

Thoughts One Year after Taking Office

On April 1, 2014 I took office as president. I believe it is essential to the management of the university that we provide an environment in which our faculty and staff, students, and alumni can strive towards and participate in a shared vision of TMDU's future.

Immediately after taking office, I reorganized the university leadership structure by establishing the new positions of Executive Director and Deputy Director, with a clear allocation of duties and hierarchy of command, in order to achieve consistent operational outcomes. At the same time, I established the Strategic Planning Council to promote the direct participation of Executive Directors in university management and to encourage the vital exchange of information among them. I also established the Policy Planning Office to enable my own leadership activities, and to ensure that my initiatives as President are carried out promptly. Furthermore, I streamlined university operations by consolidating and realigning administrative organizations in an effort to eliminate overlapping responsibilities and to improve efficiency. I have also sought to evaluate and reward the efforts and achievements of faculty and staff, and to improve the workplace environment.

Recently I completed and released the university's vision statement laying out the future vision for the university as a basis for individual policies. The preamble to the university's Vision states: Tokyo Medical and Dental University (TMDU) is located in the Yushima/Shoheizaka area, which is considered the sacred birthplace of scholarship and learning in Japan. As a comprehensive medical university, TMDU cultivates "professionals with knowledge and humanity" who em-

bark on a lifetime of service, advancing the health and social welfare of people in the local community and spreading their wings to do the same in other communities across the globe.

In short, we at TMDU seek to contribute to the well-being of people by cultivating professionals with knowledge and humanity. The Vision addresses education, research and medical care in particular, and the importance of each member of the university being aware of their responsibilities and fulfilling their respective roles. With respect to education, we are in the process of establishing an Integrated Education Organization within the university, charged with unifying education on a university-wide basis, beginning with reform of the liberal arts, and carrying out institutional research (IR).

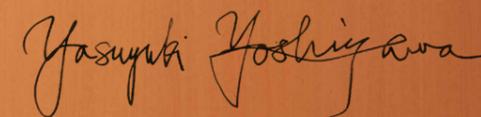
This fiscal year, we were chosen as a MEXT Super Global University with the aim of promoting global health education around the world. Prior to this, we were in the process of reorganizing our international affairs office into a new unit called the Integrated International Organization; remaking TMDU into a globalized university is one of my highest priorities. In terms of research, we have pursued ventures by merging URA, which was founded during President Ohyama's tenure, with the Research Center for Industry Alliances, leading to the creation of the Center for Medical Service Innovation. With respect to medical care, we have established the Longevity and Healthy Life Promotion Center, which promotes individualized preemptive medicine using genetic information. We also welcomed Olympic gold medalist and Doctor of Sport Science Koji Murofushi, who has been appointed professor in TMDU's newly established Sports Science Organization.

This is a representative sampling of the activities and initiatives I have worked on over the last year to define the strategy of the university.

Among the New Year cards we received this year were many encouraging messages. Both younger and older colleagues at TMDU noted that the university has increased its social visibility, while faculty members from other universities remarked that TMDU is now one of Japan's top universities and alumni living overseas expressed their deep affection for their alma mater.

I am delighted to note that recently, when I walk around the campus, I get nods of greeting not just from faculty, students and patients, but also from international students and university staff members. I will leave it up to the faculty and staff, students, graduates and society to judge the results of my first year.

Working in the spirit of my two mottos—"Do your best to be a positive thinker", and "If you know yourself, you cannot be wicked"—I will seek to earn the affection of the faculty and staff, students, alumni and patients for our university, and aim to make TMDU a world-leading comprehensive medical university.



Yasuyuki Yoshizawa, President



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