



OSAKA UNIVERSITY

# Campus Life 2014

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## **Ascertaining the true essence of things and taking wing into the world**

Toshio Hirano  
President, Osaka University

Congratulations to all of you, our newest students, on entering Osaka University.

The history of Osaka University began with Tekijuku, a private school established by OGATA Koan in 1838. Tekijuku educated many of the young people who played a significant role in bringing about the Meiji Restoration and laid the foundation for modern Japan, including FUKUZAWA Yukichi, NAGAYO Sensai, and OMURA Masujiro. It led to the establishment of Osaka Medical School, later renamed Osaka Medical College. Osaka Medical College became the School of Medicine with the foundation of Osaka Imperial University in 1931, along with the School of Science. Two years later, Osaka Technical School, which had been founded in 1896, became part of Osaka Imperial University as its School of Engineering. In the words of the university's first president, the well-known physicist NAGAOKA Hantaro, "Do not lick the sake lees," meaning, "Do not imitate others. Forge your own path." Last year, we celebrated the 175th anniversary of the establishment of Tekijuku. We strive to this day to embody OGATA Koan's ideal as a place "For people, for society, and the pursuit of truth." We continue to develop in accordance with our motto of "Live locally, grow globally." As we approach the centenary of our foundation in 2031, Osaka University aspires to become one of the top ten research universities in the world, as the "World Tekijuku." To achieve our aspiration to soar into the future, we are implementing the Osaka University Academic Initiatives for 2012-2015, "to be a university that shines forth even into the 22nd century."

Our modern world is facing a wide range of issues and crises, including global-scale problems with complex causes. We must deal with explosive population growth, food issues, energy issues, environmental destruction, infectious diseases, as well as increasingly complicated economic and political problems. In Japan, we are confronted by the greatest challenges in our postwar history, including a declining population, an increasingly aging society, the Great East Japan earthquake and tsunami, as well as the

subsequent nuclear power plant accident. However, there is no magic solution for problems such as these. The tougher the problem, the greater the need to return to basics. Surely now it is vital that we earnestly question the fundamental nature of these matters.

Despite society's recent tendency to seek instant results, universities do not exist only to train an employable workforce. Indeed, a meaningful contribution of the university is research and education that may not be useful in the short term, but will certainly benefit society in time. Herein lies the fundamental strength — unswayed by fleeting trends — of our university. Unless scholarship is promoted, innovative technologies cannot be developed, and progress towards a spiritually fulfilled, peaceful society cannot be achieved. If mankind is to solve the world's problems, it is crucial that we pursue the kind of basic academic research and long-term technological development of which only a university is capable.

As the saying goes, "A 100-year national plan must focus on education." Japan's future depends on the development of our nation's human resources. Osaka University has produced many distinguished alumni, including world-leading researchers, educators and intellectuals. We intend to continue this tradition, educating our students to be fully equipped to become citizens of the world, capable of taking up leading roles in various fields and contributing to the prosperity of mankind. The power to build the future is in the hands of you, our newest students. The future of Japan, and of the world, is in your hands.

Universities impart "scholarship," a language common to all humankind. Scholarship has the distinct ability to transcend linguistic, ethnic, cultural, religious, and political boundaries with the exchange of human resources. I believe that this role of the university will be ever more essential in the 21st century.

I often tell students how important it is to "climb all the way to the top of the mountain right in front of you." Everyone has some mountain before them. It might be a goal to be reached, a mystery to be solved, or some other task or challenge. Even if your personal mountain is not high, you must still climb to its summit. Only then will you be able to look out on new horizons and see the next peak, the next challenge in your future. In other words, I am advising you to live as fully as you can, right now. Life is a succession of moments we call "now." From my personal experience, I know how essential it is to live fully in these moments.

Osaka University is home to a variety of world-class research. This environment, where

cutting-edge research may be taking place just next door, should provide you with plenty of stimulation. You will have valuable opportunities to interact with world-class researchers and highly-ambitious classmates. So, hold fast to your dreams. When you set yourself a challenge, see it through to the end. I want you all, someday, to be the kind of people who look at things with keen insight. I want you all, someday, to spread your wings and soar away from Osaka University into the wide, wide world.

Remember, "Dreams are meant to be achieved."

April 1, 2014



Kiyoshi Higashijima  
Executive Vice President of Education, Osaka University

Let me start by congratulating everyone who has recently joined Osaka University, and wishing each and every one of you a cordial welcome.

To all those newly admitted to Osaka University, I would like to express my respect for your efforts so far, and my respect for your families and everyone else who has helped you along the way. As you heave a sigh of relief at your release from exam preparation, your hearts are no doubt swelling with the anticipation at the prospect of becoming a university student and tasting freedom to the full. On the other hand, this is the first time you have been apart from your family and friends, and you may be feeling a little uneasy at the thought of beginning a new life in an unfamiliar setting. In response to your hopes and your concerns, the University will be offering study guidance, and has prepared the “Course Registration Guidelines”, “Campus Life (*this handbook*)” and other helpful brochures. I urge you to pay careful attention to the study guidance available, and to take a look at those brochures, so that you can lead an enjoyable and worthwhile university life from now on. Along with the rest of Osaka University staff, I shall be doing my best to help you achieve the right mind-set for a student at this institution.

Besides generating world-class research results as befits a leading Japanese research university, Osaka University’s mission is to provide education based on those results, fostering human resources who will go on to achieve great things as leading figures in all sorts of fields. You have only just entered Osaka University, but when you graduate and go out into the world, it will be your turn to support society. What will society expect from you as a graduate of Osaka University? First, you will be required to have the knowledge and understanding listed below.

- Competence in Japanese, English and other languages, and the cosmopolitanism to understand many cultures different from your own
- A basic knowledge of human cultures and societies, and of the natural world

- The ability to analyze, understand and express natural and social phenomena in a quantitative way
- The ability to collect and analyze all sorts of information, and to make sound judgments, and to transmit information
- A high level of erudition in your particular specialist field

All these abilities can be mastered through the general and specialist education you will receive here. You will also be called upon to acquire the following general-purpose skills.

- The ability to listen to what someone says and summarize it, and the ability to think logically and write well
- The ability to identify a problem, collect, analyze and manage the information necessary to solve it, and then solve that problem
- The ability to express your own ideas clearly, and the skills needed to communicate with all sorts of people
- The ability to examine a complex problem from various perspectives

To help you master these skills at the preparatory stage, when you are embarking on your studies, the University will hold various seminars (discussion-based classes for small groups). Basic seminars and so on will also be provided in the general education courses, so it would be a good idea for you to attend as many as you can.

In recent years, the competencies required of graduates have been augmented with the following requirements concerning attitude and intentionality (as set out in the Central Council for Education's Report entitled "Towards the Enhancement of Undergraduate Education," published by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in December 2008).

- The self-discipline to be able to act with self-control
- The ability to coordinate and cooperate with others as part of a team
- The leadership skills necessary to set a course of action for a team, and help the team achieve a goal
- The sense of morality to act in accordance with one's own conscience and the norms and rules of society
- A sense of social responsibility as a citizen working towards the advancement of society
- The capacity for lifelong learning required in order to continue learning autonomously and independently after graduating



Of course, these abilities can also be honed in the course of university lectures and extracurricular activities, and through friendly competition with classmates, seniors and juniors; above all, however, it is important that you set your sights on your own future and strive daily to keep your willpower high.

In your previous life at school, you lived under the protection of your families and your teachers. Between now and university graduation, you must learn how to take responsibility for your own present and future as an adult. Previously, you have been closely supervised, but from now on, your day-to-day life will be under your own management. If you fail to manage your life properly, you will find that it can fall to pieces very quickly. At Osaka University, counseling services are available in various locations, so if you find yourself in difficulties, please come forward and seek help. Youth can be a difficult time, and now and then you will have your own struggles; however, you will always be able to overcome them. May your studies at Osaka University turn you into robust students, ready to enter global society and acquit yourselves well among your contemporaries from other countries.

April 1, 2014

## **A shining future for Osaka University in the 22nd century**

The history of Osaka University began with the Tekijuku, opened by OGATA Koan in 1838. FUKUZAWA Yukichi, OMURA Masujiro, and NAGAYO Sensai were just some of the Tekijuku students who played a major role in Japan's modernization in the Meiji period.

OGATA Koan's spirit of "for people, for society, and the pursuit of truth" and the free and easy atmosphere of the Tekijuku have been passed down through the founding of Osaka Imperial University in 1931, and we are still their inheritors today. Osaka University is pressing boldly forward with the intention of becoming the "World Tekijuku" as one of the world's top 10 research universities by the time it reaches the centenary of its foundation.

### **Osaka University's Educational Goals**

Based on the principle that providing scholarship and training in order to become able to ascertain the essence of things is the mission of a university, Osaka University will continue to contribute to society by striving to fulfill this mission in keeping with its motto of "Live Locally, Grow Globally." Osaka University aims to produce capable personnel capable of being leaders in the next-generation society and make efforts to attain the ideals of all human beings.

In order to achieve this goal, the undergraduate schools and faculty, graduate schools, and all the other educational organizations of the university are committed to nurturing future leaders for a knowledge-based society, who are equipped with a high degree of professionalism and in-depth academic knowledge, as well as critical thinking, design prowess, and transcultural communicability.

#### **■ Critical Thinking**

The ability to make sound social judgments with broad perspectives

#### **■ Design Prowess**

The free play of imagination and the ability to create a network linking people from different fields and social standings

#### **■ Transcultural Communicability**

The ability to communicate with people from various backgrounds and cultures in a way that enables mutual understanding

## Osaka University's Logo and School Color



With its ginkgo-leaf motif, Osaka University's logo expresses a sense of community between university, students and townspeople, without diminishing the institution's wisdom and dignity as a historical seat of learning.

The university's school color is sky blue.

The university logo and school color were instituted in May, 1991 to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the institution's founding.

Following the semi-privatization of what were known as Japan's national universities, Osaka University has evolved from its former incarnation, stepping forward in a new direction. The university has from its birth inherited the spirit of the citizens of Osaka present in the university's founding institutions, *Kaitokudo* and *Tekijuku*. With this spirit and with the motto "Live Locally, Grow Globally," Osaka University has always--and across generations--responded to the challenges of society. As the world crosses the threshold to a new era, Osaka University will use the opportunities afforded it through semi-privatization and, in looking to a future of substantial development, reaffirm the following principles as the guidelines of the university and of each and every one of its members.

### **1. Conduct World-class Research**

Osaka University will strive to become a vanguard for scholarly research in the world, delving into (1) the truth of matters concerning humans and their varied societies, (2) the truth of all fields related to the environment in which those societies exist, as well as (3) the truth of the interlocking relationships shared by all of the aforementioned.

### **2. Promote Advanced Education**

Osaka University will commit itself to cultivating able and talented persons, persons capable of helping humanity realize its ideals and support the society for future generations.

### **3. Contribute to Society**

Osaka University will, through the application of education and research and under its motto of "Live Locally, Grow Globally," contribute to social stability and welfare, world peace, and the creation of a society in which humans will live in harmony with the natural environment.

### **4. Promote Academic Independence and Citizenship**

In both fields of education and research, Osaka University will, in the traditions of its founding schools *Kaitokudo* and *Tekijuku*, continue and advance a free and open-minded citizenry, a citizenry possessing critical thought. Rooted in the essence of academic learning, Osaka University will encourage the spirit of autonomy and independence without flattering any power or authority.

### **5. Value Fundamental Research**

Osaka University will affirm itself as a leader in research for the next generation, focusing on logical and theoretical research, and making global-level research a target.

## **6. Focus on Practical Learning**

Osaka University will make use of its tradition of practical education and concern itself with the balance between fundamental and applied knowledge, conducting education and research that fits the actual needs of society.

## **7. Strengthen Inter-Departmental Connectivity**

Osaka University will pursue distinction as a truly integrated university. Instead of simply consisting of an assembly of schools or departments, Osaka University will focus on mutually complementary aspects of all fields of learning, including the humanities, sociology, natural sciences, life sciences, and more, while promoting inter-departmental education and research as deemed suitable for this new era.

## **8. Continue a Tradition of Reform**

Osaka University will strive to continually inspect and reorganize itself, continuing its tradition of self-reform as a university that is consistently world leader inaugurating new academic fields, and in integrating those fields with others.

## **9. Support Human Rights**

Osaka University will support fundamental human rights, rejecting intolerance in all aspects of its activities, including discrimination regarding race, ethnicity, religion, beliefs, financial situation, social status, gender, or disabilities.

## **10. Promote Dialogue**

At Osaka University, both educators and students will, from each of their various positions and going beyond those official positions, show respect for one another in all avenues of exchange.

## **11. Adhere to Autonomy**

Osaka University will, regarding challenges confrontational situations, work towards the solution of such by making clear its own intentions and by enlisting the cooperation of the members of the bodies consisting the university.

■ ■ ■ Osaka University Academic Initiatives for 2012–2015 ■ ■ ■

-- “to be a university that shines forth even into the 22nd century”

May 16, 2012

Based on the principle that providing scholarship and training that enables one to perceive the true essence of things is the mission of a university and that universities contribute to society by fulfilling this mission, Osaka University aims to become a world center for both scholarship and training under the motto of “Live Locally, Grow Globally,” and to develop outstanding graduates with a high sense of ethics and international-mindedness.

As the saying goes, “Education is the measure of a nation’s 100-year plan,” Japan’s future depends on the development of our nation’s human resources. Osaka University has a mission to provide our society with outstanding internationally-minded graduates capable of discovering the true essence of things and acting as leaders in manifold fields.

Innovation bringing peace and change to society cannot be realized without the promotion of basic research to ascertain the true essence of things. Society expects universities to promote fundamental academic research as a creative intellectual activity and to carry out university-industry collaboration and university-community collaboration grounded in fundamental research. Universities will contribute to the development and welfare of human beings by fulfilling such a mission. Moreover, universities demonstrate how education and research should be conducted and put such into action.

A condition in which each staff member can work with vigor and in which research and educational institutions of diversity cooperate with each other and at the same time enjoy their own uniqueness is essential for the development of a university. Under the leadership of the president, all members of management, administration, and education and research organizations must actively promote university reform in accordance with the requests of society.

Originating from Tekijuku and having inherited the spirit of Kaitokudo, Osaka University aims to build a foundation upon which it can continue to shine as a world-leader in the 22nd century by coalescing the wisdom of all members of the Osaka University community in accordance with the following eight principles:

1. The Institute for Academic Initiatives (IAI) was set up for the purpose of making flexible and swift decisions in strategic areas in order to (1) draft science policies and international strategies, (2) explore interdisciplinary research fields, (3) develop personnel with international-mindedness, expertise, and diversity, (4) promote fundamental research, and (5) nurture young researchers. The president assumes the position of director in order to display leadership and instill IAI in the heart of all university reform.
2. The Center for Education in Liberal Arts and Sciences will play a central role in implementing the globalization of Osaka University education. The university will provide support for students wishing to study abroad and also work to actualize as early as possible campuses with a diversity of persons from all over the world -- i.e., "Global Campuses."
3. In order to achieve Global Campuses, an international strategy must be devised, one that reexamines the role of Osaka University Overseas Centers in order to ensure a greater level of exchange with overseas universities.
4. Funds must be allocated effectively, a step that will encourage promotion of basic research and professional development, steps linked to our future growth. We will realize this end by making a use of the perspectives of individuals and organizations and seeing the whole picture from a mid- and long-term perspective based on the ideas of the president, deans, and directors.
5. The university will continue to assume responsibility to implement maintenance and management of facilities in accordance with the plan. To this end, we will create and implement measures to secure financial resources. Additionally, we will formulate measures on utilizing the university's facilities and lands, including disposal, from a mid- and long-term perspective.
6. Based on the Osaka University future strategies, we will draft and implement measures to increase future funds permanently in cooperation with the alumni union.
7. We will share Osaka University's fundamental attitude with society and the nation and aim to become a university more open to the public. We will further strengthen publicity and university-community collaboration activities at home and abroad in order to achieve this goal.
8. We aim to have healthy, comfortable, global campuses where there is reason to study and work not only because of renewed facilities, but because measures will be drafted and carried out to maintain an environment where one can immerse oneself in study and work while maintaining a healthy body and mind.

