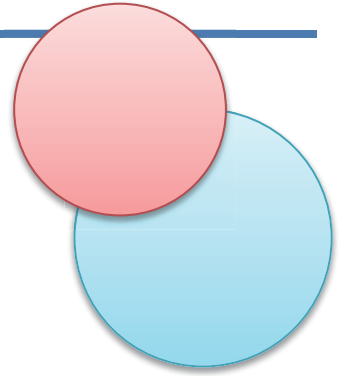

Foreword



It is my pleasure to deliver you the 2011-2012 academic year edition of Research Collection which contains the information on recent research activities at Ochanomizu University.

Ochanomizu University was originally founded as the Tokyo Women's Normal School in 1875, and has produced not only the excellent educators but also a number of pioneering female researchers. Teaching and research are closely linked, and we emphasize this connection when promoting both education and research.

One of the special features of Ochanomizu University is the frequent exchanges between and among our faculty members in different disciplines. This is possible because our university has only about 200 educators, and the faculty members who are from different fields such as humanities, and social and natural sciences are engaged in education and research on the same campus. Besides such an external environment, I believe it is also due to the commitment of each faculty member who is highly motivated to work on the new research based on the solid and common foundations.

Our university places an emphasis on basic research with the awareness of the perspectives of ordinary citizens. This means that by inquiring the essence of research itself, we engage in scientific studies with the visions that our findings can be utilized in daily life of ordinary citizens. To achieve this objective, researchers themselves are required to have advanced knowledge in their fields, and sincere attitudes as a human being.

Witnessing the catastrophic damages caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake and the nuclear power plant accidents of March 11, 2011, we were reminded of the powerlessness of the humans against the nature. Moreover, we became keenly aware that we must always be conscious about what kind of impact the science exploration and technological development have on our daily lives.

Natural science has the mission to fully explore natural conditions, and the technology makes it possible to accomplish this mission. Therefore, it is important to keep in mind how technology leads our lives and its directions. In other words, to make the research findings useful, we believe that it is important to face the fundamental questions of what the affluence means for human beings and what the development means for the society.

Wishing our education and research help the society widely, and, at the same time, the quick recovery of the earthquake-stricken areas, we would like to continue to devote to teaching and research everyday by reminding ourselves of the important role of the university.

September, 2011

HANYU Sawako
President
Ochanomizu University
