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 presently collects scattered data from across the University with the cooperation of other departments in an effort to make it objective, carefully scrutinized, and persuasive. Attention is required when disclosing such data, for which the scope of disclosure has been thoroughly assessed, and, in consultation with the data provider, the IR Office is making progress in categorization.

This *KYUSHU UNIVERSITY FACT BOOK 2023 – Detailed version –* 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.

Since an interactive version of this publication is available on the IR Office website (https://www3. ir.kyushu-u.ac.jp/), users can select, view, and compare only the information they require. Moreover, a booklet titled "*KPI Digest version*" has also been distributed that allows readers to easily grasp the level of achievement of the key performance indicators (KPI) outlined in the University's Vision as a Designated National University Corporation and the 4th Mid-Term Objectives and Plans. Please utilize the *KPI digest version*, which is also available on the IR Office website mentioned above.

With this *FACT BOOK*, we hope that all Kyushu University constituents and external stakeholders who sustain Kyushu University will take the University's current state into consideration. 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,

Rin-ichiro Taniguchi

Director of the Office of Institutional Research
March 2024