Roles and Missions of the Division of University Corporate Relations

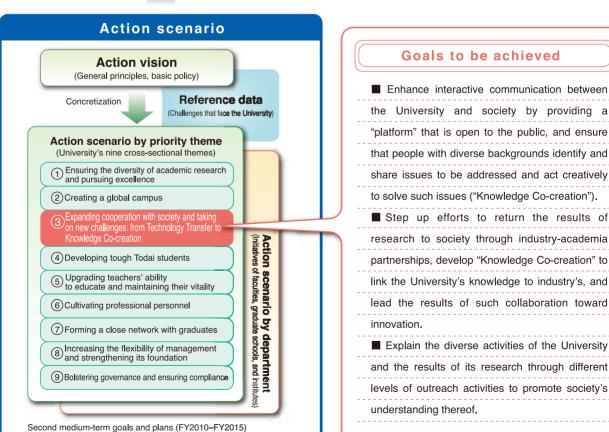
Since its foundation in 1877, the University of Tokyo has contributed greatly to the development of Japanese society not only through academic accomplishments but also cooperation with industry. And the University aims to be a "the world's University of Tokyo," a university that serves the public interests of the world as it looks to the future. The mission of universities is, needless to say, education and research, but it is also important for universities to understand the demands of society and reflect them in education and research independently, as well as to cooperate with society in grappling with specific issues to help society evolve. As many problems such as the depletion of natural resources, environmental changes, economic fluctuations, and population growth become increasingly globalized and complicated, society is placing more and more hopes on the University of Tokyo as it strives to present solutions to these problems and build a sustainable society. In order to meet these demands of society, after a process of careful, university-wide discussions, the Division of University Corporate Relations (DUCR) was established in April 2004, the same year as national universities incorporated. It was created as an organization aimed at effectively returning the results of research at the University to society.

A part of the head-office organization under the President of the University of Tokyo, DUCR serves as a contact point for requests from industry as well as a university-wide support unit to facilitate cooperation between the University's researchers or offices and industrial circles. In the future, DUCR will continue to bolster its industry-academia partnership systems, improve the quality of its operations, and make them more efficient with the aim of ensuring that industry-academia partnerships bring concrete results.

The University of Tokyo's Action Scenario FOREST 2015

Vision of the University of Tokyo in 2015

Front, Openness, Responsibility, Excellence, Sustainability, Toughness



Goals to be achieved

- the University and society by providing a "platform" that is open to the public, and ensure that people with diverse backgrounds identify and share issues to be addressed and act creatively to solve such issues ("Knowledge Co-creation").
- Step up efforts to return the results of research to society through industry-academia partnerships, develop "Knowledge Co-creation" to link the University's knowledge to industry's, and lead the results of such collaboration toward innovation.
- Explain the diverse activities of the University and the results of its research through different levels of outreach activities to promote society's understanding thereof.

(Excerpts from the University of Tokyo's Action Scenario FOREST 2015)

Message from the Director General and the Members of DUCR

In the 21st century, social problems such as those concerning the global environment, energy, and the declining birthrate and aging population have come to light, and the recent Great East Japan Earthquake has revealed various new issues to be addressed. Universities have the role of providing education and research, and it is through this that they are expected to send skilled people who are capable of solving these issues into the world and to provide specific methods for solving such issues. Solving issues in which various factors are involved requires approaches from diverse scientific fields and makes cooperation between universities and society essential.

Under the leadership of its president, Junichi Hamada, and in accordance with the University-developed Action Scenario: FOREST 2015 project, the University of Tokyo is currently promoting education and research to meet the demands of society. In order to find solutions, we need to confront issues such as those above and to be tenacious in seeking ideal solutions to them, and the Action Scenario aims to develop strong Todai students who will take on the responsibility of doing just that. Furthermore, in order to provide society with specific methods for solving issues, it is necessary to ensure interactive cooperation that combines university research results and social/corporate activities. The Action Scenario considers it essential to advance activities that we might call "Knowledge Co-creation" by universities and society.



Kazuo Hotate

Professor and Director
General of the Division of
University Corporate Relations

The Division of University Corporate Relations (DUCR) at the University of Tokyo plays a part in the University's programs aimed at promoting Knowledge Co-creation. The DUCR is making comprehensive efforts to ensure that universities work with society to identify the common issues that need to be addressed, to develop scientific and technological solutions to these issues, and to ensure university-industry partnerships aimed at proactive development of innovations in society. In order to smoothly advance the various phases of industry-academia partnerships—such as creating joint research with industry, managing and utilizing intellectual property, and supporting university-based ventures and entrepreneurship education—the Division has established a system that enables its Office of Collaborative Research Development, Office of Intellectual Property, Office of Science Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development, and related administrative support offices to work together in a well-organized and systematic way. The Division's cooperation with TODAI TLO, Ltd., the University of Tokyo Edge Capital Co., Ltd., and the Foundation for the Promotion of Industrial Science also contributes to revitalizing the University's partnerships with industry.

Originality is the essence of research at universities. In Japan, which claims to be a country built on creative science and technology, universities are very much required to promote creative research. Support in giving a concrete form to industry-academia partnerships in order for the University's research results to be used for social reform is also an important role that the Division should work to play as an intermediary between the University and society. Seven years have passed since the DUCR was established, and its organizations and systems have been expanded since then. While responding to the demands of the time and giving much thought to the way it carries out its operations, the Division will continue to use all of its resources to strive to ensure that businesses and members of the University can work more enthusiastically on industry-academia partnerships aimed at creating new technology and implementing it for society. We look forward to receiving your continued support.



DUCR members pose for a group picture (from left to right): Tomotaka Goji, Managing Partner of UTEC; Kiyomi Ueda, Chief of the University Corporate Relations Group; Shigeo Kagami, Professor and General Manager of SEED; Toshiya Watanabe, Deputy Director General of DUCR; Kazuo Hotate, Professor and Director General of DUCR; Munehisa Yamashiro, Deputy Director General of DUCR; Koichi Terasawa, Project Professor and General Manager of the Office of Collaborative Research Development; Tetsuo Ogama, Professor and General Manager of the Office of Intellectual Property; and Takafumi Yamamoto, President & CEO of TODAI TLO

Overall Activities of DUCR

The University of Tokyo emphasizes "Expanding Cooperation with Society and Taking on New Challenges: From Technology Transfer to Knowledge Co-creation," one of the priority themes of the "University of Tokyo's Action Scenario FOREST 2015," which was put forward by President Junichi Hamada. Therefore, the University of Tokyo aims to step up its efforts to return the results of its research to society through industry-academia partnerships, develop Knowledge Co-creation to link the University's knowledge to industry's, and lead the results of such collaboration to innovations.

Its unique management structure is composed of the Division of University Corporate Relations (consisting of the three offices of Collaborative Research Development, Intellectual Property, and Science Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development); TODAI TLO, Ltd.; and the University of Tokyo Edge Capital Co., Ltd. Using this structure, it has established a system that enables it to provide integrated support ranging from the creation of collaborative research to the identification, evaluation, management, and utilization of the University's intellectual property and the startup of businesses and industrialization. Using these, it has carried out a wide range of support activities.

1.Activities of the University Corporate Relations Network, the University of Tokyo

On January 17, 2005, with the cooperation of Nippon Keidanren (Japan Business Federation), the University of Tokyo established the "University Corporate Relations Network" as an interactive platform between industry and the University. Though there were 348 members at first, this had increased to 717 by the end of May 2011.

Major activities of the Network include the Advisory Board Meeting (ABM) and the Annual General Meeting.

ABM, which consists of top management personnel from industry and the University, provides an extremely valuable forum to exchange opinions about not only industry-academia partnerships but also the overall management of the University. The five advisors from industry are Mr. Sadayuki Sakakibara, Chairman of the Board of Toray Industries, Inc.; Mr. Junichi Ujiie, Senior Advisor to Nomura Holdings, Inc.; Mr. Takashi Kawamura, Chairman of the Board of Hitachi, Ltd.; Mr. Masahiro Sakane, Chairman of the Board of Komatsu Ltd.; and Mr. Toru Nishiyama. Advisors from the University include President Junichi Hamada, Managing Directors and Executive Vice Presidents, the Director General of University Corporate Relations, and other officers.

In its fourth term this year, the Advisory Board held its first meeting on August 30, 2010. At the meeting, regarding the essential points of the "University of Tokyo's Action Scenario FOREST 2015," President Hamada announced that he hopes to focus on and realize the following six objectives: "Sharing and internationalization of the knowledge of the University of Tokyo"; "Knowledge Co-creation: linking the knowledge of the University with that of the society"; "Truly cultured, tough students"; "Flexible management"; "Highly-qualified, professional personnel"; and "Excellent teachers with vitality." The six Managing Directors further explained and exchanged opinions on the issues and states of their respective fields, such as industry-academia partnerships, research, education, and finance.

Representatives from industry shared many valuable opinions and requests, including: "Increasing the number of teachers who are foreign nationals and the percentage of overseas students to further promote internationalization"; "Educating personnel capable of helping Japan compete globally as a science- and technology-oriented nation as well as increasing the percentage of students who advance to doctoral programs (especially in engineering)"; "Making on-campus preparations for groups of experts to work with researchers on matters of actual use and commercialization"; "While the University of Tokyo has strength in diversity stemming from its nature as a university, it is also important for it to have a unique sales point"; and "Educating personnel

possessing the spirit to change the entire structure of the world in order to create and develop new values."

Although the Annual General Meeting was scheduled to be held at the Keidanren Kaikan building on March 14, 2011, the same day that the Advisory Board was to hold its second meeting, both meetings were cancelled due to the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11.



ABM members for the fifth term (August 30, 2010)

2. The First Global University Corporate Relations Forum, Green Technology Innovation

As part of the MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) Program for Promoting Self-sustaining Administration of Universities through Industry-Academia-Government Collaboration, the First Global University Corporate Relations Forum was held on March 3, 2011 at the Sanjo Conference Hall. In order to promote the development of innovations in Green Technology, the idea was to link nanotechnology's world of tiny semiconductor devices to society through various systems. For the device and system levels, representatives from the US-based Intel Corporation and Germany's Siemens AG were invited, respectively. Approximately ninety people, including on-campus researchers and students, gathered to hear the representatives present on their research areas as well as share strategies and messages related to the theme.

This time, as a new attempt by the Division of University Corporate Relations (DUCR), the messages in the forum were delivered primarily from corporations rather than on-campus researchers as had been the case for the conventional Science and Technology Exchange Forums. In the first part, the invited representatives, Mr. Stephen S. Pawlowski, Senior Fellow and CTO of the Architecture Group at Intel Corporation, and Prof. Reinhold E. Achatz, head of Corporate Research and Technologies and Corporate Vice President at Siemens AG, outlined their respective research and spoke about collaboration. In the second part, individual sessions promoted dialogue among the representatives and on-campus researchers. More in-depth suggestions were made and discussions between on-campus researchers from relevant fields and the representatives from Intel Corporation and Siemens AG occurred, providing an excellent opportunity for exploring ways to collaborate in the future. Passionate discussions with the two guest speakers continued throughout even at the reception held after the forum, and thus this first forum ended in success.





Prof. Achatz of Siemens AG (left) and Mr. Pawlowski of Intel Corporation (right) Scenes from the First Global University Corporate Relations Forum held on March 3, 2011

Invitation to the University Corporate Relations Network, the University of Tokyo

In 2005, the University of Tokyo established the "University Corporate Relations Network" as a platform for promoting industry-academia partnership that emphasizes interactive communication between the University and industrial circles. It positions the network as a basis for the University to work with industry to create various forms of new value and knowledge so that it contributes to society. Any corporation interested in partnership with the University of Tokyo is invited to become a member of the network free of charge, and specific benefits of membership include:

- ◆ Members are invited to make requests and proposals for partnership with the University through the network;
- Members can receive information on research seeds directly from researchers with whom they wish to do collaborative research;
- Members receive information on DUCR-hosted Science and Technology Exchange Forums and other events earlier than others;
- ◆ Members directly receive information on various events held at the University of Tokyo;
- Members can work with the University of Tokyo to make strategic proposals to society through indus try-academia partnership; and
- ◆ Members can exchange information on and opinions about industry-academia partnership with one another.

Information on the University of Tokyo becomes familiar to members. It is also useful in expanding exchange and networking with researchers through such opportunities as attending DUCR-hosted forums and other events as well as participating in the annual general meeting of the University Corporate Relations Network. Members also receive a copy of the University of Tokyo magazine Tansei, the Outline of the Division of University Corporate Relations, and other publications.

Based on the Network's platform, DUCR hosts Science and Technology Exchange Forums, holds meetings to propose the commercialization of seeds of new technology or new research projects, and provides opportunities for policy recommendations. Thus it works to further expand the foundation of industry-academia partnership.