

Hiroshima University The Fourth Mid-term Objectives

[notified by the Minister of MEXT on 28 February 2022]

(Preamble) Fundamental objectives of the corporation

Hiroshima University (HU) is a national research university established in 1949 in Hiroshima, which is the first atomic-bomb stricken city in the history of humankind. Coupled with its five guiding principles of The Pursuit of Peace; The Creation of New Forms of Knowledge; The Nurturing of Well-Rounded Human Beings; Collaboration with the Local, Regional and International Community; and Continuous Self-Development, the university will set the following as its mission: contributing to the well-being of humankind by realizing a free and peaceful international community, while constantly reflecting on its expected roles in the world.

HU shall aim to establish a world-class research and education base that implements ‘Science for Sustainable Development (now being disseminated as a new philosophy for Peace Science)’, and shall play a pivotal role in regional co-creation, by attracting overseas universities to open their branches on the campus of HU as well as through the Town and Gown Initiative where the Town (the local citizens/local municipality) and the Gown (the university) collaborate with each other. In so doing, the university functions as a knowledge hub that brings the local and global communities together so as to ‘cultivate peace-pursuing, cultured individuals with an international mindset and a challenging spirit’, which contributes towards realizing a free and peaceful global society that promotes diversity.

In addition, in order to remain as ‘the university of world-wide repute and splendor for years into the future’ in an ever-changing society, HU will enhance its functionality and invest into the future proactively and autonomously in all of the following categories: education, research, social contribution, healthcare, and management of HU. In addition to promoting basic research based on the free ideas of researchers, HU will strengthen initiatives that contribute to the realization of carbon neutrality and Society 5.0 in order to solve social problems from the local to the global scale, and in particular to achieve the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals), and hence shall constantly engage itself in creating new forms of wisdom and value with a vision of realizing lasting peace and many kinds of happiness (well-being) within each member of our society.

Based on this basic policy, and under the leadership of the President, all faculty and administrative members will continue to take on challenges in a joint effort with a shared vision, aiming to achieve the goals listed below to a high standard.

◆ Period of the Mid-term Objectives

The period of the Mid-term Objectives is six years, from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2028.

I. Matters relating to the improvement of the quality of education and research

1 Co-creation with society

[1] With the aim of becoming a world-class research university, HU will strategically define areas in which it will increase its international presence and create an education and research environment (special research funding, salaries, etc.) that will enable it to attract outstanding researchers and students from Japan and overseas. At the same time, HU will build a world-class center of excellence that will accumulate intellectual assets such as cutting-edge education and research facilities including data infrastructure, and international network hub functions that transcend industry, academia and government. ②

[2] Through the “Town & Gown Concept”, in which Town (local residents and local government) and Gown (university) work together to create a peaceful and comfortable symbiotic society in which people from all over the world can mutually respect and accept each other regardless of their characteristics and roles, HU will promote efforts to realize the “Declaration of Carbon Neutral × Smart Campus 5.0”. [Original]

2 Education

- [3] Develop a basic framework for thinking that allows students to set and explore issues through a specific major field of study, and cultivate human resources through a broad education in which they are exposed to knowledge from other fields, ultimately broadening their perspective. (Bachelor's Course) ⑥.
- [4] Train human resources with the necessary research skills as the first stage in the development of researchers. Within the course to develop highly specialized professionals, students will be trained to have the practical skills required in industry and other sectors of society. (Master's Course) ⑦
- [5] Through the cultivation of deep expertise and collaboration with researchers in different fields, students will acquire a broad background as researchers, and will develop the ability to carry out research on their own initiative as independent researchers. In this way, HU aims to nurture human resources who can play an active role not only in academia but also in the various sectors of society such as industry. (Doctoral Course) ⑧
- [6] Nurture human resources who are sought after by society, such as highly-skilled professionals who can lead specific occupational fields, and human resources with the practical and applicable skills necessary for professional careers. (Professional Degree Course) ⑨
- [7] Cultivate individuals who are exposed to different values and have an international perspective by expanding the number of students sent abroad, actively recruiting outstanding international students and continuing to network with them after graduation, and providing international educational programs in cooperation with overseas universities. ⑫
- [8] In order to broaden students' perspectives and way of thinking through interaction with people from various backgrounds, the University will increase the diversity of students in terms of gender, nationality, age, disability, etc., and provide a safe environment for students to study in. ⑬

3 Research

- [9] Contribute to the realization of a better society by solving both local and global social issues. To this end, HU will promote research and development aimed at putting the scientific theories and basic findings obtained through research into practice in the real world, with the goal of creating innovations that will lead to social change. ⑮

4 Other important matters related to co-creation with society, education and research

- [10] Leading overseas universities, such as Arizona State University, will conduct education and research activities at HU, and vice versa. In this way, a strategic partnership will be established to create synergies in education and research, leading to further creation of a global campus, with an academic environment that transcends the limitations of time and space. [Original]
- [11] By promoting systematic cooperation with universities, research institutes, and industries at home and abroad, as well as joint use, joint research and education-related joint-use beyond the framework of individual universities, HU will improve its own education and research infrastructure, and strengthen and expand its functions by sharing and combining human and material resources that cannot be possessed by a single university. ⑱
- [12] Provide opportunities for practical training in cooperation with schools and graduate schools, develop leading educational models in the country or region, and develop the results of these models in order to raise the standard of school education. (The affiliated schools of HU) ⑲

[13] Contribute to the construction of a sustainable regional medical system by providing high-quality medical care in a safe and stable manner, utilizing the latest findings, based on global research trends, and foster medical professionals who can play a leading and central role in the medical field. (HU Hospital) ⑳

II. Matters relating to the improvement and efficiency of business operations

[14] Under the leadership of the President, a strong governance system will be established by taking measures to allow the internal controls to function more effectively, establishing a system to utilize external knowledge in the management of the corporation, and promoting the participation of experts from both inside and outside the university in the management of the corporation. ㉑

[15] The university will maximize the use of its assets and strategically develop and share its facilities and equipment through university-wide management, in order to strengthen its capability to make further contributions to the region, society and the world. ㉒

III. Matters relating to the improvement of the financial position

[16] In addition to public funds, HU will promote the acceptance of endowments and funds from industry etc., and aim to establish a stable financial base by diversifying its financial resources through efficient asset management under appropriate risk management, active utilization of assets held, and investment to promote the utilization of research results. At the same time, HU will optimize the allocation of resources within the university in order to maximize the functions of the university by ascertaining the direction of the functional enhancement which it is aiming to achieve. ㉓

IV. Matters related to the self-inspection and evaluation of the status of education, research, organization and management, and the provision of information on such status

[17] Visualize the results of self-inspection and evaluation based on objective data while incorporating external opinions, and achieve evidence-based corporate management using the results. At the same time, HU will actively disseminate information to its stakeholders, not only on its management policies and plans, their progress, and the results of its self-assessment, but also on the results of its education and research, and its contributions to the development of society so that HU will gain their understanding and support for its corporate management through interactive dialogue. ㉔

V. Other important matters concerning business operations

[18] Through the use of digital technologies including AI and Robotic Process Automation (RPA), and the use of My Number Card, etc., university functions will be upgraded, and the continuity of overall business operations will be ensured. In addition, necessary operational systems will be developed, including from the perspective of improving the efficiency of administrative systems and ensuring information security so as to promote a digital campus. ㉕