

Message from the President



Since its foundation in 1897, Kyoto University has cultivated a spirit of creativity and originality in its students and researchers through an institutional philosophy of academic freedom founded on frank and open dialogue. From its earliest days, the university has placed great importance on steadily increasing its international presence—expanding its partnerships and making a meaningful contribution to the international community.

Kyoto University's international exchange and collaboration is pursued through close partnerships with institutions overseas, student and researcher exchange programs, interdisciplinary research collaboration, and a multitude of other activities. The creative and groundbreaking accomplishments of the university's researchers continue to garner international recognition in the form of prestigious accolades, such as the Nobel Prize, Fields Medal, and other prestigious awards.

One unique feature of Kyoto University's syllabus is that it provides our undergraduate students with opportunities to experience innovative and advanced research right from their first year of study—an approach rooted in the university's long-standing tradition of fostering a spirit of adventurous self-reliance and independence in its students, as well as stressing the importance of hands-on interaction and dialogue.

In March 2021, I formulated my Key Presidential Policies. With the subtitle "Operating as a World-Leading Research Institution," the policies establish guidelines for the university's efforts in the following six areas: I. Education and Student Support, II. Support for Research Activities by Faculty Members, III. Improvement of the Operational Management System, IV. Facilities, V. Organizational Management, and VI. Fund-Raising Activities. The policies seek to realize the vision for the university's future that was established at the time of its selection for the Japanese government's Designated National University Initiative in 2017.

Currently, multiple complex issues threaten the health and lives of all people on Earth. Such issues include the unexpectedly rapid worsening of climate change, large-scale natural disasters, and environmental degradation, as well as the escalation of international conflicts, widening economic disparity, and global pandemics. We must now reaffirm our commitment to Kyoto University's mission—we must earnestly and determinedly seek solutions to the multifaceted and complex issues being faced around the world, and consistently share our progress with society.

Last year, Kyoto University celebrated the 125th anniversary of its establishment. Throughout its history, the University's pioneering spirit of creativity and diversity has borne much fruit, but to maintain the production of such nourishing fruit in the future, we must plant seedlings and cultivate them properly. By firmly linking the University's chain of achievements throughout the past 125 years to its future, we will continue to make the utmost efforts to contribute to society through the creation of new intellectual value and the cultivation of outstanding human resources.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Minato". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nagahiro Minato
October 2023