

KEIO UNIVERSITY IGNITING JAPANESE SOCIAL INNOVATION

Keio University



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eio university is the oldest and one of the most prestigious universities in Japan, with a history that dates back more than 150 years. Located in the heart of Tokyo, Keio is a forward-looking, progressive institution founded on principles of scientific realism and Western philosophy, and is focused on enhancing the globalization of education in Japan.

Keio was founded by Yukichi Fukuzawa (1835–1901), an educator and intellectual leader who is considered a pioneer of modern Japan. Fukuzawa was born to a samurai family during the final years of the Edo period. He founded Keio Gijuku in 1858, as a school for Western learning in Edo, today's Tokyo. Keio Gijuku was characterized by its tenets of self-respect and independence of mind combined with an emphasis on jitsugaku (science). The school began offering university education in 1890, setting up its first departments in literature, economics and law, and has since continued to establish a firm reputation as a leading university in Japan. Indeed, Keio has a long history of attracting some of the world's brightest minds. For example, in 1922, the year after he won the Nobel Prize in Physics, Albert Einstein visited the university to deliver a five-hour speech, his first in Japan, in front of an audience of over 2,000 people.

Fukuzawa believed the best way for Japan to catch up with Western technology and social systems was to always strive for progress and enlightenment, and provide the academic and moral education needed to create a generation of wise and capable leaders. Graduates of Keio include prominent leaders and historical figures in all walks of life, including former prime minister, Junichiro Koizumi, and highly regarded people in the Japanese business world such as Toyota Motor Corp's incumbent chief executive officer, Akio Toyoda. Notable astronauts, writers, scientists, intellectuals and artists also number among Keio alumni.

This is also reflected by Keio's 9th place ranking in the *Times Higher Education* Alma Mater Index: Global Executives in 2013. The index ranks institutions by the number of degrees they have awarded to CEOs of Fortune Global 500 companies.

Thinking for oneself, taking responsibility for one's actions and *jitsugaku* (science)



Handwritten manuscripts and letters by Albert Einstein donated to Keio University.



are basic principles held dear by Fukuzawa that Keio continues to uphold to this day. Fukuzawa emphasized the importance of freedom, equality and lifelong learning. He noted, "Heaven does not create one man above or below another man." Fukuzawa is honoured on the 10,000 yen note, Japan's highest denomination.

APPLYING JITSUGAKU (SCIENCE) TO SOLVE GLOBAL PROBLEMS

Keio is a comprehensive higher education institution located on six campuses across the greater Tokyo area. It has 10 undergraduate faculties, 14 graduate schools and approximately 30 research centres and institutes, including a university hospital. The institution's affiliates include two primary schools, three junior high schools, and five high schools, including one in New York. Keio is a unique academic entity that offers lifelong education. Keio has partnerships which include 266 overseas institutions and 9 international organizations in 41 countries. Partner universities include Harvard Medical School, Columbia University, Stanford University, the University of Oxford, and the University of London. International organization partnerships include the Asian Development Bank, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and UNESCO.

"Keio University continues to make intellectual contributions to Japan and the world to create such affluent ageing societies."

Drawing on its vast research expertise, Keio is now focused on solving challenges in order to realize a prosperous supermature society. This includes finding ways to promote a sustainable society while nurturing the next generation and maintaining the health of those in the prime of life and beyond.

"Today, Japan has the world's highest longevity rate. If we can establish our country as a model for a vibrant and prosperous ageing society, it means that we can set a precedent for other countries that are also greying. Keio University continues to make intellectual contributions to Japan and the world to create such affluent ageing societies," says Keio University President Atsushi Seike.

In recognition of its strengths in research and education, Keio University was recently selected by Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology as one of the 13 top Japanese universities in the 2014 Top Global University Project. This 10-year grant will further strengthen Keio's capacity to promote research and education in various important fields.

Under the Top Global University Project, Keio will set up three clusters focusing on Longevity, Security, and Creativity, which will all contribute to its goal of attaining sustainable development of a super-mature society. These three multidisciplinary clusters will draw on Keio's unique heritage of innovation and *jitsugaku* (science), and harness the power of the university's strong network of collaborations with industry, academia and international organizations.

For example, the Longevity Cluster will focus on developing innovative solutions to the problems posed by ageing societies. It will adopt a three-pronged holistic approach that will involve considering health matters, sociopolitical issues and technological solutions; examples of each of these aspects include the development of regenerative medicine based on stem cell technology, research into the politics of ageing societies, and the use of robots to undertake nursing duties, respectively.

In the Security Cluster, Keio researchers will explore security issues relating to social, economic and geopolitical risks. Such security issues include global pollution, cyber



Professor Atsushi Seike, president of Keio University.

security in financial markets and regional security in East Asia.

Meanwhile, researchers in the Creativity Cluster will investigate telecommunication and analytical technologies as well as new materials such as plastic optical fibres. In addition, they will investigate new forms of expression in new media and participate in inter-university consortia such as the Global Innovation Design programme. Finally, Keio Business School, the first in Japan to be accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, will undertake research on topics that include value creation through outstanding marketing and human resource management.

By consistently emphasizing the philosophy of *jitsugaku* (science), Keio will continue to provide leadership for the future through its commitment to education, research and medicine. Its progressive environment helps students and researchers in their pursuit of excellence, both as researchers and as individuals, and enriches global society.