



Japan has experienced numerous natural disasters last year. In July, for example, torrential rains struck western Japan, followed in September by the Hokkaido Eastern Iburi Earthquake. Large numbers of people were affected by these disasters, and I wish to take this opportunity to again express our profound sympathies for all those who perished, were injured or were displaced by those events, and their families.

By their very nature, natural disasters, environmental destruction, global warming and other far-reaching issues cannot be resolved by single nations. To overcome such monumental challenges, the entire human race must cooperate as a team, reaching beyond traditional barriers and rooted in the perspective of global-scale sustainability. Grounded in this conviction, our institute has steadily supplied technology designed to prevent and minimize damage from disasters.

For example, robots that our Future Robotics Technology Center developed were used to survey the damage at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant and the Kumamoto Uto City Office, which suffered destruction in past major earthquakes. Subscribing to the institute's founding spirit of "Contributing to world culture with technology," our enduring mission is to nurture engineers capable of discovering sound solutions to issues from a true global perspective, and mobilizing our strengths to fuel the development of cutting-edge education, research and technology.

On a separate front, the institute's entrance examination this past spring drew more than ninety thousand candidates. Gauged by the number of applications for our general entrance exam, we've ranked among the top ten of Japan's 779 universities for the past four years. Considering the large number of high school students nationwide who aspire to study at the Chiba Institute of Technology each year, we are more determined than ever to supply outstanding education and research guidance.

The differences between university and other education up to the high school level are not limited to the mission of imparting knowledge and effective means of solving problems to their students. Work at the collegiate level also involves having faculty members directly demonstrate to students ways of perceiving the world around them with originality, which faculty members gained through conducting research. This provides students with education and research guidance to instill in them the desire for creativity and to independently resolve the trials encountered.

To fully utilize the true strengths of this institute's education, we view matters through the eyes and minds of our students, energizing our education and research programs to refine the instructional and research skills needed to enhance the capabilities students require. Ever since my appointment as president I have mobilized the entire Institute's resources to vigorously promote a broad range of required reforms.

We have taken other steps to strike an outstanding balance in the allocation of our internal education and research expenses and attached research institute grants for prioritized distribution. Reflecting that progress, we've attracted more large-scale external research funds for our faculty. For example, the most recent five years have seen Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (A) (Kakenhi program: a category of major national grants) adopted in new four separate projects. Using optical connectors developed by institute graduate students, we've also set a world record for optical fiber transmission volume. Such enhanced research capabilities are instrumental to yielding more advanced education and cultivating graduates primed to achieve results on a global stage.

The institute is also proud to have appeared in the global university ranking of Times Higher Education, the renowned British higher education journal, for consecutive years since 2016. This is a clear example of earning high marks for reforms raising the quality of our education and research from overseas observers. Let me emphasize, however, that we will never be content to rest on these or any other past laurels. On the contrary, our objective is to redouble the push to furnish enriched education and research, channeling powerful energies into innovation to support fostering of human resources manifesting the essence of our founding spirit.

29th June, 2019

President Professor Kazuhito Komiya, PhD