Message from the President

Greetings from the President

Akita Prefectural University was founded in 1999 with the philosophy of "Developing a new generation of leaders for the 21st Century" and "Contributing to the continued development of Akita Prefecture as an open university." We continue to follow this philosophy as we celebrate our twentieth year. Akita Prefectural University is a university of science and technology comprised of two faculties: Systems Science and Technology, and Bioresource Sciences. As a medium-scale university with approx. 1,800 students including graduate students, Akita Prefectural University is compact, characterized by prompt decision making and subsequent responses.

Regarding education, in addition to acquiring specialized knowledge, emphasis is placed on developing the ability to view things from various viewpoints and to think and find solutions on one’s own, in response to changes in international society and economic conditions. From the questionnaire given to the graduates every year, we have received many positive responses, such as "The best thing is compact, is determined to fulfill its role as an "Intelligent/Community Base" in the creation of the local community, as well as to work towards industrial promotion of local businesses, encourage young people to settle in the local area and hold lifelong education programs. Akita Prefectural University is compact, characterized by prompt decision making and subsequent responses.

To respond to drastic changes in social circumstances and technological innovation in the future, high expectations have been placed on universities in terms of education, research and local contribution. Akita Prefectural University is determined to fulfill its role as an "Intelligent/Community Base" in the creation of the local community, as well as to work towards industrial promotion of local businesses, encourage young people to settle in the local area and hold lifelong education programs. Akita Prefectural University looks forward to your continued support and cooperation.

December 1994 Prefectural University Plan introduced by Akita Prefectural University Exploratory Committee
May 1995 Prefectural University Preparatory Office established
August 1995 Akita Prefectural University Fundamental Concept-Making Committee established
July 1996 Akita Prefectural University (tentative) fundamental plan formulated
October 1996 Akita Prefectural University (tentative) Preparatory Committee established
December 1996 Prefectural Ordinance for Akita Prefectural University decided
December 1998 Akita Prefectural University establishment approved
April 1999 Akita Prefectural University established
April 2002 Akita Prefectural University Graduate School of Systems Science and Technology established
April 2003 Department of Agribusiness, Faculty of Bioresource Sciences established
April 2006 Akita Prefectural University established as a Public University Corporation
June 2009 The 10th anniversary commemoration held
April 2012 Cooperative Major in Life Cycle Design Engineering, Graduate School of Systems Science and Technology established
April 2018 Department of Mechanical Engineering, Department of Intelligent Mechatronics, Department of Information and Computer Science established

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History

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University Overview

University Ethos

- Developing a new generation of leaders for the 21st Century
- Contributing, as an open university, to the continued development of Akita Prefecture

Three Policies

Diploma Policy

The university bestows a diploma to students earned the required numbers of credits for graduation with the following abilities.

- Students with problem-solving ability which can respond to the changes in the times
- Students with basic ability for self-improvement

Curriculum Policy

To cultivate qualified human resources, our curriculum composition and implementation policies are as follows:

1. We seek to educate and train industrialists such as engineers, researchers and educators with both the ability to identify problems and the skills to solve them, in response to the extensive needs of modern technology.
2. To ensure that students can improve their own abilities in response to the changes in times, our education system places high priority on developing the ability of students to process information, learn a foreign language, and acquire self-expression skills which, together with other basic skills, will allow them to develop self-learning ability necessary for them to become independent-minded members of society.

Admission Policy

The university accepts students with the following qualities.

1. Persons with a clear objective and the eagerness to achieve that objective
2. Persons with a strong intellectual curiosity
3. Persons who have the necessary communication skills

Features

Independent Student Research

Suitable for students who want to begin research immediately upon entering university.

Our Independent Student Research Program is available for first and second year students. Students decide their own research themes, form groups and develop plans to carry out various research projects.

Support, such as research funding (up to approximately ¥150,000), facilities and equipment, as well as guidance by faculty members, will be provided where necessary.

Faculty of Systems Science and Technology

Research Examples

- Study of insect attraction to bleached Actinidia polygama leaves

Although the leaves of Actinidia polygama are said to turn white (chlorosis) during pollinating seasons to attract insects, however, those leaves emitted blue light under ultraviolet ray irradiation. From this, I hypothesized that insects are attracted to the blue light emitted from whitened Actinidia leaves. To confirm this, two observation locations on Mt. Tsubaki and Mt. Kamiyama where Actinidia grows in mass were set, and the number and types of flower visiting insects were captured using adhesive sheets. Specifically, two groups were set, Group A (control group) and Group B (cut whitened leaves only), and the difference in insect attraction between green leaves and whitened leaves were compared. In addition to related leaves, other materials that attract insects, including Actinidia fruit, insect guilt and a sampling of flowers were examined for their insecticidal components.

Field Education and Research Center

- The 7th NEXT Science Inter College held in March 2018 and received the Pinko Award.

High Employment Rate

Our Career Support System ensures a high employment rate.

The 16th Class graduated in March 2018. Job placement rate for these 281 students was 100% as of March 31, 2018. To date, we have almost achieved a 100% employment rate. 84 students of the 16th Class have continued on to graduate school.

Small Group Education

Education with concentrated instruction and balance

One teacher provides concentrated instruction for approx. eight students. 209 instructors from liberal arts to specialized subjects provide support from the time of admission until graduation.

In addition to the teaching staff and achieved researchers at the University, approx. one third of the education staff holds experience as private industry researchers and engineers to provide balanced scientific and technical education.

Graduate Job Placement Record (March 2018; class of 16th year)

Job Placement Rate

- Faculty of Systems Science and Technology: 100%
- Faculty of Bioresource Sciences: 100%

Employment Locations

- Akita Prefecture: 11.5%
- Outside Akita Prefecture: 88.5%

Job Seekers: 165 graduates
Employed: 165 graduates

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Introduction to Faculties, Departments & Graduate School

Faculty of Systems Science and Technology

Fostering world-class engineers and researchers with "systematic thinking" for the future generation

Department of Mechanical Engineering
Aiming to create a well-balanced society comprised of people, machines, and the environment, students learn to understand the fundamentals of systems, as well as training practical human resources who can contribute to the world of systems (manufacturing, information, and energy) and the environment from a bird's-eye view. Students, with an understanding of the social and environmental system, learn to plan and develop innovative systems. Knowledge of fundamental science is also necessary to better understand and formulate solutions for the systems and environmental problems of the future. The curriculum in the Honjo Campus is designed to provide an understanding of systems and the environment from a broad perspective.

Department of Intelligent Mechatronics
In addition to subjects where students gain basic knowledge of mechatronics and mechanical engineering, students are exposed to advanced human-robot interaction, sensor systems, and intelligent technology that will contribute to the advancement of robotic skills required in the future society. Furthermore, courses in project-type research training through small group activities in order to further develop imagination and creativity in students. The Honjo Campus is designed to provide the students with broad knowledge to achieve the technological needs of society.

Department of Information and Computer Science
Not only does the program create basic knowledge of information engineering, but students are trained to handle the vast amounts of data from all fields of science and technology. Furthermore, practical human resources who work in the information and computer systems field are needed, and this program trains students to handle the various demands of society and contribute to building a more advanced society. In addition, students are taught the ability to construct and develop information systems and cultivate skills to successfully accomplish a project.

Department of Architecture and Environment Systems
In order for students to develop the ability to realize interactions between industrial and environmental systems and with an understanding of the social environment, classes in industrial engineering methods for business management and mathematical analysis techniques for the social environment are taught. In addition, classes are taught to understand the social environmental system from a bird's-eye view and to obtain communication and action skills.

Graduate School of Systems Science and Technology

Master's Course
- Course of Machine Intelligence and Systems Engineering
- Course of Electronics and Information Systems
- Course of Architecture and Environment Systems
- Course of Management Science and Engineering
- Cooperative Major in Life Cycle Design Engineering

Doctoral Course
- Integrated Course of Systems Science and Technology

The Graduate School of Systems Science and Technology endeavors to develop human resources with the ability to think systematically and to act from a broad perspective and global vantage point. The school aims at nurturing creative and skilled engineers. In the Master's program, our aim is to develop highly-skilled professionals who are well-grounded in their graduate studies, whereas in the Doctoral program we aim to nurture highly-advanced researchers with both broad knowledge, problem solving skills, and the ability to conduct innovative research.

Graduate School of Bioresource Sciences

Using the latest technologies to investigate new possibilities for the coexistence of humans and bioresources

Honjo Campus

Department of Biotechnology
Students learn about the latest technologies for biotechnological research, and to develop new bioresources. They focus on gaining the knowledge and skills that will enable them to utilize bioresources in an advanced level, and to improve the student's ability to contribute to the development of chemical, medical, food, and bioenergy industries.

Department of Agribusiness
With the aim of training students to become future pioneers of agriculture, the agricultural community, and the food product industry, progressive agricultural technology and rural communities are based on agricultural and bioresource science, as well as practical and experiential subjects. In order to achieve a carry out agriculture practices and problem-solving methods related to environmental issues.

Akita Campus

Department of Biological Production
Students learn about the genetic information, physiology, and ecology of organisms. This department is designed to provide students with the ability to contribute to the advancement of culture, cultivation, and production. Furthermore, students develop the ability to contribute to the development of biological industries such as agriculture and food products.

Ogata Campus

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Field Education and Research Center
Faculty of Bioresource Sciences

Linking educational research, agricultural communities and bioindustries

Using a training farmland for educational research related to the stimulation of agricultural communities. The center is utilized by the entire Faculty of Bioresource Sciences for basic research into new technologies, as well as for practical education and development of the local agricultural community and related bioindustries. The center also promotes experimental research for communal needs, agricultural training for non-students, and community interactions through open farms and farming experiences. Furthermore, as an independent corporate entity owning 164 ha of farmland, as well as diverse animal and plant resources, we are committed to transferring our ideas into actual agricultural production, sales activities, and community interactions.

Education
We support parts of the education programs of the Faculty of Bioresource Sciences. In particular, we jointly provide instruction in our “Project Education” program within the Department of Agricultural Sciences, the first to be employed by an agricultural university in the country. We also promote practical education related to biological production and management technology, distributive processing of agricultural and livestock products, and environmental burden reduction techniques related to production activities.

Research
By fully utilizing our extensive farmland and animal and plant resources, we conduct empirical research into the theories and technologies related to agricultural community development and stimulation, particularly in relation to the environment of Ogata Village.

Community Contribution
We publicly announce our empirical research results related to agricultural theories and technologies, and contribute to local communities by providing practical information about the introduction of new varieties, adding value to agricultural products, and the distribution and sales systems. In addition, we disclose the status of our vast farmlands, animals and plants, and provide guidance on environmental-friendly agriculture, and our Project Education program to various interested parties and consumers in order to promote public understanding of agriculture and agricultural communities, and to stimulate the farming industry.

Biotechnology Center
Faculty of Bioresource Sciences

Supporting and promoting research and education related to biotechnology inside and outside the university.

The Biotechnology Center provides various internal and public services, including DNA sequence analysis, DNA polymorphism analysis, starch structural analysis and the production of genetically modified plants, all of which are essential techniques used in modern bioscience research. Over the past 10 years, the Biotechnology Center has developed to become an indispensable component in the research activities of faculty members, and will continue to function as one of the most important and distinctive activities of the university. Faculty members from different areas of specialty are involved in the operation of the center. Experienced full-time staff members are available for consultation and can provide our original analysis manuals. Through such activities, the center aims to improve research quality, and thereby contribute to both practical education and society.

Consigned Research Services
Services provided by the Center can be broadly classified into the following categories. Other services are also available. Please contact the center for further information.

1 DNA Sequence Analysis
   - Basic Analysis
     1. Purified DNA (plasmid DNA, purified PCR products)
     2. From E. coli
   - Other Samples
     1. From E. coli
     2. From unpurified PCR products
     3. From DNA sequencing reaction products
     Analysis, using any of the above three sample types, can be performed on a small (single) to large (1000x) number of samples. In addition, purified DNA mixed with primer products can be analyzed.

2 DNA Polymorphism Analysis
   - Basic Analysis
     1. From PCR samples
     2. Fragment analysis
     The following analyses, using techniques such as micro satellite analysis and AFLP analysis, which can distinguish one genomic sequence from another, are available.
     1. Individual Identification Technique: Individual identification of effective microorganisms (used for protection of rights and product quality management)
     2. High-Sensitivity Detection: Used for quality management of microorganism material and in the food manufacturing industry
     3. Breed Identification: Used to detect intermixed breeds

3 Sequence Analysis Using Next Generation Sequencer
   - Next Generation Sequencer Available at the Center
     HiSeq 1000 (Illumina) / MiSeq (Illumina)
   - Basic Analysis
     1. Transgenic Arabidopsis
     2. Transgenic rice
     The agrobacterium-mediated method is used to introduce DNA into plants. Transgenic organisms can be produced at the center using other DNA constructs or agrobacterium strains which contain the desired DNA constructs provided by the client. Seeds of transgenic Arabidopsis or Rice can be provided to our clients. In addition, seeds of redifferentiated rice are also available.
Research and Education Center for Comprehensive Science

Liberal Arts Education

Empowering students with the ability to observe, investigate, and analyze with an open mind

The Research and Education Center for Comprehensive Science provides a general liberal arts education with two fundamental goals: (1) to cultivate moral sensibilities and sharp analytical skills that will enable students to meet future challenges with an open mind and applicable problem solving skills; and (2) to cultivate practical English language and information-processing skills in order to keep students up to date with globalization and rapid advances in information technology.

Educational Goals

- To cultivate moral sensibilities and analytical skills - problem solving ability and sharp critical thinking
- To cultivate practical English language and information-processing skills

Liberal Arts Education

The ultimate goal in the development of cutting-edge technology for "Creative Monozukuri" is to contribute to the happy lives of people. Regardless of their field, students who will be future scientists/engineers and who can contribute to technological progress must develop and maintain a broad interest in society, while carrying out research in their specialized field in pursuit of their career. Akita Prefectural University aims to cultivate a global perspective and multifaceted and broad thinking ability while making use of broadcast education courses, rather than simply providing lectures by faculty members.

English Language Education

With an emphasis on practical English, we support students in their study of English, for use in the social world as a member of society, researcher, and engineer. Soon after entering the University, students become accustomed to listening with Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) and then participate in various courses including special classes for speaking, reading, and writing, and classes focusing on TOEIC and Eiken examinations according to student need. In addition, new students can take the TOEIC Bridge examination twice a year to judge their English skills objectively, from the second year, the students can take the TOEIC IP examination.

Health and Physical Education • Information Science • Mathematics, Teacher-training Course

Health and Physical Education Course assists students to obtain knowledge on lifelong health education and develop skills in basic theory and practice of the sport field. In addition, computer literacy education is provided to improve student proficiency to remain current in our ever changing, information-intensive society. In the study of specialized basics (general basics) essential in a specialized subject, mathematics education is provided with the support of the faculty teachers. Furthermore, a teacher-training course to acquire the required credits required by the Teachers License Act and its enforcement regulations are formulated for students who wish to obtain a teaching certification is available.

Institute of Wood Technology

Wood Research and Education

Aims to establish basic technology related to wood resource utilization and the development of creative human resources

Contributing to the future of mankind by establishing an ideal cycling system of wood resources.

The Institute of Wood Technology was established in 1995 in order to transform the Akita wood industry from a resource-oriented to a technology-oriented enterprise. The institute became affiliated to the university in 1999, and since then has been involved in research and technology development related to the basic physical properties of wood materials and their processing and utilization, aiming to establish an ideal cycle system of wood resources. The institute is also involved in the development of highly trained human resources (Master's and Doctoral course programs).

One of the main characteristics of the institute is that a number of full-time faculty members form tiered groups that initiate creative research projects. This structure is useful for educating and supporting students, and encouraging them to broaden their knowledge outside their own research areas.

Research Themes

- Development of management systems of wood resources for multi-functional application
- Development of multi-purpose distribution/application systems in forestry to activate the local community
- Development of high level technology related to increase in demand
- Development of wood materials and methods to create new demand

Researchers Room

The Researchers Room is an open style one-floor room with 1.3 m partitions that provide privacy but still allow communication between researchers and students.
Science and Technology Integration Center

Local Contribution

Acting as a bridge between the university and the local community

Supporting cooperation between the university and the local community by utilizing the university’s intellectual resources for community needs. It employs full-time faculty members and coordinators who are committed to connecting university researchers with local industries.

Main Functions

Promotion of industry-academia-government cooperation

- Acting as a contact point for corporations that require technical consultation, collaborative research or commissioned research.
- Sharing information about university faculty members with industries to promote cooperation.
- Organizing information desks at various industrial-academic-governmental events.

Support for Research Activities

- Supporting the research activities of faculty members by allocating research funds towards local community related research, and by providing information about external funding opportunities.
- Promoting the protection and application of intellectual properties developed through research.

Promotion of Community Interactions

- Organizing research presentations and industry-academia-government events.
- Providing information about potential research needs and dispatching appropriate lecturers based on the demand of local communities.

We aim to assist interested parties with:

- Developing new products, improving manufacturing technologies, and improving energy efficiency.
- Conducting research.
- Conducting collaborative research programs with the university.
- Providing information about the latest technological trends and environmental issues.
- Organizing other events such as corporate seminars.

For matters beyond our expertise, we can offer support by introducing associated institutions.

International Exchange

Community Contributions

International academic exchange is important to our university as it allows us to proactively publicize our educational and research achievements and further enhance our international recognition.

The exchange of people, as well as cutting-edge scientific and technological ideas, between the university and global research institutions will also improve the quality of our educational and research programs. Furthermore, such exchanges are expected to make significant contributions towards the sustainable development of local industries, and the development of human resources for future generations.

We currently possess a broad series of intellectual property rights that will contribute to the sustainable development of our local communities and of humankind. To enhance further our education and research systems, we are continuing to promote international academic exchanges by operating mutual student/researcher exchange programs in addition to collaborative international research.

Short-term Overseas Exchange Programs

In our Exchange Program, exchange agreements have been concluded with other universities and an English training program has been established in order to send students to the English-speaking countries during the summer vacation for student exchange. A total of 28 students in 2017/2018 visited the Graduate School of Shenzhen Tsinghua University (China) as part of the exchange program, and The University of British Columbia (Canada), University of Victoria (Canada), The University of Newcastle (Australia), and The University of Waikato (New Zealand) as part of the English training program.

Study Exchange Agreement

We have concluded inter-university and inter-faculty academic exchange agreements with other universities, based on the spirit of reciprocity and equality, with the aim of promoting international exchange, raising the standards of our educational and research programs and strengthening our community contribution. As of April 2018, we have concluded inter-university or inter-faculty agreements with 12 universities and/or faculties in seven countries/regions.

Inter-university Agreements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country/Region</th>
<th>University Name</th>
<th>Agreement Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>National Sun Yat-sen University</td>
<td>29 Feb. 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>University of Shanghai for Science and Technology</td>
<td>12 Feb. 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>Sunchon National University</td>
<td>25 Feb. 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Graduate School at Shenzhen Tsinghua University</td>
<td>15 May 2013</td>
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<td>China</td>
<td>Sunchon National University</td>
<td>5 Nov. 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Lanzhou University</td>
<td>17 Mar. 2017</td>
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</table>

Inter-faculty Agreements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty Name</th>
<th>Country/Region</th>
<th>University Name</th>
<th>Agreement Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Science, Science and Technology</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>Royal Group of Colleges</td>
<td>13 Sep. 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Science and Technology</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>Kasetsart University</td>
<td>10 Jul. 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Science and Technology</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>College of Biological Science, University of Guelph</td>
<td>1 Feb. 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Science and Technology</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>Faculty of Life Science and Engineering, Northwest University for Nonmetals</td>
<td>26 Feb. 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Science and Technology</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Faculty of Wood Sciences, University of West Hungary</td>
<td>27 Dec. 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Institute of Wood Technology</td>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Seoul National University</td>
<td>1 Oct. 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Locations

**Honjo Campus**
Faculty of Systems Science and Technology
Graduate School of Systems Science and Technology

84-4 Aza Ehnikouchi Tsuchiyu Yurihonjo City
015-0055 Japan
TEL 0184-27-2000
FAX 0184-27-2180

Site area 20.6 ha
Facilities total floor area 49,343 m² (including 7,220 m² of Graduate School)

**Akita Campus**
Faculty of Bioresource Sciences
Graduate School of Bioresource Sciences

241-083 Kaiobata-Nishi Nakano Shimoshinjo Akita City
010-0135 Japan
TEL 018-872-1500
FAX 018-872-1670

Site area 40.9 ha
Facilities total floor area 37,831 m² (including 4,494 m² of Graduate School)

**Ogata Campus**
Faculty of Bioresource Sciences
(Department of Agribusiness 3rd and 4th graders)

2-2 Aza Minami Ogata village Minamiakitagun
010-0444 Japan
TEL 0185-45-2026
FAX 0185-45-2377

Site area 207.3 ha
Facilities total floor area 30,204 m²

**Institute of Wood Technology**

11-1 Aza Kateizaka Noshiro City
010-0876 Japan
TEL 0185-52-6900
FAX 0185-52-6924

Site area 6.4 ha
Facilities total floor area 8,110 m²

About Akita

**Akita Prefecture Overview**

Akita is located in the northwestern part of the Tohoku region, along the Sea of Japan. It shares its northern border with Aomori and its southern border with Yamagata. It is the 6th largest prefecture in Japan, covering an area of 11,637.52 km² of which 70% is covered in rich forests. As expected in this northern region, winters are long and summers are short, but the four seasons are vividly distinct, and the spectacular turning of the seasons is a special feature of Akita. As of April 2018, the population of Akita was roughly 985,000 people, spread throughout 13 cities, nine towns and three villages. In Hachirogata, located to the west of the central Akita, the 40° N longitudinal and the 140° E latitudinal lines cross in Ogata Village (built on land reclaimed from Hachirogata, once Japan’s second largest lake). Several great cities of the world also line up along the same 40° N longitudinal line, including Beijing, Madrid and New York.

**Sightseeing / Places to Visit**

**Kanto Festival (Akita city)**
3-6 Aug.
Kanto Festival is one of the Tohoku area’s Big Three Festivals. It began 250 years ago to pray for rich grain harvests. The Akita Prefectural University Kanto Group represents the university each year, with students, teachers and university staff performing in the festival.

**Mt. Chokai (Nikaho City, Yurihonjo City)**
This mountain, also known as Dewa Fuji, or Mt. Fuji of Dewa, is the second highest in the Tohoku region, and measures 2,236 m at its peak. Mt. Chokai, together with the many scenic spots and tourist sites around its outskirts, is designated as a Quasi-National Park, where visitors can find a treasure trove of alpine plants.

**Namahage Sedo Festival (Oga City)**
Friday-Sunday in second week of Feb.
Fifteen Namahage (young men wearing ogre masks and straw cloaks) descend from the mountains by torchlight, and dance wildly about the grounds of the Shinzan Shrine before the Seda, a sacred fire that wards away evil spirits.

**Kamakura (Yokote City)**
15 and 16 Feb.
A “Kamakura” is a dome-shaped snow hut that houses an altar dedicated to the God of Water. The Kamakura festival is a traditional New Year festival with a 400-year-old history. In the century-old tradition, children are born in the Kamakuras, which are illuminated by hundreds of candles and “Mizudashi” (ice cakes). In some winter, our students build Kamakuras and organize events at our Honjo Campus.

**Shirakami-Sanchi (Fujisato Town, Happo Town)**
Shirakami-Sanchi is a vast mountain area located on the border between the northwest of Akita prefecture and southwest of Aomori Prefecture. It was listed as a World Heritage site in 1993. Shirakami-Sanchi is one of the largest primeval beech forest areas in the world, and is home to a diversity of animal and plant communities that form a diverse array of ecosystems.

**Akita Inu**
A large dog breed from Akita Prefecture, with a maximum height of 60-70 cm, short hair, pointy ears, and a curly tail. They are descended from hunting dogs used for hunting bears and other large game. Equipped with great physical strength and a sweet temperament, they are courageous and loyal to their owners. In recent years these dogs have been gifted to the Russian President and Olympic athletes (among others), showing that their popularity in the world is growing.

**Kamakura (Yokote City)**
15 and 16 Feb.
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