

Message from the Director of the Office of Institutional Research

Kyushu University's Office of Institutional Research (IR Office) was established in April of 2016 to support evidence-based university reforms and improvements.

Until then, self-evaluations and inspections for a variety of activities at the university, such as the "National University Corporation Evaluation" and "Institutional Certified Evaluation and Accreditation" were primarily conducted by the IR Office, but, based on evidence provided by quantitative and qualitative indicators and under the president's leadership, radical reorganization was carried out to support the enhancement of governance systems capable of strategically managing university operations and administration.

The importance of basing decision-making and corporate management upon evidence has also been emphasized by the National University Corporation Governance Code and the National University Corporation Mid-term Objectives for the 4th Mid-term Target Period.

Building consensus among committee members in order to come to a mutual understanding of the necessity for reform and improvement policies is promoted by "objective, carefully scrutinized, and persuasive data", presented as evidence.

From this point of view, gathering "objective, carefully scrutinized, and persuasive data" has become one of the most important tasks of the IR Office.

Before this reform, each department at the university accumulated a wide variety of data, but it was collected in ways that were easy for that department (or staff charged with this task) to gather, utilize, or submit upon request. Additionally, the definitions used in data vary in a number of instances, even when the data pertains to the same category and time period. Under these circumstances, merely collecting the data from the departments that provided it is insufficient to enable the IR Office to amass "objective, carefully scrutinized, persuasive data". The IR Office has gathered data scattered throughout the university with the assistance of the various administrative offices in order to convert it into "objective, carefully scrutinized, and persuasive data". At the same time, the disclosure of this data requires extreme caution. The category for the scope of publication has also been thoroughly scrutinized, and the IR Office has been progressing while also consulting with the data provider on categorization.

This *KYUSHU UNIVERSITY FACT BOOK 2021* was created in order to utilize the university's data, and to understand more about the university and each of its departments, as well as to reform, improve, and plan for the future. Data expressed in terms of years allows readers not only to grasp the past, but also make some educated guesses about the future.

It also shows examples of the university's research capabilities, and it is our hope that the contents of this report will be used with the research capability analysis (*SciVal*) and researcher profiling (*Pure*) tools that have been introduced at the university.

In addition, the current volume will be made available online via the IR Office's website (<https://www3.ir.kyushu-u.ac.jp/>) in PDF and interactive formats. The interactive version will be updated with the most recent data, and because it allows users to view and select information according to their preferences, we hope they will take advantage of it.

Since, as stated above, it is published online, we hope that members of Kyushu University and all external stakeholders who support Kyushu University will also take this opportunity to review the university's current status. We hope that they will continue to provide assistance and guidance so that we can strengthen the IR Office's functions of evaluating and supporting Kyushu University's reform and improvement.

Sincerely,



Director of the Office of Institutional Research
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