

# AY2017 Progress Report [Excerpt]



大阪大学



OPEN 2021

## ◆ Progress in AY2017 Annual Plan

Overall, steady progress has been made towards achieving the third mid-term goals and mid-term plan.

## ◆ Overview of the progress made in AY2017

During the third six-year mid-term goal period, which is positioned as “the period of evolution” towards the 90th anniversary of Osaka University in 2021, we will continue working hard to achieve the five goals of “Openness” in line with the principle of “Osaka University (OU) Vision 2021: Moving Towards University 4.0 through Orchestration and Co-creation of Knowledge.”

During AY2017, the second year of the third mid-term goal period, we signed a large-scale comprehensive partnership agreement with Daikin Industries, Ltd. to facilitate world-class cutting-edge academic and research activities, develop competent human resources, and lead innovation to contribute to social reforms.

We also focused on university governance reform to ensure stable and growth-oriented university management on which educational and research activities are grounded, while strengthening risk management by implementing strict information security measures and improving the entrance exam system.

## Achievements in educational activities (Open Education)

### ● Development of curriculum guidelines for the new academic calendar (Highly strategic and ambitious plan)

- To develop human resources with diverse and comprehensive perspectives, we created “Guidelines for the new curriculum to be introduced in AY2019” and related detailed regulations to prepare for the new academic calendar. The Center for Education in Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Center for the Study of Co\* Design played a central role in analyzing the conventional educational programs and reviewing and developing subjects to be taught.

### ● Promotion of diverse and comprehensive entrance exam: Handai Admission Officer (HAO) Development Program

- In response to the demand for a multifaceted and comprehensive entrance exam, we invited an expert from the U.S. as Specially Appointed Professor and implemented a pioneering systematic admission officer development program.

### ● Enhancement of mathematical and data science education

- Osaka University was selected as one of the six core universities in Japan to receive prioritized support for the enhancement of mathematical and data science education, a common policy issue addressed by MEXT. Accordingly, we developed a curriculum for the promotion of mathematical and data science education on a university-wide basis.

## Achievements in research activities (Open Research)

### ● Creation of world-leading new academic fields including transdisciplinary ones (Highly strategic and ambitious plan)

- **Institute for Datability Science**  
Nine matches were made between researchers of the Datability Core Division of the Institute for Datability Science, which is tasked with creating new academic realms, with researchers of other divisions of the University. Currently, data-driven research projects on themes resulting from the matching are being promoted, thus helping the University accelerate its evolution into a hub of leading transdisciplinary research.
- **Institute for Open and Transdisciplinary Research Initiatives**  
We established two divisions specialized in seeds technologies that are expected to encourage the progress of integrative and transdisciplinary research in new fields (Integrated Frontier Research for Medical Science Division and Transdimensional Life Imaging Division).

### ● Support by University Research Administrators (URAs) in research activities

- To motivate URAs in their educational and research activities and enhance their ability to manage R&D projects, we improved the work environment for URAs, e.g. by helping them develop career paths and offering training programs. These initiatives were awarded the highest “S” rank in the interim evaluation under the Program for Promoting the Enhancement of Research Universities implemented by MEXT.

\* Highly strategic and ambitious plans refer to plans approved by the National University Corporation Evaluation Committee, selected from among mid-term plans submitted by applying universities. Unlike ordinary plans, approved plans are closely evaluated in terms of not only achievements but also how and in what manner the plans have been implemented.

## Achievements in social contributions and industry-university collaboration activities (Open Innovation)

- **Creation of a positive cycle for knowledge, human resources and funds by entering into comprehensive partnership agreements (Highly strategic and ambitious plan)**
  - In July 2017, Osaka University entered into a large-scale comprehensive partnership agreement with Daikin Industries, Ltd. for co-creation-oriented collaboration, centering on the field of information science. This agreement aims to combine the cutting-edge knowledge in information science possessed by Osaka University with a wide range of air conditioning and industrial technologies held by Daikin Industries to bring innovation to society. Under the agreement, the University will receive 5.6 billion yen in total over 10 years, which will be used for employment and training of young researchers, as well as for joint research.
- **Creation of innovative value to contribute to solving social issues**
- **Co-Creation Bureau (established in January 2018)**
  - We established the Co-Creation Bureau to facilitate education and research strategically on a university-wide basis with a view to creating innovation through society-university co-creation efforts. The Bureau started discussions on launching a new program integrating the society-university co-creation cluster and the industry-government-university innovation platform.
- **Social Solution Initiative (SSI) (established in January 2018)**
  - SSI, established to build new social and economic systems conducive to a sustainable and harmonious society, started to investigate individual social problems in order to propose solutions to them.
- **First place in “University Regional Contribution Rankings 2017”**
  - Osaka University was ranked first in the overall rating in the “University Regional Contribution Rankings 2017” survey conducted by Nikkei Inc. for 748 national, public and private universities throughout Japan.

## Achievements in globalization activities (Open Community)

- **Reinforcement of International Collaboration Network Infrastructure**
- **Global development of educational and research activities with Global Knowledge Partners**
  - To accelerate the globalization of the educational and research environment and promote world-leading research activities, we upgraded the co-creation relationships built by individual researchers with respective institutes into inter-organization collaboration, and started the Global Knowledge Partner (GKP) Promotion Project in which Osaka University is playing a leading role.
- **Establishment of ASEAN Campuses to strengthen the Asian network**
  - We are planning to open campuses in Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam and Brunei to develop high-caliber global human resources with the ability to play a leading role in knowledge-co-creation communities in the ASEAN region and to contribute to high-quality growth of the region. In AY2017, a signing ceremony for the agreement on the establishment of the Thai campus was held.

## Achievements in university administration and operation activities (Open Governance)

- **Reform in university administration system**
  - In August 2017, we renovated the university administration system by introducing the post of Senior Executive Vice President, Osaka University’s equivalent of provost, and appointed two persons to the post, while establishing a strategic committee in each of three research fields. This governance reform has enabled acceleration of the decision-making process, strategic allocation of resources, and development of strategies and initiatives across different divisions.
- **Reform in faculty performance evaluation system**
  - We developed a role specialization system to recognize faculty members who have made outstanding achievements in specific fields or who have contributed to achieving the missions of the University or respective divisions by evaluating their achievements focusing on the specific fields and giving them deserving incentives, thereby helping maximize their performance.

## Risk management

- **Implementation of strict personal information management by strengthening information security**
  - To deal with the problem of unauthorized access, we decided to establish the Office for Information Security in April 2018 with responsibility and authority for information security and to hire leading Japanese specialists from outside. We remain committed to preventing threats to information security and minimizing the damage in case of an incident, while seeking advice from external organizations specialized in security.
- **Development of entrance examination system that meets the trust of society**
  - We will take organizational measures for the prevention and early detection of errors in exam questions and scoring by reinforcing inspections at each stage of the entrance exam process, from the preparation of exam questions to announcement of exam results, and by collecting relevant information across the university. We also established the Exam Question Review Subcommittee to collect information relating to exam questions, including inquiries from outside the University, and systematically review exam questions that may be erroneous from a third-person perspective.