# Higher Education in a Post-COVID-19 Era

Governance and Internationalization for academia after COVID-19



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### A Comprehensive Research University - Japan's First Institution of Higher Education -

# iversity of Timbuba

### **147** Years of History and Tradition

1973 University of Tsukuba

**1949** Tokyo University of Education

1872 Founded as Higher Normal School

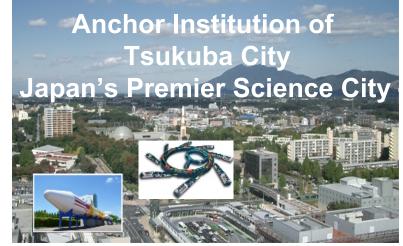
**Nobel Laureates Dr. Sin-Ichiro Tomonaga** (Physics, 1965)

Dr. Leona Esaki (Physics, 1973) Dr. Hideki Shirakawa (Chemistry, 2000)













Olympic + Paralympic Medals



### Emergency Initial Steps to Stop the Spread of COVID-19

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Quick Initial Measures Are Critical in Such Times!

- Promoting Japan's Policy of Avoiding the 3Cs
  - Closed spaces
  - Crowded places
  - Close-contact settings



- Policies from before the State of Emergency Declaration
  - Emergency establishment of Response Team headed by University Hospital Director and including all deans
  - Emergency daily tracking of students studying abroad
  - Supporting students' return to Japan (incl., travel from Narita airport)
  - Self-quarantine of students/others coming back from outside Japan and the prefecture. Dedicated use of singleoccupancy dorms for self-quarantining
  - Postponement of large gatherings
    - Graduation, matriculation
    - Conferences
    - Move to online meetings

# Current Efforts to Stop the Spread of the Virus and Provide Support

- Delay of New Academic Year
  - Start of Spring semester courses delayed to April 27<sup>th</sup>
  - Use of Saturdays to maintain rigorous academic standards
  - All courses moved online
  - Active wide-scale monitoring of learning/ course quality and student experience
  - Feedback to faculty
- Large-scale introduction of telework/remote commuting
  - Decrease in on-site work by 80%
  - All formal meetings moved online
  - Travel across prefectures cancelled
  - International travel cancelled

- Support for Students through Tsukuba Futureship Funds
  - Financial support for all undergraduate students
  - Increased TA, RA opportunities for graduate students
  - Loaning of ICT equipment necessary for online learning
  - Emergency loans for students
  - Postponement of tuition payment

Many students have lost their parttime job opportunities (which on average accounted for 25% of their monthly budget)

# Rethinking Student Mobility, International Experience

Campus-in-Campus
 Partnerships (CiC)



- CiC is a partnership among UT and its 10 strategic partners to share research and education resources
- Course Jukebox (>2,900 courses)

Study

 A platform for students to select courses and programs (incl. double and joint degrees of UT and its CiC partners)

COIL

Abroad Events Take Advantage of Course Jukebox for Virtual International Experiences/Collaborative Problembased Learning

**Joint Virtual** 

# Initiative to Jump Start Promotion of COVID-19 Research

- Purpose
  - To jump start research that can quickly provide results to society
  - Target: All academic fields including the natural, life and social sciences
- Selected Projects
  - 18 short-term projects (examples)
    - Analysis of the COVID-19 Infodemic: Japanese Media COVID-19 Content Topic Modeling
    - The Coronavirus and Mandatory Telework from Home: Effects on Regular Workers' Subjective Well-being, New Male Roles, and Job Productivity
    - The Adverse Effects on Senior Health Due to Decreased Mobility and Social Activity
  - 9 mid-term projects (examples)
    - Producing SARS-COV-2 Infected Mice With Upper Respiratory Tract Inflammation
    - Developing Methods for Continuing Running Under a State of Emergency to Prevent Corona Obesity and Depression

## Face-to-Face vs Virtual Collaboration

### **Advantages of Face to Face Learning**

- Ability to share on-site atmosphere, passion, etc.
- Ability to share physical environment
- Enhanced creativity, and to obtain novel sensory information
- Ability to nurture of understanding of local culture, values through direct communication

### **Advantages of Virtual Learning**

- Ability to develop and review knowledge across space in a timely manner
- Ability to collaborate across distances, time zones and all borders, incl. cultural.
- Enhanced inclusivity and accessibility
- Ability to hand off/push forward projects around the clock

Integrating face-to-face and virtual collaboration among students researchers, policy makers, and businesses

- 1. Taking advantages of the Campus-in-Campus Initiative
  - Resource sharing through Course Jukebox, integrating online and F2F content

- Promoting international collaborative problem-based learning/design thinking opportunities

- Promoting virtual-physical research units
- Nurturing post-COVID-19 era global leaders (joint-degree programs, CJ courses, etc.) 7

2. Tsukuba Global Science Week 2020 (combining virtual and F2F meeting)

### The Future

- Global disruptions will persistently emerge. We will need ...
  - increased, not decreased, global collaboration;
  - anticipatory and proactive, not reactive, actions;
  - participatory risk governance in collaboration with all stakeholders, including local and regional governments.
- Demand for quality education will only increase, not diminish.
  We need ...
  - increased training for educators and students to gain confidence in use of online tools, as the move to online learning has been abrupt;
  - maintenance of international partnership with sensitivity to local conditions.

### The Future

- Rethinking of International Experience. Promote...
  - blended F2F + online learning;
  - collaborative F2F and virtual problem-based learning
  - sustainable and affordable international exchange;
    - embedded experience: double degrees, joint degrees, COIL
  - enhanced inclusion and equality;
  - increased support of international exchange.
    - real-time risk management
    - management of visa problems due to disruptions
- Governance/Administration: Enhance ...
  - resilience, not efficiency;
  - multiple streams of knowledge;
  - enhance infrastructure (knowledge databanks, etc.) and capability for large scale remote work;
  - transparency in risk management

### IMAGINE THE FUTURE

Thank you very much !

### どうもありがとうございます。

## Appendix: Timeline of Major Events

Jan. 2020

- Early to mid-January: Increased news of novels infections in Wuhan China
- Jan. 16<sup>-</sup> Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare announces first case in Japan (visitor).
- Jan. 28: First case is reported of person who had not traveled abroad.
- Jan. 31: Japanese government issues travel warning to China.

#### Feb. 2020

- Feb. 3<sup>:</sup> Passengers on the Diamond Princess are quarantined.
- Feb. 13: Japan records first death.
- Feb. 22: US CDC issues advisory warning for travel to Japan.
- Feb. 27: PM Abe requests all elementary, junior high and high schools to close temporarily.

#### March 2020

- March 4: 1,000 cases of infections are recorded.
- March 5: De facto entry ban for travelers from China, South Korea, and Iran are issued.
- March 11: WHO declares spread of new coronavirus a pandemic.
- Mid- March: Numerous travel bans to and from Japan are instated.
- March 24: Japan postpones Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

#### April 2020

- April 3: De facto travel shutdown of all travel to Japan
- April 5: Deaths from COVID-19 in Japan top 100.
- April 7: State of emergency for seven prefectures is declared.
- April 16: State of emergency is expanded to all prefectures. Over 10,000 cases are recorded.
- May 2020
  - May 2: Deaths in Japan top 500.
  - May 4: State of emergency extended until May 31.
  - May 14: State of emergency is lifted in 39 (out of 47) prefectures.
  - May 21: State of emergency is lifted in 3 more prefectures.
  - May 25: State of emergency is ended nationwide.
  - May 29: Total number of cases as of June 8, 2020: 17,914 cases; deaths: 929