

## SUMMARY

# **University of Tokyo Application for Designated National University Status Forming a “Global Base for Knowledge Collaboration” to Contribute to the Future of Humanity and the Planet**

### **1. Background to the Proposal**

Founded in 1877 as Japan’s first national university, the University of Tokyo has contributed to the formation of the modern Japanese state as an academic leader. In 2003, ahead of the incorporation of Japan’s national universities the following year, the University of Tokyo Charter was established, committing the University to becoming an institution that serves the global public. With the world becoming an ever more unpredictable place in the years since university incorporation, we issued *The University of Tokyo: Vision 2020* in 2015. Based on this, the University is currently working to enhance and extend its capacity to become a “global base for knowledge collaboration” across the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences and contribute to the future of humanity and the planet. The University of Tokyo is applying for designated national university corporation status to accelerate this progress.

### **2. Objectives, Priority Initiatives, and the Sustainable Development Goals**

In preparing this application, the University of Tokyo identified contributing to the future of humanity and the planet as our core interest, drawing on our world-class research capacity and knowledge, accumulated in an Asian historical and cultural context. In planning concrete initiatives, the university shall utilize to the maximum extent possible the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) defined in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* adopted by the United Nations in 2015, and which are congruent with the university’s mission.

To ensure the effective implementation of this plan, the University will establish the Future Society Initiative (FSI), a university-wide framework under the leadership of the President, to oversee all projects. Through roundtable discussions involving the entire University community, the FSI will formulate a university-wide strategic vision for research and disseminate it internationally. In addition, it will develop networks and support activities that span disciplinary and organizational boundaries. At the same time, the University will deepen relations with the United Nations University and the World Economic Forum (WEF) to strengthen international collaboration, and develop infrastructure and systems to make the University an inclusive space for research and learning open to all. Actively developing these plans will see Japan take the lead in major advances benefitting the future of humanity and the planet.

This project shall initially address the priority areas of (1) health and medical care, (2) energy, resource circulation, and climate change, and (3) economic inequality and gender equality. Particularly in relation to health and medical care, the Sports Science Initiative will engage with the practical challenges presented by being a “highly-aged society” using the accumulation of knowledge in these fields to contribute to ageing countries in Asia and elsewhere that are set to follow in Japan’s steps.

As actions related to all initial priority areas, the University will develop original frameworks and nurture highly-skilled research staff for the study of next-generation intelligence research ecosystem at the Next Generation Artificial Intelligence Research Center and the Mathematics and Informatics Center. These Centers will also enhance modern information literacy education aimed at students in the humanities and social sciences, create and deploy a standard curriculum internationally, and collaborate with industry to deliver tailored recurrent education to broaden the pool of talent participating in mathematics and information science.

Benchmarking will be undertaken against leading universities (University of California, Berkeley, University of Cambridge, Harvard University, Peking University, Seoul National University, and National University of Singapore, etc.), employing the following indicators: (1) organizational development to enhance the visibility and international dissemination of initiatives; (2) outcomes of action on specific issues, and (3) outcomes of external liaison activities. An ongoing review will also be undertaken of the positioning of the University of Tokyo as a global institution, informed by the advice of the Global Advisory Board comprising prominent individuals from around the world.

### **3. Preparations and Goals**

#### **3.1 Developing and Securing Talent**

In addition to systematizing international education programs and establishment the World-leading INnovative Graduate Study (WINGS), the University will channel resources into improving the employment environment for young researchers and recruiting internationally competitive researchers. Intensive investment will be directed into providing financial support for graduate students and upgrading the treatment of young and outstanding researchers, with more than 300 posts set up for young researchers by 2020.

#### **3.2 Reinforcing Research Capacity**

The University will continue to lead basic academic research in Japan and achieve original and pioneering results, as well as communicating these internationally. As part of the Tsukuba-Kashiwa-Hongo Innovation Corridor project, which aims to build a common platform with Designated National Research and Development Agencies, hubs will be developed to strengthen network infrastructure for the creation of knowledge-intensive industrial clusters in preparation for the coming data-driven society.

Initiatives related to initial priority areas will be advanced within the Strategic Partnerships Project, which connects the University of Tokyo with complementary leading international universities (Princeton University and nine other universities).

### **3.3 Collaboration with Society**

The University will pursue industry-university collaboration, in which the University and industry develop a common vision and engage together in finding solutions to societal issues. The University will develop a framework for flexibly involving experts from within and outside the university to effectively create value from knowledge in the sciences and humanities through large-scale inter-organizational partnerships. Innovation creation will be expedited by building a platform for the formation of a venture ecosystem through the creation of a “fund of funds” and joint investment projects and the enhancement of incubation capability.

The University will also engage in partnership with local communities on an ongoing and university-wide basis, working with local residents to resolve issues from a global perspective, and linking the resulting findings to the national level. In the 2017 academic year, a fieldwork program will be established for undergraduate students to immerse themselves in local communities to study the realities of social problems and contribute to their resolution, fostering future leaders in multiple fields.

### **3.4 Enhancing University Operations and Management**

The focus of this program is reform to secure stable and autonomous management foundations for the University. The University will engage in upfront investment in the initiatives (3.1–3.3) described above, making visible and communicating to society the value of achievements in research, education, and collaboration with society, which will in turn elicit greater support and assistance from society and strengthen our financial foundations in a virtuous circle. University operation and management functions will be enhanced to expand this circle, creating funds with greater freedom of use equivalent to around 10 billion yen over the 3rd mid-term target period. To that end, a new facility maintenance and management system will be introduced to achieve the increased responsibility for safe management. We work to increase the ratio of alumni donors, stable dividend income from stocks donated by company founders, and by taking advantage of recent legislative amendments to lease land to third parties, the profitability of Meijirodai land and the Kashiwa II campus.

The University will also pursue personnel capacity-building for administrative staff by introducing multi-track career paths, providing more appropriate treatment, forming human resource development alliances with nearby universities, and introducing University Research Administrator tenure-track employment. This will all result in fortifying the foundations underpinning the University’s research capacity.