1. Outline

【 Name of project 】
 Fostering Global ICT Innovators through the Combined Effects of Spirit, Technology, and Adaptability

【 Future vision of the university planned in the TGU project 】
 The purpose of the proposal is to establish an environment, as a leading university in the ICT field, that continues to promote global education while taking into account practices in global education that have been continuing since the foundation of the university over 20 years ago. In order to achieve the goal mentioned above, the following three main concepts are principally utilized in this project.
(1) "Spirit": Develop entrepreneurship through ICT innovation in order to play a leading role in the world.
(2) "Technology": Foster strong competitiveness in ICT design, development, and application skills.
(3) "Adaptability": Increase multicultural understanding, idea design, team coordination, and leadership skills.
 Based on these three concepts, the university will produce excellent talent playing leading roles in the world, working for regional companies or ventures. By doing this, the university will contribute to the development of regional industry and post-disaster revitalization. In addition, the university will enhance its hub function in the international ICT field to act as a gateway bridging this region to the rest of the world.
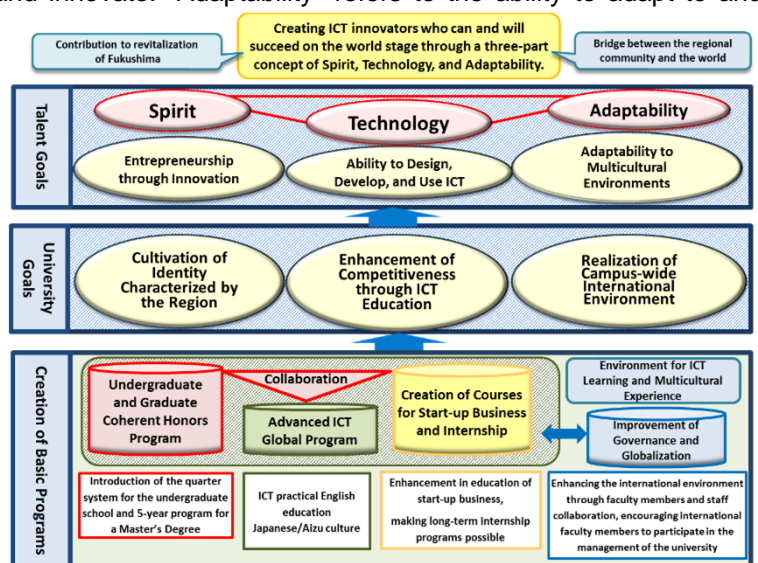
【 Summary of the Project 】
 Through the development of a multicultural campus under the three-part concept of Spirit, Technology, and Adaptability, this project aims to create ICT innovators who can and will succeed on the world stage. The University of Aizu, a public university specialized in the ICT field, is dedicated to becoming a model advanced university. The concept of "Spirit, Technology, and Adaptability" represents the three elements essential to future ICT specialists. "Spirit" refers to the will to create innovation that reaches out worldwide. "Technology" refers to the highly-competitive technical skillset enabling one to design, develop, and innovate. "Adaptability" refers to the ability to adapt to and integrate into a multi-cultural environment.
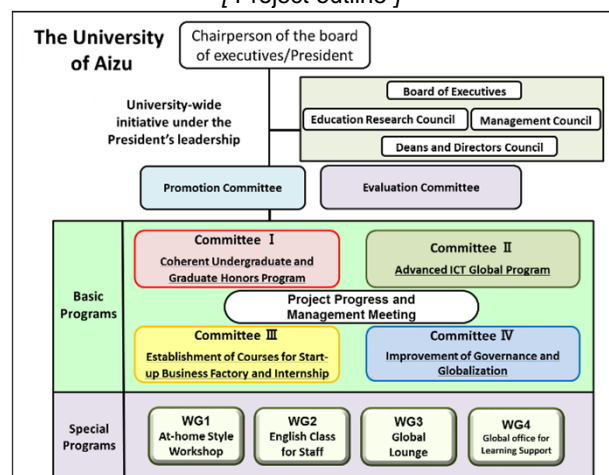
 To foster specialists with the ability of " Spirit, Technology, and Adaptability", reform will be carried out with four Basic Programs under the university president's leadership. At the same time, "Special Programs" based on faculty and staff proposals will be implemented in parallel as a means of improving the motivation of faculty members and staff.

 Under the leadership of the university president, a promotion committee (committee for promotion of the project) was established. The committee members are composed of faculty and administrative staff from all departments, divisions and centers. Furthermore, an evaluation committee (committee for evaluation of the project) was established. Most of these members are from regional communities and industries. This committee evaluates the direction, progress, and effects of the project implementation, and directly sends feedback to the promotion committee.

 In addition, four committees were established corresponding to the four Basic Programs. Each regent of our university serves as the head of a committee. Furthermore, four working groups (WG) were established for the four Special Programs. The members of these groups mainly consist of faculty, administrative staff, students, and employees of regional companies and venture businesses.
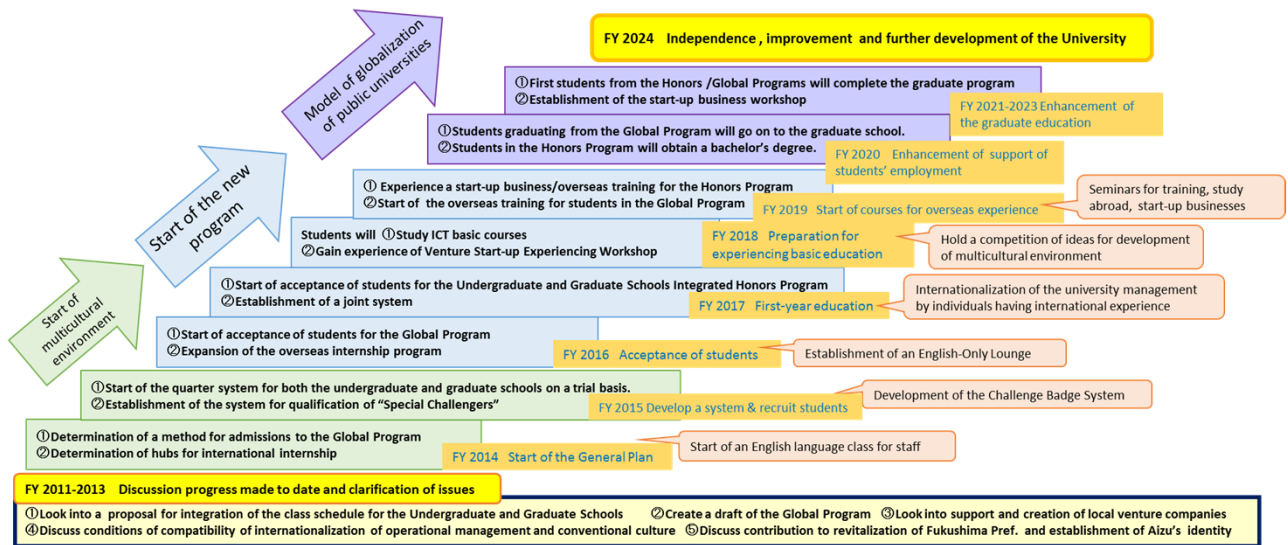

[Project outline]

[Implementation system]

【Summary of the 10-year plan】

Based on our potential for internationalization, and on problems recognized from past experiences, UoA has already started a reformation process. We will continue the reforms to realize a multicultural campus that fosters ICT talent.

Model of globalization of public universities

Start of the new program

Start of multicultural environment

FY 2024　Independence , improvement and further development of the University

①First students from the Honors /Global Programs will complete the graduate program
②Establishment of the start-up business workshop

FY 2021-2023 Enhancement of the graduate education

①Students graduating from the Global Program will go on to the graduate school.
②Students in the Honors Program will obtain a bachelor's degree.

FY 2020　Enhancement of support of students' employment

① Experience a start-up business/overseas training for the Honors Program
②Start of the overseas training for students in the Global Program

FY 2019　Start of courses for overseas experience

Seminars for training, study abroad, start-up businesses

Students will ①Study ICT basic courses
②Gain experience of Venture Start-up Experiencing Workshop

FY 2018　Preparation for experiencing basic education

Hold a competition of ideas for development of multicultural environment

①Start of acceptance of students for the Undergraduate and Graduate Schools Integrated Honors Program
②Establishment of a joint system

FY 2017　First-year education

Internationalization of the university management by individuals having international experience

①Start of acceptance of students for the Global Program
②Expansion of the overseas internship program

FY 2016　Acceptance of students

Establishment of an English-Only Lounge

①Start of the quarter system for both the undergraduate and graduate schools on a trial basis.
②Establishment of the system for qualification of "Special Challengers"

FY 2015 Develop a system & recruit students

Development of the Challenge Badge System

①Determination of a method for admissions to the Global Program
②Determination of hubs for international internship

FY 2014　Start of the General Plan

Start of an English language class for staff

FY 2011-2013　Discussion progress made to date and clarification of issues

①Look into a proposal for integration of the class schedule for the Undergraduate and Graduate Schools　②Create a draft of the Global Program　③Look into support and creation of local venture companies
④Discuss conditions of compatibility of internationalization of operational management and conventional culture　⑤Discuss contribution to revitalization of Fukushima Pref. and establishment of Aizu's identity

[10-year schedule]

【Featured initiatives (Internationalization, University reform, Education reform)】

The four "Basic Programs" are designed based on our experience of global ICT education. Further, the "Special Programs" aim to solve issues by supplementing the basic programs, such as by strengthening the function of the Office for Learning Support, and by creating English classes for administrative staff members, etc.

<Four Basic Programs>

1. "Creation of an Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate School Honors Program." This program, through improvement of the curriculum composition, will realize consistency between the undergraduate and graduate programs, and allow a flexible course-taking path.
2. "Creation of a Leading-Edge ICT Global Program." This program will allow undergraduate students to enroll at our university and take all courses using only English, as is currently possible with the graduate school.
3. "Technical Innovation/Foundation for Creation of Overseas Training Courses." This program will provide project-based learning and business-creation education to foster students' entrepreneurship using high-tech skills.
4. "Improvement of Governance and Globalization." This program aims to increase the level of internationalization and work efficiency of all faculty members and administrative staff.

Additionally, in order to promote students' proactive participation in these programs, a "Challenger Badge" system will be introduced as a means of evaluating and encouraging students who have participated in these programs. Furthermore, students who have achieved superior results in the previously-mentioned activities will obtain "Special Challenger" certification. The system will help faculty, staff, and students work together to create a multicultural campus.

			Undergraduate and Graduate Coherent Honors Program	(Enhancement) Introduction of the quarter system for the undergraduate school (Enhancement) 5-year coherent program for a Master's Degree (New) Special one-year experiences for students, such as overseas training, business start-up, and internship
From the world to Aizu	The University of Aizu	UoA's Characteristics / Advanced ICT education / Complete International Education / Outstanding Entrepreneurship	Advanced ICT Global Program	(New) Graduation possible with coursework entirely in English (New) International standards adopted for the entrance examination (New) Deep understanding of Japanese and Aizu area cultures (Enhancement) Collaboration with overseas partner universities
		University Goals	Creation of Courses for Start-up Business	(New) Foster entrepreneurship: not only to undergraduates, but also to graduate students
			Internship	(Enhancement) Student education in cooperation with overseas partner universities (Enhancement) Internship in overseas companies and/or regional ventures (Enhancement) Adaptability to multicultural environments
			Improvement of Governance and Globalization	(Enhancement) Prompt and flexible decision-making (Enhancement) Smooth communications and administrative process in English (Enhancement) Employment of staff who have rich international experience

People who have Sprit, Technology and Adaptability, to play a leading role in the world
From Aizu to the world

[UoA's characteristics and university goals]

2. FY2014 Progress

■ Common indicators and targets

Internationalization

ICT Global Program: All credits required for graduation can be earned in English.

-> It improves the UoA's diversity and international openness, and supports study abroad

Overview of the ICT Global Program

A. Eligible individuals: Students capable of taking classes entirely taught in English

B. Schedule of enrollment: Acceptance of 3rd year transfer and 1st year students

C. Entrance examinations: adopting international standards.

Features of ICT Global Program

• Students can learn about traditional Japanese culture and the culture of Aizu.

• Students can study at the UoA using only English.

• Students can obtain more opportunities for overseas study and internships.

• Students can earn a Bachelor's and Master's degree through the Honors Program, a coherent five-year program.

A committee (committee II) was established for developing the ICT Global Program, which allows students to earn all the credits required for graduation in English. The main topics in this committee include student recruiting methods, admission system design, English-only curriculum development, and life support for students. To recruit excellent students, the members visited overseas universities such as Chinese and Vietnamese universities and built partnerships with them. 3rd-year transfer students are scheduled to be accepted from partner universities from Fall AY2016. Acceptance of 1st-year students will start from Spring AY2017.

To establish the program, the number of courses taught in English will be increased. Furthermore, we will establish courses for international students learning about Japanese and Aizu culture in English. In addition, Japanese language courses are designed to help students smoothly adapt to living in Japan.

Before starting the program, some discussions have been undergoing such as evaluation standard of English ability, international standards and external exams for admission, online admission system, and recruiting of excellent students. Moreover, to sufficiently handle the increased number of students, student support methods were discussed, such as tuition exemption and scholarships for international students, as well as the issue of student dormitories.

University reform

Investigations and discussion regarding governance reform

→ Innovation to promote making quick administrative decisions, to hire staff having an international outlook, and to increase the ability of administrative staff

Under the President's leadership, the University of Aizu has started various meetings like weekly Directors Meetings, where executives and managers including foreign faculty participate. A management system has been created for faculty members and staff to share the President's intensions and make quick decisions.

In order to promote further internationalization of the University of Aizu, the Governance Improvement Committee (Committee IV) was established in FY2014. It worked to tackle problems regarding the governance function and the duties of faculty members and staff. These problems were separated into three categories: problems where a policy had been set, those that have been solved, and those still being discussed. In particular, the following work was carried out in FY2014: 1) Enhancing efficiency of administration by improving the spoken English of admin. staff, 2) Adding English evaluations in new staff employment, and 3) Promoting a paperless office to improve resource saving.

Education reform

A coherent five-year program, namely the Honors Program, will be established to improve our university.

→ To improve our education level, promote students' self-directed learning, and increase international openness.

→ To assure the international commonality of the educational program and to provide diversity of academic path.

Honors Program	Honor	Opportunity	Support	Qualification
	Obtain certification of "Talented Students"	Obtain more experience in a shorter time	Obtain more support to improve skills	Obtain qualification of "Honors"

The Honors Program integrating the undergraduate and graduate schools is a specialized program for talented students. This program offers the bachelor degree and master's degree in five years. Students who join the program will be able to participate in long-term internships at venture companies and/or study abroad at foreign institutions during their academic enrollment term. This initiative will foster students' entrepreneurship and improve their ICT skills.

The Honors Program committee (Committee I) was established in FY 2014. The main work in FY 2015 is to create a practical regulation system and to decide on an applicant screening method for the program.

To help students earn master's degrees in only 5 years, Project-Based Learning (PBL) and Active Learning will be introduced as part of an effort to increase and secure high-quality learning hours.

Furthermore, to offer students a wide variety of opportunities in a shorter period of time, Committee I started discussion on establishment of a student support system. This initiative includes, for instance, introducing students to internships in companies, assigning students to laboratories at an earlier period, and offering official permission for extracurricular activities during lecture hours.

The current undergraduate school uses the semester system, but the graduate school uses the quarter system. The separated systems limit students from earning credits, even though undergraduate students can take courses at the graduate school.

To facilitate a coherent academic term system into both undergraduate and graduate schools, we started discussion on implementation of the quarter system in the undergraduate school.

Meanwhile, curriculum renewal was conducted to meet the ACM and IEEE Computer Society's international standards as written in CSC 2013, the Curriculum Guidelines for Undergraduate Degree Programs in Computer Science.

■ The university's own indicators and targets

A. Challenger Badge System
B. Special Challenger Qualification

Features of Challenger Badge System

This system will record students participating in multicultural activities conducted on and off campus. The system will help students acquire, record and display their badges, which can increase students' motivation to participate in relevant activities and encourage them to realize their individual aptitude.

In FY 2014, the basic platform for Challenger Badge development was introduced. In FY 2015, education requirements and system design will be discussed and proceeded. The capability of students qualified as Special Challengers and qualification requirements will be discussed as one of the new internal systems.

C. Project related to support for revitalization

In order to conduct revitalization support activities in a systematic and continuous manner, the necessary environment has been provided to conduct and promote advanced ICT research. Revitalization projects have been conducted for the nurturing of ICT specialists.

D. Participation in business idea contests

The student team "SpiritualDB" won the grand prize at "JPHACKS" in 2014, an event organized by the University of Tokyo.

One of our student teams, "AizukkYYY" participated in the Asia Regional Contest of ACM-ICPC and placed eighth in 2014.

E. Activities for regional community rejuvenation

Students from the "Aizu Entrepreneurs Club" and Workshops for Start-up Ventures have made and implemented proposals aiming at the rejuvenation of Fukushima and the Aizu region.

A non-profit organization organized mainly by UoA students has introduced Fukushima food products by cooking dishes using recipes from different countries.

A team composed of Japanese and international students worked to spread information on the charms of "Nakagoya" (a community in Minami-Aizu-machi) through working on several different events together with members of the community.

F. Students who participated in study abroad programs and overseas internship programs

18 students registered for "Global Experience Gateway," an intensive English language course for students to earn credits by participating in short-term study abroad programs, etc. In addition, some students participated in two/three-month study abroad programs (USA and New Zealand).

Dinner with host-family in NZ

G. Education support in ICT developing countries

Our faculty members visited Myanmar, China, Nigeria, Vietnam, etc. to provide education support to foreign universities.

■ Featured initiatives based on characteristics of the university

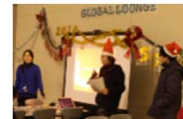| 心 SPIRIT Entrepreneurial Aspirations through ICT Innovation	技 TECHNOLOGY Ability in ICT Design, Development, and Application	体 ADAPTABILITY Adaptability to multicultural environments
Universities in Silicon Valley (USA) and in Dalian (China) have been shortlisted as candidate hub sites of the University of Aizu. Short-term education programs and internships may be realized in Silicon Valley.	Strengthen students' design and development abilities by offering new courses and existing Project-Based Learning (PBL) courses.	Established "Global Lounge" where students, faculty members, and staff can enjoy communication in English freely for removing language barrier between international students and Japanese students.
A hotline seminar was held with Silicon Valley Japanese Entrepreneur Network in the USA to discuss internships and the latest technologies.	Curriculum revision was discussed so that students enrolled in AY 2016 or later can take a new curriculum, in compliance with the CSC 2013 standard set by ACM & IEEE Computer Society.	A multicultural exchange party was held and it was carried out in English.
Faculty members and staff visited one of the candidate hubs in Silicon Valley, USA.	The Honors Program aims to support talented students. The students can acquire more advanced skills by enhancing their individuality and improving their professional skills.	SGU website of UoA was constructed to post SGU-related activities, information of entrance exams, etc.
Silicon Valley is expected to host short-term internships in FY 2015 as a trial basis. Students will acquire business-creation experience through the internships and entrepreneurial courses.	We are continually discussing revisions to the curriculum system and opening new courses, etc., so as to offer professional learning at an internationally leading level.	An international environment has been facilitated on campus to promote proactive interaction between international faculty members/students and Japanese faculty members/students.

From the Aizu Region to the World / From the World to the Aizu Region
Nurturing Innovative ICT Talent

3. FY2015 Progress

■ Common indicators and targets

Internationalization

1. Establishment of the Entrance Examination Scheme for the Advanced ICT Global Program

Three types of entrance examination scheme were newly established for the Advanced ICT Global Program. Outline for selection of students was released, targeting for applicants of the AY2016-fall admission. These admission scheme accommodate diverse admission by installing international standard such as SAT and IELTS. Prior to acceptance of international students to the all English program in the AY2016-fall term, faculty members who will be in charge of classes in English; mainly about the Strongly Recommended Courses, were selected. This initiative is for course design which enables students to take all credits in English required for graduation from the first year undergraduate to their graduation. Meanwhile, for international students who will be transferred to the 3rd year undergraduate, we worked on academic credit transfer.

2. Partnership Program with Universities Abroad

Between Hanoi University of Science and Technology and Neusoft Institute of Information, agreement was made for the enrollment scheme from designated schools under the scheme of 2+2 Undergraduate Program; a 3-year-undergraduate transfer program for students from partner universities.

3. International Student Recruitment

In regards to recruitment of international students, PR campaigns were carried out toward foreign universities by our foreign faculty members and international students. Taking various opportunities, global PR was conducted widely. In particular, under alliance with educational institutions in the northeast China, top-level high schools were visited. Furthermore, international recruitment was organized proactively by hosting the "University of Aizu International PR Session" and the "Computer Contest" in Shenyang, China.

4. Establishment of the Preparatory Office for the Establishment of Bases in Silicon Valley

In January, the preparatory office was settled. In the University of Aizu, this international site will be used for implementation of overseas training program and remote classes. In addition, information on the University of Aizu will be delivered through the office. Exchanges and collaboration with neighbor universities is planned to be widened, too.

University reform

1. Initiatives Related to Administrative Efficiency and Improvement

Since last fiscal year, paperless meeting style has been adopted to internal meetings. The budget management support system was developed and installed for faculty members. Based on questionnaires implemented to all faculty members, the result appeared to show requests on administrative efficiency and improvement.

2. English classes for administrative staff

13 personnel joined the lesson in the first term, and 2 classes were held for 15 personnel in the second term. Upon start and end of the English course, achievement-check test was placed. All participants showed increase of their English level. On the other hand, the "Lunch Meeting" which is a English class initiated by administrative staff themselves were held on every Friday. Moreover, taking opportunities for international business trip, administrative staff hired by the University of Aizu Public University Corporation were sent abroad.

3. Deliberation on Efforts for Structural Improvement

As internal effort for improving structure of the University of Aizu, deliberation was promoted in terms of 1) increase of the ratio of female to male faculty member, 2) installation of annual salary system, and 3) sophistication of administrative personnel.

Education reform

1. Implementation of the Quarter System

Starting from FY2016, the Undergraduate School will adopt the quarter system. By this transform, integrity between the Undergraduate and Graduate School will be tightened. The quarter system has been implemented at the Graduate School ever since the foundation of the University of Aizu. Furthermore, the academic administrative system was updated along with the quarter system.

2. The Integrated Undergraduate and Graduate Honors Program

The course merits was arranged, and method of student assessment, new courses, examples of course registration, and support menu were deliberated. As part of support for students in the honors program, preparation of "honors maker room" is in progress. It will be newly established in FY2017.

3. Development of challenger badge system

Basic feature of the challenger badge system was designed and developed. Utilizing demo system, test was conducted by students, faculty members, and ventures.

■ University's own indicators and targets

1. New establishment of entrepreneurial courses and implementation of remote Hotline seminar

ICT Global Venture Factory was newly established as an entrepreneurial course for the Graduate School. Preparation has been done for its opening in AY2016. The remote Hotline seminar with the silicon valley was held regularly (once a month.) Through that, information on the edgy technologies and business were exchanged.

2. Implementation of Training in Silicon Valley

As a model of international internship, the summer training was done in Silicon Valley. This training was formed under collaboration with Aizu-Wakamatsu City Municipal and the University of Aizu originated IT ventures. It was held in the HackerDojo, Silicon Valley for two weeks from September 13 to 27. Four graduates from the University of Aizu were participated. Contents included integration of software and hardware. IoT-related prototyping development was mainly featured, and presentation of developed products were implemented, as well. In addition, site visits were conducted to Stanford University, renowned companies, various facilities, startups, and investment companies.

3. Implementation of Fukushima Revitalization Support Program

From August 31 to September 8 2015, the Fukushima Revitalization Support Program was taken place. 5 students from Neusoft Institute of Information (China), 4 students from Taiyuan University of Technology (China), 1 student from Tam Kang University (Taiwan), and 4 students from the University of Aizu participated in it. In this program, four themes were brought out 1) Uniqueness of Aizu and Learning about Design-thinking, 2) Revitalization with ICT, 3) Circumstance learning about the victimized area, and 4) Creation of Fukushima's uniqueness. Exchange of students was deepened with partner universities and institutions abroad. Taking such opportunities, uniqueness of Fukushima prefecture and the University of Aizu were promoted toward international society.

■ Featured initiatives based on the characteristics of the university

1. The Top Global University Symposium

For two days from March 10 to 11, the Top Global University Symposium was held under the title of "Creating ICT innovators and entrepreneurs who can and will succeed on the world stage." In total, 210 individuals participated in those two days. In this event, speeches by presidents from foreign/domestic universities were offered. Achievement presentations and a panel discussion by four science engineering universities adopted by the Top Global University policy, presentation on ICT ventures by graduates from the University of Aizu, and international panel discussion for global human resources were also placed. In addition to the symposium, exchange activities with partner universities and other establishments were held.

2. World Culture Fair

International students and foreign faculty members' family from 8 countries coordinated the booth to introduce cultures of their mother countries. We had 250 visitors. In this occasion, collecting series of stamps and face painting and other various activities were held. Faculty members of the University of Aizu held a report presentation on support for ICT education in the development countries such as Vietnam, Nigeria, and Myanmar.

3. PR

The website was largely renewed. Pamphlets and leaflets were prepared in English and Chinese. Topics were provided to the press, and press inquiries were proactively handled.

■ Free description

In this fiscal year, securement of the global admission system and finalization of introduction of the quarter system were worked on in various aspects of internationalization and diversity of educational structure at the University of Aizu.

Overall circumstance is that almost all things are going well as planned. The base was created firmly for practical steps in the following years.