

Message from the President

In AY2017, our University had many positive appraisals and great success by students and professors.

The top news of AY2017 maybe ranking in 601 - 800 categories in Times Higher Education released on September 2017. This news was come up with several Japanese news media and the name recognition of our University dramatically increased domestically and internationally. This is the first time appearance of our University in the THE ranking.

There are 71 Japanese universities in this THE ranking and our ranking was 13th, high position compared to other larger universities. Also, we had the 131th ranking in THE Asia University Ranking released on February 7, 2018. It is also the 15th ranking out of 89 Japanese universities in this ranking. This is also the first time appearance on this ranking.

Our University also was featured in the special spread of The Asahi Shimbun on July.

These great successes contributed in the delivering the name broadly. Our University is small, only one Faculty with approximately 1000 undergraduate students and approximately 200 graduate students. This number is small compared to other multi-faculty universities located in major cities such as Tokyo and Osaka. For the small University located at the rural region, the name recognition is no.1 priority to attract students' interest as well as one by researchers and policymakers domestic and worldwide.

Also, these great achievements are a fruiting of our nearly 25 years' continuation of policy at the foundation, global education and cultivation of world-class IT engineers. Backed up by these, we will continue to act up to the foundation policy with newly added SGU (Super Global University) concept.

In research aspect, research on robotic technology has been greatly advanced in support of Prefectural budgetary funding.

The second Robot Symposium was held on May 27, 2017, and third Robot Symposium on March 23, 2018. These symposiums aim for presentation and demonstration of research achievements on robots for researcher, engineers and public.

The Robot Test Field in Minami-Soma City, intended for the establishment of various robotic technologies, including disaster rescue and cutting-edge technology such as drones and advanced robots, made groundbreaking on February 2018. Upon completion, our University will have the branch here, the first time to install a base outside the Aizu region.

The "Woman programmers' cultivation school" started to help women who are still escaping outside the Prefecture but thinking of returning being employed with professional work. Our University is contributing in providing the experience of IT education and technology.

Good showing of students and professors were also distinctive in AY2017. The team "575.cpp" from our University came in 59th and 56th rankings out of world's 133 universities in APM-ICPC (International Collegiate Programming Contest) for the first time in 8 years. The team comprised of two graduate and one undergraduate students supported by Prof. Yutaka Watanobe. Many students and professors awarded at academic conferences

- Prof. Chunfua Su and other members has been awarded Best Paper Award on IEEE TrustCom 2017.
- Prof. Tsuneo Tsukahara received an award "The 31st Radio Engineering and Electronics Association Award".
- Prof. Lei Jing received the Excellent Paper Award at IEEE GCCE2017.
- Prof. Xin Zhu and the Doctral Student Mr. Zhe Guo won the Best Paper Award at the 2017 IEEE International Conference iCAST 2017.
- Mr. Maruyama Yasuyuki, a student of our University, awarded the Encouragement Prize at IEEE Sendai Section Student Awards 2017.
- Competitive Programming Club won the 4th Prize at Tsukuba Convention, hitting good score at other Conventions.
- Teams comprised of students and professor of our University won several prizes at the Hackerson "GovHack Aizu-Wakamatsu".
- Taishi Yoshino, Special Research Supporter of CAIST ARC-Robot, won the Excellent Lecture Award at the 18th Conference of The Society of Instrument and Control Engineers, SI Department.
- Fumiaki Abe, a 1st grade student of Graduate, won the Excellent Lecture Award at the 18th Conference of The Society of Instrument and Control Engineers, SI Department.

- Team "Block Forth", comprised of undergraduate and graduate students, won the first prize at the Blockchain Hackerson sponsored by Aizu General Inc.

All these many and distinctive achievements show excellence and high-achieving motivation of students and professors of our University which pulls it to the top-class of the university in the nation and the world. Great activities of students is the specialty of our University, expressing "student-driven" activities and contribution to the region. Also, activities by professors are prominent in various research fields and they widen the research field of our University.

Lastly, I should mention the more movement of Partnership Agreements with several businesses, Soramitsu on September 1, 2017, Fukushima Branch of Sumitomo Life on January 29, 2018, and Fukushima-Minpo Co. Ltd. on March 2, 2018. Academic-industrial alliance is one of our University's framework to promote research and education activity. The effort to widen the AI alliance will continue to the next Academic Year.

Improvement of name recognition, advancement of research, progress of academic-industrial alliance and regional contribution and a good showing of students and professors show the current momentum of our University. Though small and adverse in location, the firm keeping of our foundation policy is now blooming after nearly 25 years. The next AY will be the one which thinks of the next 25 years (quarter century) for more stable growth and solidifying firm base for many challenges through research and education.

Ryuichi Oka
President of The University of Aizu



2015-07-21 16:50:21
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