



MESSAGE  
FROM  
THE PRESIDENT

**Takashi Ohyama**  
President

## Goals and Plans for the Year 2012

**Happy New Year!**

I hope you all enjoyed the New Year holiday with your families.

I appreciate the support you provided throughout 2011, and the chance to greet the New Year with you. I would like to ask you to take good care of yourselves, and to continue to give your great support for the development of our school.

**Operational Subsidy and Budget for Facility Improvements**

At the end of last year, the university received an unofficial announcement regarding the upcoming operational subsidy and the budget for facility improvements for 2012.

The operational subsidy is likely to be a little over 15.01 billion yen, which is a decrease of more than 540 million yen from the year before. Nevertheless, our special subsidy for operating costs has been increased by more than 300 million yen, particularly due to adoption of three new projects. In addition, although we did not request a subsidy for operating costs of the university hospitals in 2012, a subsidy has been allocated to reinforce the functions of the university hospitals. Thus, the overall reduction of the operational subsidy turned out to be small, which is certainly a relief. This advantageous result is due to the wisdom and efforts of our professors and admin-

President Ohyama, standing in front of a new display space on the west side of Akio Suzuki Hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of M&D Tower. The displayed pictures are refreshed twice a year and highlight important events and milestones in TMDU's history.

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istrative staff. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all of you.

As for facility improvements, the demolition of former Building #3, connected to the university hospitals, is now nearly complete. This year, construction of a parking lot, an automated bicycle parking lot, a taxi stand, a walking path and a recreation area are underway, along with construction of grounds in front of the hospital and M&D Tower. These projects should be completed in the summer of 2013. The end result is that, in two years, we will have created a new atmosphere at Tokyo Medical and Dental University.

### **Integrative Education of Medicine and Dentistry**

As for medical and dental education reform, our new curriculum, “Integrative Education of Medicine and Dentistry” will be implemented this year.

The age distribution of Japan’s population and the composition of its disease structure are changing rapidly. Hence, when we face a patient, we can no longer respond to his/her needs adequately with our area of expertise alone.

Especially for the sake of elderly people, doctors and dentists need to have knowledge of both medicine and dentistry, and we thus need to facilitate further cooperation between the fields of medicine and dentistry.

Our aim in this regard is to create curricula for medical and dental education which nurture doctors and dentists who thoroughly understand this new reality. Creating appropriate curricula and implement-

ing them in a way to optimally achieve our goals is possible due to the fact that our university is capable. But even so, we need your wisdom and support to achieve this necessary and salutary objective.

### **Review of Our Research Organization and Promotion of Large-Scale Research Projects**

The research arena that our school aims at is productive cooperation between our medicine, dentistry, science and engineering departments. We have already reorganized our Inter-Ministerial Research & Development Division, which includes a research laboratory for intractable diseases and a biomaterials engineering laboratory, in an attempt to create and accelerate large-scale interdisciplinary research projects. In addition, we are discussing the best way of facilitating cooperation between this Division and the Graduate School of Healthcare Sciences.

Finally, we are newly establishing a bio-resource center as a formulation of the basic research foundations this year. By consolidating valuable bio-resources throughout our entire school, we will be able to make best use of them in a wide variety of ways, as well as preventing idle disposal or storage. I am expecting that this optimal allocation of resources will be a great contribution to promotion of basic/clinical research.

To best utilize these valuable resources, I hope to position the center to be a place which is able to respond to requests from pharmaceutical companies, other universities and research centers, and enable further and accelerated development.



### **Administrative Operation Policy of Our University Hospitals**

As for administrative operation policy, we must enrich and promote our community healthcare function, which is the mission of our university hospitals, our training and development functions, and our research and development functions, making sure to maintain them in equilibrium. Currently, departments of diagnosis and treatment exist independently of each other, but it may be necessary to create a center for diseases which require comprehensive, cross-sectional diagnosis. In addition very practical ideas for cancer, sports medicine and promotion of healthy longevity are being developed.

### **Promotion of International Exchanges/Contributions**

It is needless to say that the overseas research bases of our school are places for us to promote research as well as to cultivate human resources, but we are also going to actively use these centers to cultivate our students’ sensibilities as members of the international community.

Regarding these overseas research facilities, we have already dispatched resident researchers to them. Moreover, we have recently begun the annual dispatch of six medical students for research training to Ghana and Chile, as part of the students’ regular curriculum or project semester term.

Additionally, we dispatched two students this year to the CU-TMDU Research and Educational Collaboration Center at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand.

In particular, we are willing to use this research center in Thailand as a base or platform for joint research/human resources cultivation for medicine, dentistry, science and engineering in Asia.

Although our students are dispatched overseas for only a short period of time, they are able to experi-

ence life overseas, learn what it is like to be an expatriate researcher by working with resident researchers at the overseas bases, and see how they can make international contributions to their field. Furthermore, these students experience the pleasure of joint research and the joy of cultivating human resources on-site by observing the resident researchers while in school. I hope they will look back on their experience as having been essential in raising their level of motivation and helping them visualize their future as members of the international community.

We have also established an overseas fellowship for graduate students, rewarding their academic and research performance, in an attempt to nurture leading experts in highly-specialized medical practice.

On the other hand, as a center of learning and research in Asia, we must do our part to cultivate human resources by accepting young researchers of great promise and international origin at our school as well as dispatching domestic students overseas. We now have more than 190 foreign students from 23 Asian countries (altogether representing 90% of our international students), and we have by far the majority of international students in medicine/dentistry/engineering fields in Japan.

In addition to the above activities we hold an annual International Summer Program (ISP). We held the 3<sup>rd</sup> ISP last year, and have already accepted brilliant students from that and previous ISPs into our doctoral program. In order to actively promote acceptance of these students well into the future, we have established a separate scholarship program for selected ISP attendees, in addition to the governmental scholarship fund under which many international students attend university in Japan.

It is my fervent desire that we steadily promote such international strategies at our school.

In conclusion, these are my hopes and prayers for the New Year. I look forward to continuing to work with you for maximal development of our school through meticulous exchange of opinions as well as information. I would like to ask you, our TMDU professors and administrative staff, for your understanding and continuous support for this year as we make our way forward and create our future.

Takashi Ohyama, President