comprised of members Tadamasa YAMAGUCHI (4th-year undergraduate), Takumi YAMASHITA (3rd-year undergraduate), and Kazuya WATANABE (1st-year Master’s.), in the contest. There, it placed 4th. the best-ever result for a UoA team, also earning the UoA the 4th position in the university rankings (3rd amongst domestic universities. 39 teams from 31 domestic universities selected from the 384 teams from 93 universities that competed in the domestic qualifying rounds and 6 teams from overseas participated in this year’s Asian regional contest, which serves as the qualifying round for the World Finals. Amongst domestic universities, the UoA ranked after the University of Tokyo and Keio University. On the day of the contest, teams from around the world participated in an online contest conducted over the Aizu Online Judge system almost simultaneously with the Tsukuba regional contest and featuring the same problems.

Second, Silicon Valley internship program. Following an explanation of the program its supervisor Associate Professor Junbo Wang , six students talked about what they experienced while three teams of three students gave presentation on their achievements. After the student reports, the Director of Promotion Office for Super Global University (SGU) / Professor Mizuo Kanssen made a report, and the Vice Chairperson of the Board of Executives /Vice President Tei Shigaku summarized this internship.

Students talked about the valuable experience they gained regarding leading edge technologies by listening to a talk by the inventor of the SD card, visiting the Stanford University Techshop (DIY workshop), taking a tour of SAP (PaloAlto-Labs), and attending a Mini Maker Faire. During the internship group accomplishment reports, the students talked about the smart watches and other devices they developed, as well as the development process. The participants expressed how they would like to make a use of the valuable experience gained in Silicon Valley in their future activities.

Third, “University of Aizu Robotics Symposium” took place on Saturday, July

9, 2016.

The University of Aizu was selected for “The University-Industry Robotics Development Support Subsidy” by Fukushima prefecture. In response, the UoA has been collaborating with companies and research institutes in and out of the prefecture on the research and development of disaster-response robots, etc. as part of our “University of Aizu Robot Valley Promotion Project” for three years since FY2015. This project aims at contribution to the reconstruction and recovery of Fukushima prefecture from the Great East Japan Earthquake and nuclear disaster, by leveraging our strengths as an ICT specialist university to conduct technical support for the development of robots. At the symposium, we presented the achievements of the project in FY2015, the first year of the project.

At the symposium, we had slide-show presentations on each research project, followed by demonstrations. In spite of the rainy weather, there were approximately 140 participants who conducted active exchanges between industry and university.

Fourth, Koriyama City, University of Aizu, Koriyama Area Technopolis Promotion Organization sign comprehensive collaborative agreement. On Tuesday, December 20, a signing ceremony was held for a comprehensive collaborative agreement between the University of Aizu, Koriyama City, and the Koriyama Area Technopolis Promotion Organization . Attendees of the signing ceremony included University of Aizu President Ryuichi Oka, Koriyama Mayor Masato Shinagawa, and Koriyama Area Technopolis Promotion Organization Chairperson Yasuo Takita.

This trilateral agreement covers the following matters. Promotion of industries centered on ICT (Organizing Koriyama Open Innovation [KOI] meetings). ICT training and education (Utilization of the University’s human and intellectual resources) Supporting Fukushima’s revitalization following the Great East Japan earthquake (Revitalization support through industry-academia-government collaboration).

Other matters related to the promotion of science and the invigoration of regional society.

Moving forwards, the three parties will seed new industries centered around ICT and contribute to further development in the Koriyama area through concrete collaborative initiatives such as the organization of Koriyama Open Innovation Meetings.

Fifth, Changing the system for entrance examination of our university. We increased one place in Kyoto where applicants can take our entrance examination out of the present two places, Aizu-Wakamatsu and Tokyo. We also accept applicants who take five courses of called nation center examination. These two changes

of the system made considerably increase of number of applicants.

Final, in the “World University Ranking 2017” by the British educational journal Times Higher Education (THE) announced, the University of Aizu ranked first in between 600-th and 800-th, domestically I ranked 13-th among 71-th universities that ranked. This ranking is calculated from 13 indicators, but looking at the ranking by item which summarized them in five (education, research, industrial income, international nature, cited number). And the citation number of articles and international nature were highly appreciated. We would like to take more efforts to keep the rank and also go up in the ranking in near future. Of course, the rank is not only the evaluation of our university. We strongly concern many aspects of our university from viewpoints of inside and outside including Aizu-wakamatsu city and Fukushima Prefecture .