

### **Decision of Institutional Certified Evaluation and Accreditation**

Yamagata University complies with the Standards for the Establishment of Universities and other relevant laws and regulations, and meets the Standards for Evaluation and Accreditation of Universities set by NIAD-UE.

Good practices identified by the review committee include:

- Formulating the university's annual action plan known as the "Yuki Plan (Yamagata University Keeps Innovation Plan)" with a view to creating a university that places students at its heart, and proceeding with reforms in accordance with the plan as well as verifying the achievements,
- Giving the Award for Excellence in Education to academic staff members who have contributed to education and student support in order to invigorate educational activities and motivate academic staff,
- Carrying out the evaluation of academic staff members, the results of which are reflected in their salaries and other conditions,
- The "Self-Actualization Learning System with Defined Attainment Targets" project, selected in FY2009 for the Program for Promoting University Education and Student Support Theme A: Program for Promoting University Education Reform sponsored by MEXT in which the university developed the Presentation ePortfolio for faculty use to verify the appropriateness of their academic programs, among other purposes,
- The "Enhancement of Regional Educational and Research Functions Based on the Consortium of Universities and Colleges in Yamagata" project, selected in FY2008 for MEXT's Support Project for Strategic University Collaborations, in which the university continues to offer a course titled *Global Focus on Mogami River* in general education after the support expired,
- The "Yamagata Education Programs for Preparing University Students to Be Full-fledged Members of Society by Tapping into Various Resources in Beautiful Yamagata," selected in FY2012 for MEXT's Program for Promoting Inter-University Collaborative Education, in which the university utilizes a credit transfer system to help students better prepare themselves to become full-fledged members of society through education in collaboration with higher education

institutions, local governments, chambers of commerce and industry, and other organizations in Yamagata Prefecture,

- The “Capacity Building for Creating and Managing Self-sustaining Regional Social Systems” program, selected in FY2013 in MEXT’s Program for Promoting Universities as the Center of Communities (COC), in which the university aims to create a system that can help revive and revitalize local communities by responding actively to their needs through education and research that will lead to the development of the required human resources and the outreach in the fields of research, education, culture, medicine, *etc.*,
- The “Innovative Flex Course for Frontier Organic Material Systems,” selected in FY2012 for MEXT’s Program for Leading Graduate Schools (Only-One category), in which the Graduate School of Science and Engineering (engineering departments) develops global leaders who can promote the value of organic materials through the flexible five-year education program launched in FY2013 for students to acquire interdisciplinary knowledge and skills,
- The tripartite “YU Supporting System” comprised of the Learning Support System, the Adviser System and the Grade Point Average (GPA) System, in which mainly academic staff serving as advisers provide students with support and advice in a functional way,
- The “Development of Systems for Assuring and Improving the Quality of Education through Cooperation among Universities and Colleges in Eastern Japan Including Hokkaido” project, selected in FY2012 in MEXT’s Program for Promoting Inter-University Collaborative Education, in which the university, together with other national, municipal/prefectural and private universities, junior colleges and colleges of technology in eastern Japan including Hokkaido, carries out projects based on achievements by FD NETWORK TSUBASA for the purpose of creating efficient and effective systems for assuring and improving the quality of education, with the aim to help students acquire self-motivated learning skills and the basic knowledge and skills required of full-fledged members of society, and
- Implementing the annual organizational evaluation of faculties and other units each year, ranking them into three categories, and differentially allocating incentive funds according to the categories.

Areas for improvement identified by the review committee include:

- An inadequate admission rate far below the admission capacity at some graduate schools in the graduate program.

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