

4. FY2016 Progress

■ Common indicators and targets Internationalization

1. Expansion of the program for study at four University of California (UC) campuses to all schools beginning with the summer sessions

As a general rule, this program allows students to study for about 12 weeks in the spring semester and complete regular courses together with U.S. students at four University of California campuses. In the 2016 academic year, a total of 29 students from Meiji University studied under this program. In October 2016, Meiji University invited Cole Harry, who is in charge of this program at the University of California-Berkeley (UCB), to speak at an event titled "The 2017 Academic Year University of California-Berkeley Program." The event was attended by about 100 students wishing to study at UCB. Although the program was open only to students in the School of Political Science and Economics up to the 2016 academic year, it is being expanded to cover students in all schools beginning with the 2017 academic year. As of May 1, 2017, Meiji University was planning to send 33 students to the summer sessions held at the Berkeley, Los Angeles, Irvine, and Davis campuses of the University of California.



<Seminar of the UCB program in the 2017 academic year>

2. Appearance of Meiji University in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings

Meiji University achieved a place (801+) on the World University Rankings 2016-2017, which were released on September 21, 2016 by "Times Higher Education," a British educational magazine. It was the first time for Meiji University to appear in the Rankings. Meiji University also appeared in the Asian University Rankings 2017, the Asian edition of its rankings, released on March 15, 2017. In this edition, it placed 251+.

University reform

1. Start of operation of a comprehensive student information database and publication of the "IR Data Catalogue – 2016 Academic Year Edition"

The IR Steering Committee has newly constructed a "Student Information Database" that is linked with the student registration system; this constitutes a comprehensive store of information on individual students in all aspects, from academic record for entrance (credits earned and GPA) to career path. It has commenced provision of data for studies of ways to improve entrance exams and curricula, in consideration of learning and career paths. The Committee held a "Deans Confab on IR" based on the findings of an analytical report setting forth the key points of the data. Its members also exchanged views with faculty members in each school on the subject of "data-based improvement education." The results of these activities provided footing for publication of the "IR Data Catalogue – 2016 Academic Year edition." Besides presenting the relations between high school records and GPAs, the Catalogue sheds light on the influence exerted by GPAs on career decisions and the characteristics of selection of the type of business when seeking employment, particularly through comparisons between international and Japanese students.

Currently, the Committee is also incorporating data on the linguistic scores of Japanese students. In the future, it intends to analyze the results of studies on curriculum improvement related to international education and make related reports and proposals based on the findings.



(IR Data Catalogue)

2. Institution of the Personnel Division

As globalization progresses, the sustained advancement of universities into the future demands not only improvement of the individual capabilities of faculty but also a higher level of capacity in the organization as a whole. Toward this end, Meiji University decided to newly institute a Personnel Division, which aims to bolster personnel functions through such activities as examination of staffing arrangements, strategic faculty hiring and human resource development, and promotion of seminars to support career development.

Education reform

1. Publication of a collection of cases of active learning and faculty development (FD)

Meiji University collected cases of ingenious teaching methods already being applied by teachers in their classes and compiled them into a booklet. Titled *Collection of Cases (Active Learning, etc.) for Heightening Education Effects in Classes*, the booklet was published in January, 2017. At the same time, as a part of its FD activities, the University conducted a seminar based on this collection of cases at the Faculty Council in each school. Meiji University also introduced a timetable with 100-minute classes beginning with the 2017 academic year; this time presents good opportunities for the mutual sharing of information by teachers on knowledge they have acquired on ways of teaching classes and ingenious methods, so that each teacher could again review his or her own classes and take tips from this information.



<Collection of Cases of Active Learning>

2. Use of TOEFL and other external exams in school entrance exams

Beginning with the entrance exams for the 2018 academic year, the School of Commerce will establish an application quota and introduce the use in its general entrance exams of the results of exams of the four basic English skills. The School of Global Japanese Studies has introduced an entrance exam system for awarding the highest score (200) to applicants who have reached a certain benchmark in exams of the four English skills and exempting them from the English exam on the day of entrance exams. In addition, Meiji University is considering the use of the results of external exams for assessing English competency in all-school integrated entrance exams. In these exams, ten schools will simultaneously hold exams with the same questions so that applicants can apply for more than one school by taking just one exam; this will come into effect from the entrance exams for the 2019 academic year.

■ University's own indicators and targets

1. Opening of the English Cafe

The English Cafe is a venue for interaction between students from Japan and those from other countries. It is held mainly by first- and second-year students in the School of Arts and Letters on the Izumi Campus. In the English Cafe, international students serve as navigators in sessions held three times a week for two or three hours per session. The English Café brings the participants into contact with the cultures of other countries around the world and ordinary conversation in English. Besides improving linguistic and communication skills, the purpose of the sessions lies in nurturing ability for mutual intercultural understanding. In addition, as a trial project conducted in advance of the Discover Japan program, in which Japanese students will introduce Japan to people from other countries in English, the English Cafe confirmed that it was possible to enliven venues for co-learning through mutual interaction.



(A session of the English Cafe)

■ Initiatives for the enhancement of international reputation/ Featured initiatives based on the characteristics of the university

1. Math Everywhere: Meiji University *doing* mathematical sciences – elucidation of complex phenomena by modeling

Meiji University is a comprehensive urban university whose campuses are located in the central part of Tokyo, one of the world's major cities. The adjective "urban" does not just refer to its site in the national capital; Meiji University is also characterized by its ongoing buildup of knowledge and extensive advanced research.

In the 2016 academic year, a program in which the Meiji Institute for the Advanced Study of Mathematical Sciences (MIMS) was a planning participant was selected for the Private University Branding Project (Type B: Research for the World) by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. The program is titled "Math Everywhere: Meiji University *doing* mathematical sciences – elucidation of complex phenomena by modeling." It is being given support for five years.

The program has defined the following five research agenda: 1) mathematical model-based elucidation of self-organization and collapse in biological and social systems; 2) mathematical modeling approach to elucidation and utilization of illusory phenomena; 3) statistical modeling approach to mechanism elucidation of financial crises; 4) geometric model-based contribution to origami folding for driving industrial innovation; and 5) design of comfortable nursing care space using human sensitivity models based on machine learning. Through research on these agenda, the program will attempt to clarify urgent issues related to complicated phenomena appearing in society.

■ Free description

1. Initiation of the project for collaboration with 15 ASEAN & CLMV universities

In response to an application by Meiji University, its project "Creation of Innovative Educational System for Sustainable Societies and Urban Growth in CLMV" was selected for the FY2016 Re-Inventing Japan Project in the Type B category (Support for the Formation of Collaborative Programs with Universities in the ASEAN Region). The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology had issued a call for applications for the Project.

Recent years have seen remarkably rapid economic growth in the countries of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam (CLMV). This fast-paced urbanization, however, holds the risk of causing various problems such as overpopulation in cities, depopulation (and population aging) in rural areas, environmental destruction and pollution, and income disparities between different parts of the country. A look at the actual situation in CLMV neighboring countries reveals that the correction of such problems takes considerable time and comes at a great cost. In light of this situation, the project is aimed at preparing a vision for Asian-style progressive cities of the future based on the lessons learned from Japan's past experience and also devising a co-creation educational system for bringing this vision into reality. It is being implemented together with 15 partner universities in ASEAN and CLMV countries.

Through collaboration in the project, the Meiji University students and students in the developing CLMV countries will acquire an understanding of the problems in their respective countries from different perspectives. At the same time, they will become aware of the uniqueness of those problems and acquire the specialized knowledge and capacity needed to overcome differences in stages of economic and technical advancement and thus deal with shared problems. The project is aimed at developing human resources able to reach practical agreements and form (co-create) value while transcending differences of language and culture.

2. Courtesy call on the UN Secretary-General

On May 1, 2017, a group led by President Keiichiro Tsuchiya of Meiji University paid a courtesy call on Antonio Guterres (awarded an honorary doctorate by Meiji University in 2014), on the occasion of his inauguration as secretary-general of the United Nations. Meiji University conferred this degree on Mr. Guterres out of its high regard for his social achievements and tremendous contribution to resolving humanitarian issues toward the goal of world peace. During their visit, the Meiji University group congratulated Mr. Guterres once again on his appointment as secretary-general and expressed their hopes for his contribution to world peace. They then described the current state of Meiji University's entrance exams for refugees and approaches to refugee problems, and received advice from Mr. Guterres on these issues.



"UN Photo / Eskinder Debebe"

(Mr. Guterres and President Tsuchiya exchanging a firm handshake)