

University of Tokyo Guideline
on Indication of Sources and Recommendations in Relation to Research Results

December 20, 2005
Decision by the President

1. Overview

This Guideline is intended to indicate the minimum rules to be conformed with and call for attention, in case of indicating the sources of research results that derive from faculty members' intellectual creativity in the process of returning their research results to society or conducting recommendation and other activities based on their expertise knowledge.

The University of Tokyo (herein after "UTokyo") has returned numerous research results to society since its founding. The environment around universities is changing greatly these days, and the demands have grown more than ever that universities should return outcomes of their intellectual activities to society. At the same time, UTokyo and the faculty members have more opportunities to proactively return research results to society. On such occasions, the clear indication of the fact in Japan or abroad that the distinguished research results have been obtained at UTokyo means to be convey that UTokyo is responding to the social demand. However, we should avoid conveying exaggerated or erroneous messages to others by showing and emphasizing UTokyo's name unnecessarily with products and services using the research results. Our faculty members would be able to demonstrate their discernment as responsible academic persons, by giving efforts to accurately indicate facts only, with fully recognizing the position and social influences of UTokyo.

Please note that all persons engaged in research at UTokyo, in addition to the faculty members, are asked to make actions that conform to the Guideline.

2. Indications likely to cause problems

When using UTokyo's name for indicating sources or conducting recommendation activities, the faculty members should be fully cautious about the following matters so as not to mislead others by making an exaggerated or erroneous indication that is beyond the facts.

(1) It is intolerable to accept a third party to use the name of UTokyo, as well as any nicknames or symbols that are considered to be indicating UTokyo, without any agreement or in a scope that exceeds the provisions of the agreement.

(2) If a faculty member wish to recommend a product or a service of a third party at their responsibility, it must be clearly indicated that the recommendation is being made at his/her responsibility and not by UTokyo. Also, if a photograph of a faculty member is used when making a recommendation, it might give an impression that UTokyo or the faculty member is involved closely with the product or the service, and in some cases, the University or the faculty member might be held legally liable. Therefore, when using photographs or images that remind the faculty member or UTokyo, they should be handled with utmost care so as not to mislead others.

3. Indications generally recommended

When indicating the sources of research results by faculty members of UTokyo or indicating connection with UTokyo or its faculty members, it is recommended to make an indication based on facts, as follows. Even with these indications, consideration should be given to avoid exaggerated expressions.

- (1) If the research result is under prosecution or granted as an intellectual property right, facts concerning application and registration should be indicated, such as “Patent application No. XXX, Applicant name: The University of Tokyo.”
- (2) If research result is based on a collaborative research agreement between UTokyo and a company, etc., an indication based on facts should be made, such as “collaborative research with Professor XXX of the University of Tokyo,” or “collaborative research with Laboratory XXX of the University of Tokyo.”
- (3) If a faculty member is concurrently employed at his/her responsibility, the faculty member needs to make an indication based on facts presented in the concurrent employment notification to UTokyo.

If you have any doubt or question about the methods of indication, feel free to consult the Office of Intellectual Property of the Division of University Corporate Relations.

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