Yokohama National University's Grand Design

Since its establishment, Yokohama National University has fostered the development of practice-oriented knowledge through education and research under a liberal ethos and in line with its principles of "Be Active, Be Innovative, Be Open, Be Global." At the same time, it has worked to share this knowledge with the community, educating individuals to assume key roles in society and disseminating a wealth of research findings contributing to social infrastructure.

Our university's mission is to contribute to human welfare and the ongoing development of society, and we consider it our responsibility to equip students with sophisticated practice-oriented research skills and professional expertise. We aim at discharging our social responsibility as a national university under the institution-wide goal of development as a university for global network in academic and applied disciplines.

With these ideals as a foundation, Yokohama National University will develop its distinctive institutional character, and continue to cultivate knowledge and share the fruits of that knowledge with society through the practice of advanced and applied education grounded in high-level research.

Becoming a University for Global Network in Academic and Applied Disciplines

YNU research initiative *2010*

with I³ Research: Intelligent, Innovative and International research
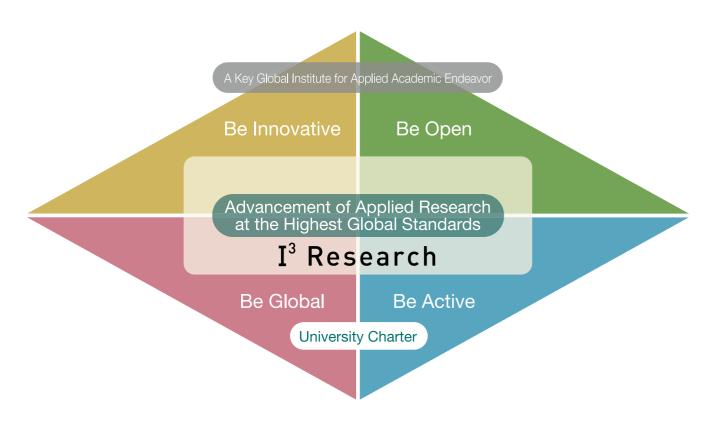
YNU
YOKOHAMA National University

A Key Global Institute for Applied Academic Endeavor

The advent of a new millennium has renewed our awareness of global-scale challenges such as living in harmony with the environment, tackling uneven distribution of resources, and handling cross-cultural conflicts. The role of science in addressing these issues and supporting the well-being of all humankind has never been more significant.

This publication outlines the "YNU Research Initiative 2010: A Key Institute for Applied Academic Endeavor" formulated by Yokohama National University. This Research Initiative will be used as the framework for establishing our identity as an academic institution that creates and applies knowledge founded in scientific inquiry.

Diagram

A Key Global Institute for Applied Academic Endeavor

Be Innovative | Be Open

Advancement of Applied Research at the Highest Global Standards

I^3 Research

Be Global | Be Active

University Charter

1 | Concept

Research Concept: Creation and Application of Knowledge

We will create and apply knowledge that is grounded in scientific inquiry and contributes to the sustainable development of society and the welfare of humankind.

2 | Policy

Research Activity Policy: Advanced Research and Training

We will apply the "I^3" concept of advanced research that is Intelligent, Innovative, International and ensure compliance with ethical principles in research. Through this, we will become a key global institute for applied academic endeavor that both creates and applies knowledge. We will bolster our research capacity, which also underpins our educational capacity, and train individuals who can lead society forward through academic research.

3 | Action   Action: Continual Evolution

3-1 Researchers and their organization

■ **Establishing standards of research practice**
We will set clear research performance benchmarks and evaluation standards for use in recruitment and promotion of researchers, and advance the standards of research practice across the entire university to a level considered top-class in global terms.

■ **Fostering core research personnel**
We will provide support for our core research personnel—researchers who are leaders in their fields within Japan or globally—and develop research activity centers around them. We will also work to cultivate more core researchers by diversifying our recruitment procedures and actively publicizing research outputs.

■ **Taking up new fields and joint research initiatives**
We will push forward with the formation of new research projects involving collaboration between two or more core research personnel. We will also furnish opportunities for interaction and exchange among researchers both within and outside the university, and support the development of joint research initiatives and projects in new fields of inquiry.

■ **Supporting young researchers**
Various levels of the organization will offer young researchers guidance and support regarding the management of research labs, advancement of research projects, and procurement of funds, helping them to develop into core research personnel.

3-2 Servicing and enhancement of research environments

■ **Gathering and utilizing research-related information**
We will collect information from external sources—such as calls for research funding applications—as well as internal data on the activities of university researchers. This information will be evaluated, analyzed, and supplied to researchers themselves, as well as used to propose to individual researchers or research teams research project applications and other initiatives aimed at raising the level of research.

■ **Supporting research activity**
In line with the content and scale of external funding secured by each researcher, we will furnish assistance in a variety of forms, including the appointment of support staff and the preferential allocation of research space.

■ **Augmenting fundamental common research facilities, equipment, and information systems**
We will improve common-use facilities that support research activity, fundamental research equipment, and information infrastructure such as databases.

■ **Securing time for research**
We will undertake reviews and streamline work duties, endeavoring to safeguard research time and to institute systems such as exemption from university service work for researchers engaged in projects in new fields.

4 | Tie-up   Community Tie-ups: Application of Knowledge and Furtherance of Practice-Oriented Research

■ **Promoting joint research**
We will promote joint research initiatives through an expanded role as a center for partnerships across industry, government, and academia, contributing to the community through research and enabling new research subjects to be identified.

■ **Developing practice-based education**
We will use partnerships with industry and government to develop initiatives in practice-based education for students, re-education of technical experts, lifelong education, and early-stage human resource development.