

**Kojiro Irikura** Born in Qingdao, China in 1940, Dr. Irikura graduated from Kyoto University Faculty of Science in 1963. He earned his master's degree in 1966, and his D.Sci. in 1983 while at Kyoto University. He was a research associate at the Disaster Prevention Research Institute from 1963 and became an associate professor in 1973. From 1988, he was a professor at the institute, until he retired and became a professor emeritus in Apr. 2004. In December 2003, he was appointed Vice-President of Kyoto University, and Director of Facilities, Research and International Affairs in April 2004.

Having shared seismology as their common field of research since their student days, President Oike and Dr. Irikura are now both engaged in the joint task of managing Kyoto University. Dr. Irikura lights up when the talk turns to research. His specialty of strong motion seismology is closely linked to the earthquake resistance of buildings and urban infrastructure. Accordingly, the research environment surrounding this field has advanced significantly in recent years in Japan. In November last year, Dr. Irikura launched the Kojiro Irikura Earthquake Motion Research Institute homepage at <http://www.kojiro-irikura.jp/>. In addition to performing his numerous and exacting duties as Vice-President, Dr. Irikura's work as a researcher committed to mitigating earthquake disasters and protecting the living environment of citizens, will continue for his lifetime.



---

## Site-specific characteristics of Kyoto University campuses and remote facilities

As a vice president, I am in charge of improving university facilities and promoting research and international affairs. Kyoto University is dedicated to the creation of knowledge at the highest level of excellence in a wide range of academic fields from basic sciences to advanced technologies. To keep such levels of research and education, university facilities and buildings need to be maintained in the best condition and campus amenities need to be continuously improved. The quality of education and research is closely connected to the university environments.

The University was incorporated as part of the government's administrative reforms in April, 2004. Taking this opportunity, Kyoto University will reform its academic environment under the leadership of the president based on the "Excellent University" concept.

Kyoto University has three campuses, Yoshida, Uji, and Katsura, all of which are located in Kyoto basin and form a triangle. Each campus has unique characteristics influenced by its history and regional culture.

The main campus is located in Yoshida near the center of the ancient capital of Kyoto. It is the center of education and basic sciences. There are 10 undergraduate faculties and 15 graduate schools for nurturing excellent researchers and highly cultured people. There are also seven research institutes including basic sciences, life sciences, humanities, and social sciences. These consist of seats of traditional learning and state of the art laboratories.

The Uji campus is south of the main campus. There are four excellent research institutes for chemistry, energy, sustainable humanosphere, and disaster prevention. They promote sciences and technologies for preserving the environment, mitigating disasters, and developing sustainable societies.

The Katsura campus is west of the main campus. The graduate schools of engineering and informatics are in the process

of moving to this new campus from the main campus. The campus aims at merging technology and science disciplines to form a "Techno-science hill" creating an innovative culture.

Additionally, Kyoto University has 36 remote sites located all over Japan for promoting site-specific studies. This demonstrates one of the unique features of the University to place emphasis on field sciences. Those sites offer many opportunities for developing education as well as research based on fieldwork.

Furthermore, Kyoto University has set up overseas sites for developing field sciences more efficiently. Presently progressive activities are developing in the South East Asian base to promote area study, the Shanghai base to research present-day East Asian economics, the sites in the South East Asian region and the Silicon Valley to study Informatics and Energy Science, and the South East Asian observatories and field stations to observe global environment. We will establish a network of these overseas stations to function more efficiently as regional overseas bases for promoting not only joint research but also educations.

It is my job to support improvement of research facilities, upgrading of campus amenities, and development of the academic traditions of Kyoto University. The major issue we will be focusing on is the designing of a safe and secure campus making effective use of the land under the "Excellent University" concept. This measure will bring a breath of fresh air to the traditional learning of Kyoto University. We are also confident that "the contribution to harmonious coexistence in the global society", which is the academic calling of Kyoto University, will be achieved on a higher level.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kojiro Irikura". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Kojiro Irikura  
Vice-President of Kyoto University