The University of Tokyo in a Changing World

Its Mission, Reform, and Challenges

Makoto Gonokami, President

The Twelfth President’s Council, November 25, 2016
Growing Instability Around the World

- **March**: Terror Attacks in Brussels
- **June**: Vote for Britain’s Exit from the EU
- **July**: Terror Attack in Nice
- **August**: Earthquake in Italy
- **September**: North Korea’s Nuclear Test
- **October**: The Paris Agreement on Climate Change
- **November**: Financial Crisis in China
- **December**: Syrian Civil War
- **2011**: Earthquake in Japan
- **April**: Earthquake in Ecuador
- **November**: US Presidential Election
- **November**: Zika Virus spread across America
- **January**: Financial Crisis in China
- **April**: Earthquake in Japan
- **November**: Earthquake In New Zealand
Role of Universities

- Universities must propose a social and economic system to get global society back on track.
Incorporation of National Universities

- Government grants to universities have been substantially decreased.
Financial Reform

Past
- Funds from industry: competitive research funds
  - Application-oriented research
- Basic Science Research
- Government grants
- Decrease due to incorporation

Present
- Funds from industry: competitive research funds
  - Application-oriented research (with more economic impact)
  - Basic Science & Humanities Research (with less economic impact)
- Government grants

Future
- Funds from Industry
  - Promotion of university-industry collaboration
  - Application-oriented research
  - Basic Science & Humanities Research
- Promotion of value-creation based on free thinking
- Pressure to pursue more output-oriented research
- Less funds for Basic Science
- Government grants
From “How” to “What”

- University-industry partnerships have been driven by individual laboratories, focusing on “how” to address a particular problem.
- We need to discover “what” needs to be solved for a better society.

**How to solve**
- A clear road map
- Problems defined
- Search for a solution
- Individual partnership

**What to solve**
- An unstable world
- Problems undiscovered / undefined
- Search for a question
- Organizational partnership
New Projects

- Two projects starting toward the transformation: information engineering including artificial intelligence research and sports science.

NEC - University of Tokyo Strategic Partnership Agreement for Future AI Research and Education

The University of Tokyo Sports Science Initiative (UTSSI)
Sports Science Initiative (UTSSI)

- A new research base opened in May, 2016.
- Will promote diverse research in sports/health science and related fields.
- We aim to make our scientific discoveries available to all of society.

Research Themes

- Extending healthy lifespan
- Improving quality of life of the elderly and disabled
- Improving physical ability of athletes
- Universal design
- Sports injury treatment and rehabilitation

Opening symposium of UTSSI (June, 2016)
Further Goals

Tokyo Olympics & Paralympics in 2020

Super-aging Society

The United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals
UTokyo as a Global Base for Knowledge Collaboration

- The University of Tokyo has a tradition of integrating Eastern and Western scholarship to create and apply new knowledge to social systems.
- We will strive to serve as a global base for knowledge collaboration that can contribute to 21st-century global society.
Today’s Discussion Points

Q.1 What distinct contributions can the University of Tokyo make to our global society?

Q.2 How can the University of Tokyo further expand global private sector collaboration?