

KYOTO UNIVERSITY



**2004/2005
PROFILE**

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Message from the President



Kyoto University was founded over a hundred years ago as one of two Imperial Universities. Since that time, many changes have swept the world, but the University has remained faithful to its principle of academic freedom and its commitment to address highly complex and diverse issues that affect the citizens of the world.

The creation and pursuit of knowledge is maintained at the highest levels of internationally recognized standards, ensuring the University of its high international status. Kyoto University is proud to claim five Nobel Prize laureates among its alumni. Moreover, the University's Chemistry Department is ranked second in the world last year in 2003 according to respected academic journals.

The new directions in the world of education today are reflected in the classroom and laboratory usage of computers and the long-distance learning program ("Trans-Pacific Interactive Distance Education") which have expanded the University's global reach. State-of-the-art facilities and new buildings continue to be constructed on Kyoto's three campuses, offering the best in technological innovation at world-class levels.

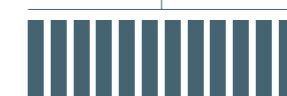
As important as facilities and equipment are, we do not overlook our human resources. Top priority is placed on educating highly cultured and ethical researchers and scholars who will contribute to the harmonious coexistence of countries around the globe. The Kyoto University Museum is the latest addition to our commitment to share our knowledge with the local community.

People from all over the world make up the student body, researchers, and teaching staff, ensuring that Kyoto University reflects the needs and concerns of today's multicultural societies. International symposia and research projects, sponsored abroad or held domestically, attract leading scholars, helping to contribute to the continuing dialogue between cultures and nations.

On a parenthetical note, the university was partially privatized as part of the central government's administrative reform in April 2004. The competitive environment will become more pronounced, as universities will intensify their struggle for survival to maintain their public or private status. Strict outside evaluations will involve thorough reviews and responsibility in both managerial and educational aspects.

Kyoto University is committed to continue its quest to remain among the high ranking universities of the world, by improving its specialties and strengthening its management strategies to protect its tradition of education and research, while maintaining its independence and autonomy under partial privatization.


Kazuo OIKE





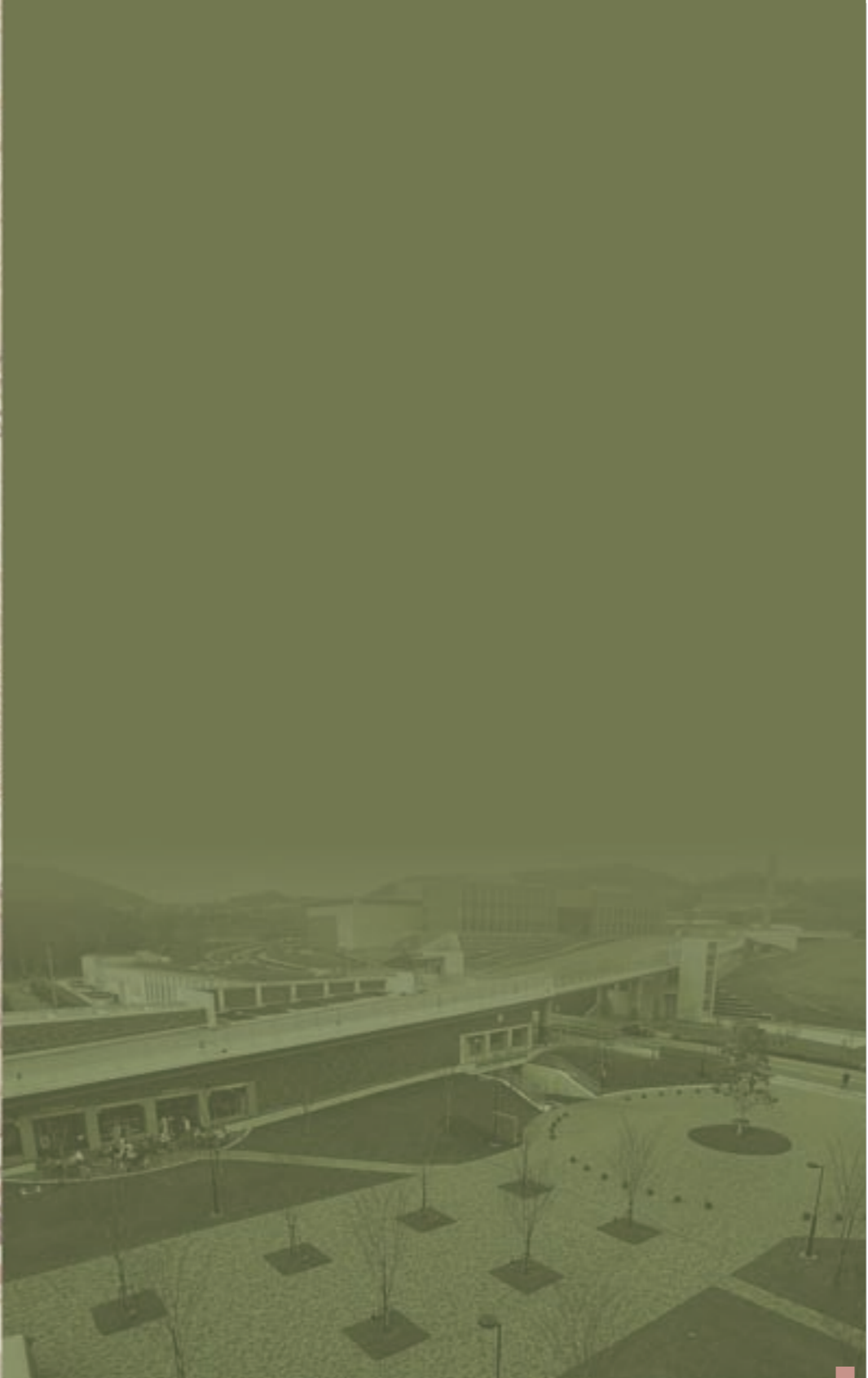
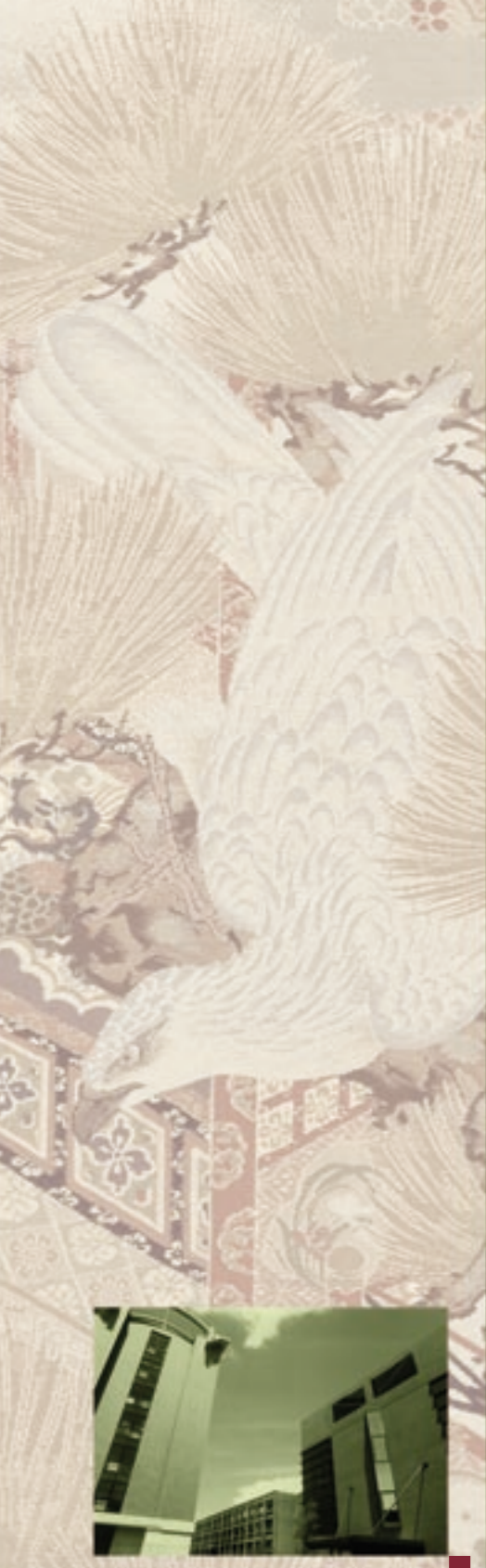
Kyoto Imperial University was founded in 1897 and the College of Science and Engineering was inaugurated at that time (see the Chronological Calendar). In the following year, the College of Law and the College of Medicine, the University Hospital, and the University Library were all opened and the organization was completed. In 1919 “College” was renamed “Faculty,” and in 1947 when a new law was passed, Kyoto Imperial University was renamed Kyoto University. From then until today, new faculties, graduate school research institutes, research centers, and others have been established one after another. At present, Kyoto University consists of fifteen graduate schools, ten undergraduate faculties, and more than thirty research institutes and centers. In the last few years Kyoto University has placed greater emphasis on graduate level studies and has established new graduate schools to cope with the emerging issues which are expected to be critical this century.

During its long history, Kyoto University has put its energies into developing the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences. Creative research in venture businesses for information technology and electrical engineering has been initiated, and good progress in advanced applied research, such as biotechnology and energy science continues, assuring that our findings contribute to society.

The main campus of Kyoto University is near the central part of Kyoto city. Facilities are housed in century-old red brick buildings as well as state-of-the-art laboratories on the campuses. The Uji campus is about twelve kilometers to the south where natural science and energy research facilities are located. The Katsura campus, seven kilometers west of the main campus, opened in October 2003. This new campus, named after the region, is made up of four clusters, and aims at merging the technology and science discipline to form a “Techno-science hill.” The Graduate Schools of Engineering and Informatics are in the process of moving to the Katsura campus.

■ Venture-Business-Laboratory, established in 1997.

■ The Katsura Campus.






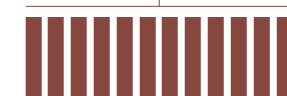


With the motto “self-reliant learning,” the University values the use of critical thinking in class. Consequently, our students can choose a field of interest outside their major very early in their college life. Low enrollment-capped seminars are open to them to encourage their interest in a subject, irrespective of their Faculty affiliation. We encourage them to expand their horizons and deepen their thought through the contact with knowledge these seminars afford. And we are vigorously moving towards completing facilities and curricula which will help students acquire language skills and informational literacy indispensable for their success in the global village. Furthermore, we are active in applying developmental researches related to informational media at the Academic Center for Computing and Media Studies. We are also providing real time distance-learning lectures called “Trans-Pacific Interactive Distance Education Project” (TIDE for short) in conjunction with the University of California, Los Angeles.

Kyoto University is a research-oriented university which claims five Nobel Prize recipients and world-class researchers in various fields. In Philosophy, the “Kyoto School of Thought” is well known in its field. In other disciplines our “field work” techniques yield many trailblazing results. Large surveys and research are making steady progress in important issues concerning the global environmental problems of the 21st century.

Moreover, we are grappling with difficult questions on energy, food, and those related to life and welfare. In the attempt to find solutions to these problems, the existing research sections at the institutes on the campus and the Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies work together. In the field of natural disasters, the graduate schools’ related research sections, research institutes, and centers are working in cooperation to zealously develop international joint research projects for the protection of property and lives from extensive damage. Kyoto University has set up overseas sites for carrying out very efficient traditional field work. The Southeast Asia Research Institute has established liaison stations in Bangkok (Thailand) and Jakarta (Indonesia). The Bangkok Liaison Station, established in 1963, has been developing a large research base that encompasses all of Thailand and surrounding countries. Additionally, the Jakarta Liaison Station, set up in 1973, is not only for information gathering but also serves as a base for joint research by individuals from both countries providing Indonesian researchers and students with the opportunity to come to Japan (and to Kyoto) to further their studies.

-  Nobel Prize Laureate, Dr. Yukawa.
-  Institute for Research in Humanities.
-  Scenes of TIDE lectures.





In December 2002, the Shanghai Research Center was founded at the Graduate School of Economics, and the following year, in January 2003, a branch office of the Center was established at Fudan University, China. The Center's central role is research on present-day China and its relation to the East Asian economies. There is a faculty exchange between Kyoto University and Fudan University. An educational program to train top-flight specialists in these fields is underway; for example, lectures are given in analyzing the economies and management systems in China and Japan. The high-level and advanced research at Kyoto University has yielded excellent international and domestic evaluations. Consequently, there are high expectations for many projects (MEXT's COE** Program). Overseas stations for COE research projects, Graduate Schools of Informatics and Energy Science, and Institute of Advanced Energy are forming chain sites in Silicon Valley (USA), Bangkok (Thailand), Beijing (China), and elsewhere. Moreover, the Sustainable Humanosphere Research Institute and the Ecological Research Center have set up observatories and field stations in Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia to engage in research surveys at each station. In the near future, these overseas stations (30 in total) will form a network which will function as local admissions office in addition to conducting research.

Note:

*MEXT: the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

**The Twenty-First Century Center of Excellence (COE) Program aims for the elevation of education and research standards in Japanese universities. Its priority is the formation of world-class research and education sites based on the principle of competition judged as by third-party evaluators. From 2002, MEXT began implementing programs to make universities stronger internationally in order to compete at the world's highest standards.



■ Kyoto University 21 COE Thai-Research Station.

■ Kyoto University researchers walking through a tree canopy on Mount Kinabalu, Borneo.

■ Humanoid Robot SIG2 can hear and listen to three speeches simultaneously. SIG2 is also known as "Prince Shotoku Robot" so named because legend says that the Japanese Prince Shotoku could listen to ten petitions at the same time.





The recent development of the internet's information-communication technology has reached new levels, communication now being possible with anybody on earth from one's home. However, face-to-face communication builds mutual trust and remains highly valued.

Kyoto University is moving in the direction of organizational and scheduled exchanges in various scientific fields and is concluding agreements between research-oriented universities to represent our country and the universities of the world. Informational and personnel exchanges with the world's academic institutions are increasing because forums and symposia have merged the traditional fields of natural sciences, humanities, and social sciences with energy science, information science, and life science. For example, the University has become the site for technical, high-level, and advanced research related to the twenty-first century's COE Program, and is communicating with first-rate researchers abroad. In fields related to science, engineering, and agricultural studies, efforts are made to supporting developing countries through cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), and other organizations. Last year, an agreement with United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) regarding joint execution of the University Twinning (UNITWIN) was forged to train experts and support research on damage caused by landslides. The training of teachers at the Pharmaceutical Faculty of Kabul University as part of our support for Afghanistan's recovery is beginning.



■ Scenes of KUINEP lectures.

■ Meeting with Dean of Faculty of Pharmacy, Kabul University.





International Activities

The University is nurturing human resources to assist the concerns of the global village in the twenty-first century. Among our University's student exchange programs is the Kyoto University International Education Program (KUINEP), a half-year or one-year program that has lectures in English on subjects such as life sciences, environmental studies, biotechnology, statistics, physics, economics, information science, politics, social studies, and the arts. In addition, our bilateral technical exchanges have continued uninterrupted. The University is deeply involved in the planning of international technical organizations such as the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU), the Association of East Asian Research Universities (AEARU), and others so that multilateral international ties within the region can be developed. Kyoto University's most recent research results have been widely introduced abroad, and "Kyoto University International Symposium" has been sponsored abroad with the intent of expanding the two-way flow of research information through debates with prestigious researchers. These symposia allow participants to gain valuable experience in the fields of information science, economics, energy science, and psychology in the United States, England, and Canada.

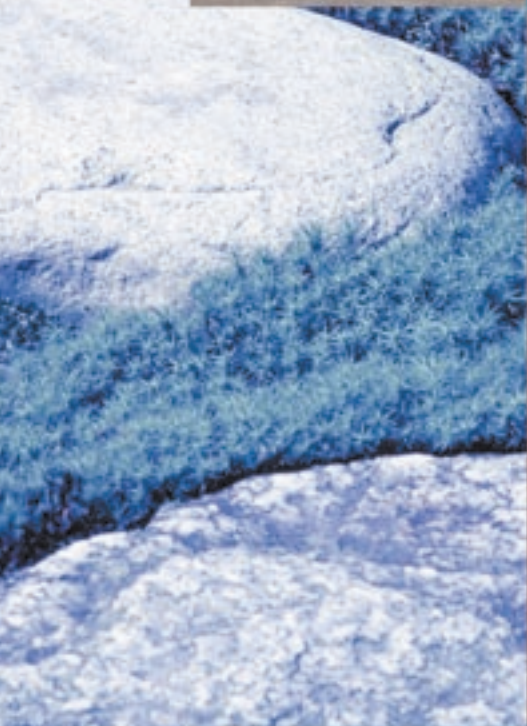
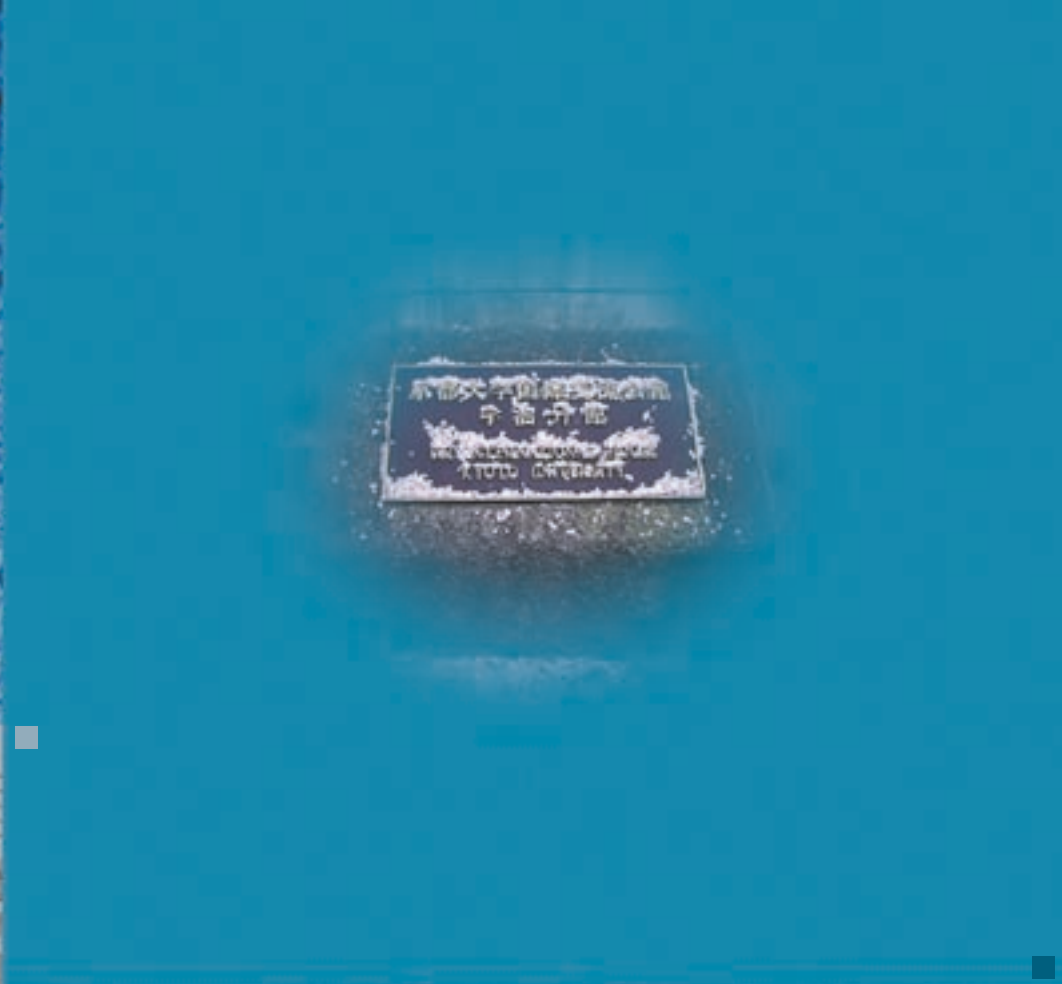
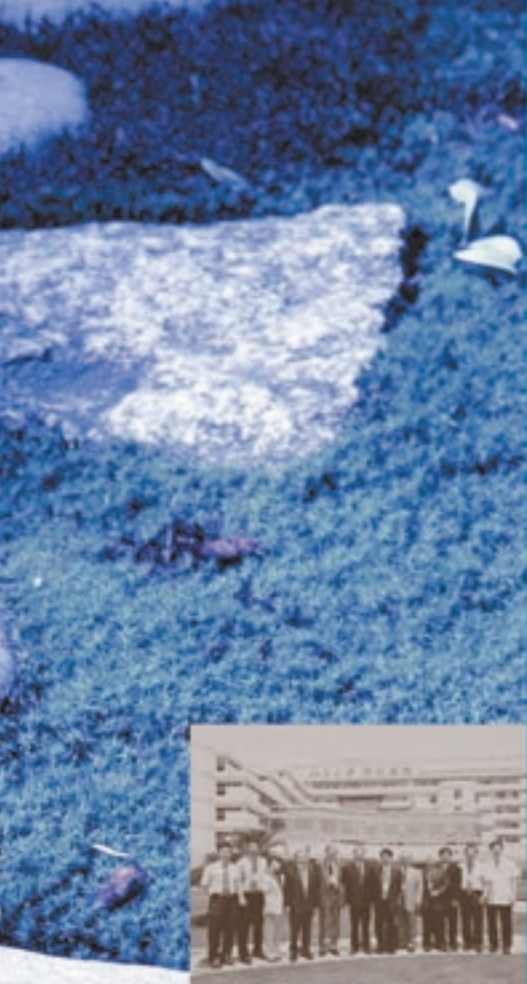
At present Kyoto University is planning the construction of scientific sites for researchers and students from Kyoto University and from all over the world to further their knowledge and to develop new ways of communicating with the world.

■ AEARU 14th Board of Directors Meeting at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, 2004.

■ Kyoto University International Symposium at the University of Michigan, 2003.

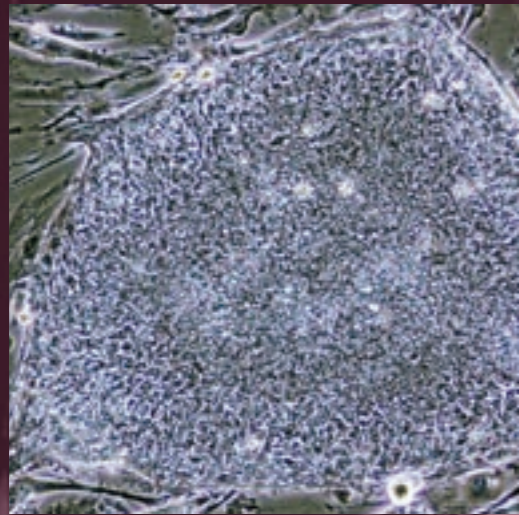
■ International House in Uji.

■ APRU 8th Annual President's Meeting, University of Chile.





- Human embryonic stem cell line KhES-1 : KhES-1 is the first human ES cell line established in Japan from three blastocysts recovered from frozen donated embryos. These cell lines are distributed to researchers who obtain governmental permission to use human ES cells.
- Ayumu, a 4 year old infant chimpanzee, starting to learn Arabic numerals in an ascending order on the computer.
- The 46th University Student Festival.
- Sakurajima Volcano Research Center: Explosive eruption of the volcano Sakurajima (am3 : 09, 17 Feb, 1988)



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