

President's Speech — Ito Campus Completion Ceremony

Thank you all for coming today to commemorate the completion of Ito Campus. First, I'd like to show you a video that features some of our students and tells the story leading up to the completion of Ito Campus.

<Video>

On behalf of Kyushu University, I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words regarding this momentous occasion.

We extend a very special thank you to everyone who made time to be here today and to everyone who played a part in helping create Ito Campus. Thank you to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Mr. Taro Aso; Parliamentary Vice Minister Noriko Miyagawa and everyone at the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology; honorable members of the Diet; individuals our representatives at diplomatic establishments abroad; Governor of Fukuoka Prefecture Mr. Hiroshi Ogawa; Fukuoka City Mayor Mr. Soichiro Takashima and representatives of other local governments; Presidents Dr. Seiichi Matsuo and Dr. Shojiro Nishio of Nagoya University and Osaka University, respectively, and everyone involved at those institutions; Kyushu Economic Federation Chairman Mr. Yutaka Aso and the local business community; and Fukuoka Alumni Association Chairman Mr. Masayoshi Nuki as well as all Kyushu University graduates both near and far.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who gave their support in seeing the Ito Campus Relocation Program through to its completion.

The students, faculty, and staff of Kyushu University are truly delighted to share in this celebration with you today.

Relocating to Ito Campus has been a monumental project that has taken nearly 30 years. Since the approval of the "New Campus Relocation Initiative" in October 1991, we have carried out numerous relocation projects with the cooperation of many individuals and organizations, both in and outside of the university.

The engineering departments were the first to make the move to Ito Campus, in October 2005, and were followed by the Ropponmatsu Campus, the faculties in the sciences, then agriculture and humanities and social sciences, and finally the university libraries.

As our relocation progressed, the university continued to develop the surrounding area. Transportation to and from campus has become much easier with the opening of JR Kyūdai-Gakkentoshi Station and the addition of four bus lines that service the campus. The Fukuoka Industry-Academic Collaboration Center was established by the Organization for the Promotion of an Academic City of Kyushu University as part of the Kyushu University Academic City Plan.

Next year, the Crown Prince's accession to the Chrysanthemum Throne will usher in a new era. Kyushu University concludes the current Heisei period with the completion of our relocation and is ready to meet the challenges of the coming era at our new home of Ito Campus.

We express profound gratitude for all that has happened so far, and with hope for all that is to come. Let me introduce the Ito Campus Declaration.

Ito Campus Declaration

Kyushu University dates back to 1911, when it was established by the Japanese government in Fukuoka for its geographical significance at the entrance to continental Asia. It was founded to meet the demands of Japan's industrial and energy revolution and to train advanced professionals in western Japan. It has since added many faculties and research centers to become one of Japan's leading four-year universities, generating a body of research whose contributions have helped move human society forward. Throughout its history, the university has deepened its academic and educational ties with countries and regions in Asia and around the world, producing talented graduates who have gone on to effect social change in Japan and abroad.

Kyushu University stands by its principles of creating a world-class center for education and research and building an open university that remains relevant by reinventing itself with the changes of the times. That is why we chose to integrate our Hakozaki, Ropponmatsu, and Haru-machi campuses and relocate to our all-new Ito Campus, a sprawling area across Fukuoka City's Motooka and Kuwabara districts in Nishi-ku and neighboring Itoshima City.

Ito Campus is located at Japan's front door, a place where Japanese culture has long met the cultures of the Asian continent, a place blessed with rolling hills and an abundance of nature, where the latest technologies of the time made their way to the Japanese archipelago for centuries. Often called an "oasis of nature and history," Ito Campus is 3km long and 2.5km wide, covering an area of over 272 hectares. It was built to coexist with the natural ecosystems and preserve sites of historical and archaeological significance.

A two-thousand-meter passage runs east-west across campus. Not only does it link the wide-ranging disciplines of the humanities and social sciences with the faculties in the sciences, engineering, and agriculture, but it also symbolizes the bridge from past to future.

At Ito Campus, we are dedicated to:

1. Producing world-leading professionals and new scientific breakthroughs
2. Pioneering the frontier of future research and experimentation
3. Coexisting in harmony with our historical and natural environment

Kyushu University has built a campus that is both beautiful and practical, a place where students, faculty, and staff can learn, work, and compete globally with people wherever they are in the world. Today, Kyushu University opens a new door to university innovation, and we vow to take Japan and the world forward through our education and research. Expect nothing less than the best from Kyushu University.

Chiharu Kubo
President, Kyushu University
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