

To All People around the World,

We thank you very much for your enormous support under the tough economic conditions for our recovery and reconstruction in the areas devastated by the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011. In the past five years, we have faced in a number of difficulties cooperating with industry, academic, government, bank and also community together. Thanks to your great support, the areas where began to recover their usual days same as before the earthquake have been increasing. However, it is also true that there is a region which is still developing in the reconstruction and challenges still remain. We would like to continue undergone further development for the future, facing the challenges one by one, while strengthening the bonds which we re-recognized the importance through the earthquake.

In this situation, the automotive industry has largely been considered a major center of economic opportunity because of its economic impact. All over the Tohoku region but especially in Miyagi prefecture, the expectation for the automotive industry is enormous. Emblematic of this expectation is the recent startup of the Toyota Motor East Corporation.

Our project the "Strategic Regional Innovation Support Program" supported by MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) kicked off in July 2012 in order to realize the reconstruction and revival of Tohoku, through the development of new products and system by the collaborative efforts of industry, academia and government. This collaboration is primarily based on the strong and diverse R&D at Tohoku University, a leader in domestic and international education.

As a research-oriented university, Tohoku University has been involved in a number of collaborative efforts with big business but less so with smaller, local businesses. As one might assume, the importance of developing local businesses is of the highest order. Since June 2012, we have held a wide variety of events: Research information session for local business people, over fifty lectures for manpower training, visiting more than forty laboratories for local business people, our researchers were invited to tour local companies, and poster presentations by all laboratories which joined in this project. These events broke down the borders separating the university from local businesses and as a result a number of new collaborations have begun to bloom.

In this time, we summarized "introduction of research and technology" and "progress since the Great east Japan earthquake and future prospects". Our project members consist of various people such as the laboratories in Tohoku University, research groups in Miyagi Prefecture, and regional companies. There are some people who have tried to restore in desperation damaged by the earthquake and tsunami, and have been continued to develop. We would like to tell people all over the world the new technologies and products that were born by overcoming their experiences and difficulties, and develop the abysmal power of the human race that blossomed out a brilliant bud out of adversity internationally. It will be held this year's international conference in such desire.

Katsuto Nakatsuka, Director

Akira Miyamoto, Chairman of Research Promotion Committee