

Initiatives of JANU :

JANU is the organization that consists of 86 all national universities and 4 inter-university research institutes as a special member.

JANU collects information on the universities and provide opinions based on analysis of such information in cooperation with national universities to meet the expectations of not only students and their parents but also all stakeholders including local residents, government official, industries, universities and academic research institutions overseas.

Hereafter, JANU will support the efforts intensively to enhance the functions each national university should fulfill. Also JANU will make the all-out effort to let stakeholders know the current situations of national universities and implement activities in cooperation with national universities.

Especially, national universities which are constituted as an organic collaborative system will promote support and public relations activities to meet the expectations of the nation and stakeholders, as national universities can demonstrate their functions as the central driving force behind Japan's efforts to recover from the Great East Japan Earthquake and reconstruct itself, and can serve in the international community.



This leaflet describes the outline that JANU has compiled about the roles and enhancement of their functions national universities should fulfill as their responsibilities based on the examination of the results of the Phase I medium-term goal period.



The Japan Association of National Universities
(JANU)

Enhancing the Functions of National Universities

-Pledge to the People-

Japan faces difficult issues such as prolonged economic stagnation, deteriorating fiscal structure, declining birthrate, and ageing population, and it is necessary to restore the country's vitality in order to solve these issues. The great earthquake revealed that mankind's knowledge of nature and ability to harness it remains insufficient. We must prepare for natural disasters such as earthquake, tsunami, volcanic eruptions, and abnormal weather, secure natural resources, energy and food in a safe and stable manner, and consider how social infrastructures should be. Thus, there are many global challenges that must be solved.

There are also structural problems facing modern society which directly affect the process of ensuring the security of all countries and the creation of a sustainable society. The world is keenly watching how Japan will overcome the current difficulties and whether it can lead mankind's efforts to build a society based on new values.

In order to reconstruct Japan and achieve its continuous development,

In order to overcome the harsh difficulties that Japan faces and to build a safe and secure society, it is indispensable not only to systematically establish and maintain public educational and research organizations that can continuously deliver innovation in knowledge in all fields of society and develop excellent human resources for the future, but also to drastically enhance their functions.

<Thoroughly enhance the function as National Center>

86 national universities, which have been established nationwide, will make the utmost effort to serve as national centers of advanced education, research and innovation, while clarifying their respective characteristics and distinctive features.

<Drastically enhance the function as Regional Center>

They will also drastically enhance their functions as regional centers indispensable to local communities in all aspect of regional promotion: regional industrial and economic activities; education, culture, art and sports; medical service; and preserving historic and cultural heritage for future generation.

<Functional enhancement as an organic collaborative system>

National universities will do their utmost to enhance the priority functions described next page, and are committed to fulfill their responsibilities with making maximum use of their respective characteristics and distinctive features.

Also national universities operate as an organic collaborative system that enable to bring new possibilities and more advance achievements by promoting mutual close cooperation and collaboration with educational and research institutions both domestically and internationally and regions. What's more, national universities are committed to enhance their educational and research functions to build a promising future for Japan and a sustainable global society

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The Japan Association of National Universities



Public Roles of National Universities

- ◇ Contribute to the sustainable development of Japan and human society
- ◇ Develop persons of distinguished talent, on whose shoulders the future
- ◇ Pioneer innovation in Japan and abroad as a base of continuous creation of new knowledge
- ◇ Promote the health of people and maintaining and improving health care and education
- ◇ Contribute to the development of industry and human resources, an indicator of national power, through industry-academia partnerships and other initiatives
- ◇ Strengthen their function as centers of revitalization of local communities and promotion of culture, art, and sports

Functions of National Universities to Be Enhanced

–Enhancement of Functions as National Centers and as Regional Centers–

Function 1 Providing Excellent Education and Developing Persons of Distinguished Talent

- ◇ Maintain and Improve the system to guarantee equal opportunities in higher Education
- ◇ Establish diverse and characteristic selection system for admission based on the admission policies of respect universities
- ◇ Advance education that seeks to combine scientific and technological knowledge with social and cultural knowledge
- ◇ Reorganize curriculums to provide education that emphasizes the acquisition of culture and an international perspective
- ◇ Develop persons of distinguished talent with high ethical standards and an awareness of their duties who will play an active role in their areas of expertise such as health care, law, education and art
- ◇ Develop persons with a doctor's degree who will play an active role in diverse fields

Function 2 Energetic Promotion of Scientific Research

- ◇ Accumulate basic and platform research, a source of intellectual creation
- ◇ Promote cutting-edge research and research that combines the humanities and sciences to realize the sustainable development of society
- ◇ Develop talented people who have a deep understanding of the challenges that face human society and can manage well-balanced research activities to solve such challenges
- ◇ Develop talented people who have the ability to convey the results of academic research to the general public accurately

Function 3 Contribution as a center of Regional Promotion

- ◇ Promote innovation through close industry-academia-government partnerships and contribute to the development of education and regional culture and society
- ◇ Improve the overall teaching abilities of local communities and develop talented people who can lead the promotion of culture, art and sports
- ◇ Enhance the functions of university hospitals as centers of advanced regional health care and cutting-edge medical treatment
- ◇ Develop talented people with acute sensitivity, profound expertise, and a broad perspective who can take on the tasks of regional promotion described above

Function 4 Promotion of Active International Exchange and Contribution to the International Community

- ◇ Establish an environment that enables the promotion of activities for contributing to the international community and developing people with sufficient expertise to lead such activities
- ◇ Raise the level of education and research by systematically sending researchers and students to overseas education and research organizations and establish international human and intellectual networks through proactive reception of researchers and students from overseas and facilitation of international exchanges
- ◇ Support developing countries in developing human resources in specialized fields such as administrators and teachers and increasing their education and research capabilities

Measures for Functional Enhancement

National universities will consider their respective characteristics and distinctive features as the basis of their competitive power and strive with all their resources to enhance their functions. To achieve this goal, they will effectively combine the measures listed below.

Measure 1 Clarification of Characteristics and Distinctive Features and Implementation of Ongoing Reform

- ◇ Clarify the characteristics and distinctive features of each university
- ◇ Establish and clearly state missions and visions
- ◇ Ensure that all members of each university share its missions and visions and become aware of their responsibilities
- ◇ Enhance university governance functions to allow universities to display their characteristics and distinctive features

Measure 2 Establishment of an Internal Quality Assurance System for Education, Research and Other Activities and Improvement of the Quality of Such Activities

- ◇ Implement the PDCA cycle and publicize the achievements of national universities to society
- ◇ Establish a new education and research system that combines the humanities and sciences by combining the wisdom of various fields to solve important social problems
- ◇ Improve basic research to support the development of learning
- ◇ Establish an education and research organization to realize the missions and visions of each university

Measure 3 Ensuring Strict Self-evaluations and Active Disclosure of University Information and Fulfillment of the Responsibility to Explain to Stakeholders

- ◇ Perform self-evaluations
- ◇ Enhance self-check functions by establishing external evaluation system
- ◇ Establish a system to communicate university information to Japan and the rest of the world
- ◇ Build a system to communicate information overseas through cooperation among several universities
- ◇ Improve the system to communicate university information according to the characteristics of stakeholders
- ◇ Promote a better understanding of university functions through joint activities with stakeholders

Measure 4 Facilitation of Cooperation with Education and Research Institutions in Japan and Abroad

- ◇ Establish joint faculty and graduate school department with other institutions
- ◇ Facilitate such initiatives as consortiums through cooperation among universities in particular regions
- ◇ Promote initiatives to establish closer cooperation between university hospitals and regional medical institutions
- ◇ Advance initiatives to establish closer cooperation among universities and with their shared organizations across the types of university and organization
- ◇ Promote systematic initiatives for regional innovation as well as education, culture, art, sports, and other activities through cooperation with local governments and other organizations
- ◇ Establish educational programs with overseas universities such as double and joint degrees

Measure 5 Making University Operation More Efficient and Advanced, and Acquiring Diverse Funds and Using Them Effectively

- ◇ Promote joint use of university resources such as laboratories, libraries, dormitories, and large research facilities
- ◇ Implement joint FD and SD program
- ◇ Manage administrative work and other operations jointly
- ◇ Ensure integrated management of university information and bolster operation systems by establishing institutional research (IR) functions
- ◇ Facilitate diverse forms of personnel exchange such as the appointment of highly skilled persons to executive and staff positions irrespective of nationality, affiliation, etc.
- ◇ Set up efforts to obtain various forms of external funding