

1. Mission and Purpose

1. Description of Current Conditions

- (1) **Are the mission and goals of the university, colleges and graduate schools etc. adequately specified?**

◆ **University-wide**

Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU) was founded in April 2000 through the public-private collaboration between Oita Prefecture, the City of Beppu and the Ritsumeikan Trust. When APU was founded, the Declaration on the Occasion of the Opening of Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University proclaimed the university's basic ideals as "freedom, peace and humanity, international mutual understanding, and the future shape of the Asia Pacific region" (Ref. 1-1).

Declaration on the Occasion of the Opening of Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University

Since the beginning of human history, human beings have attempted to create their own distinctive cultures and develop civilizations in the various regions of the world. They have also had to overcome many constraints and obstacles in order to achieve their goal of living in conditions of freedom, peace and humanity.

The twentieth century was an era of rapid progress and unprecedented advance in the political, economical and cultural fields, as human activity increasingly took place on a global scale. Through the experience of the two World Wars, the United Nations and other international organizations were formed to enhance cooperation in order to maintain peace and to promote international understanding.

Given that the 21st century will see the emergence of a global society, we firmly believe that coexistence between mankind and nature, as well as between diverse cultures, will be indispensable for the peaceful and sustainable development of the Asia Pacific region. This is why we are now establishing a university here, to nurture the young talent and to create a new academic discipline which will help shape the region's future.

April 1, 2000 therefore marked the birth of the Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, based on a vision of freedom, peace and humanity, international mutual understanding and the future shape of the Asia Pacific region. The establishment of the university at Jumonjibaru, in Beppu City, has been made possible through the cooperation of the people of Beppu and Oita Prefecture, together with many others both within and outside Japan.

Our hope is that it will be a place where the young future leaders from countries and

1. Mission and Purpose

regions throughout the world will come to study together, live together, and understand each other's cultures and ways of life, in pursuit of goals which are common to all mankind.

The Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University is hereby declared open.

April 1st, 2000

In addition, the educational and research objectives of the university are stipulated in the University Regulations (Ref. 1-2).

"The University's mission is to offer a wide range of knowledge as an academic center in accordance with the general principles and methods of education set forth in the Fundamental Law of Education, as well as to teach and research in-depth technical knowledge pertaining to the Asia Pacific Region in order to develop students' intellectual, moral and practical abilities."

In order to realize APU's basic ideals and to nurture young talent capable of contributing to the future shape of the Asia Pacific region, APU has, since its inception, worked towards achieving The Three 50s: 1) Admit international students*¹ from 50 countries and regions; 2) Maintain a 50% ratio of international to domestic students*² in order to create a multicultural campus; and 3) Maintain a 50% ratio of foreign to Japanese faculty. Furthermore, APU has devised the following university management systems to achieve these ideals and objectives while emphasizing the internationalization of all aspects of education, research and university management:

*1: International students: Students with the status of residence of 'College Student'.

*2: Domestic students: Students who are Japanese nationals or non-Japanese students with a status of residence other than 'College Student'.

- a) Biannual (Spring and Fall) admissions and admissions selection in Japanese or English (The graduate school selection process is conducted entirely in English);
- b) Japanese and English dual-language education (undergraduate Colleges only), internationally-compatible educational systems (syllabi, subject numbering, stringent grading, credit transfer based on international standards etc.);
- c) International open recruitment of faculty members (in principle);
- d) Publication of in-house university materials, notices and homepage content in both Japanese and English (in principle; only English is used for graduate school materials);
- e) Operation of Faculty Council Meetings, University Senate Meetings and other university meetings in both Japanese and English;
- f) Appointment of foreign nationals to executive positions, including president, vice president and dean (As of April 2014, seven of 17 executives are foreign nationals).

As of May 1, 2014, the achievement of the Three 50s is as follows: 1) Number of countries and regions represented by our international students: 79, 2) International student ratio: 44%, 3) Non-Japanese faculty ratio: 50%. Since its inception, APU has accepted students

1. Mission and Purpose

from a total of 134 countries and regions (Ref. 1-3, pp.1, 3 and 6). In addition to the official languages of Japanese and English, a wide range of languages can be heard on the campus where active intercultural exchange is a routine occurrence.

◆ College of Asia Pacific Studies

The College of Asia Pacific Studies (APS) was established at the same time as the university in April 2000. The educational and research objectives (human resources development goals) for APS are as follows (Ref. 1-2, Article 2, Paragraph 3):

The College of Asia Pacific Studies aims to cultivate human resources who, upon comprehensive understanding of the diverse political conditions, economies, societies, and cultures of the Asia Pacific region, will (1) achieve basic and advanced knowledge in such areas as global society, environment and development, and tourism, (2) develop language, communication and problem-solving abilities, and (3) through understanding of the diverse problems facing the Asia Pacific, will be able to contribute to sustainable development and coexistence in the region.

◆ College of International Management

The College of International Management (APM) was established at the same time as the university in April 2000, undergoing a name change from the former College of Asia Pacific Management to its current College of International Management in April, 2009. The educational and research objectives (human resources development goals) for APM are as follows (Ref. 1-2, Article 2, Paragraph 3):

The Mission of the College of International Management is to cultivate human resources with strong business ethics that will play an active role in resolving management issues at globalizing enterprises and other organizations by imparting fundamental knowledge in management, enhancing intercultural communication skills and upholding cultural diversity.

◆ Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies

The Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies (GSA) was established in April 2003. GSA has both a Master's Program and a Doctoral Program, and the Master's Program offers two majors: Asia Pacific Studies and International Cooperation Policy. The educational and research objectives (human resources development goals) for the GSA programs, which are stipulated in the University Regulations, are as follows (Ref. 1-2, Article 2-2, Paragraph 3):

Master's Program Major in Asia Pacific Studies

The Master's Program in Asia Pacific Studies aims to cultivate human resources who will contribute to the sustainable development of and coexistence in the Asia Pacific region. These individuals will possess a keen interest in research pertaining to and

1. Mission and Purpose

specialized knowledge and skills in fields including international relations and social and cultural studies, and they will demonstrate the practical problem-solving skills required for the development of the Asia Pacific region.

Master's Program Major in International Cooperation Policy

The Master's Program in International Cooperation Policy aims to cultivate human resources who will contribute to the sustainable development of and coexistence in the Asia Pacific region. These individuals will possess a keen interest in research pertaining to and specialized knowledge and skills in fields including administration, environmental studies, development, health science and tourism, and they will demonstrate the practical problem-solving skills required for the development of the Asia Pacific region.

Doctoral Program in Asia Pacific Studies

The Doctoral Program in Asia Pacific Studies aims to cultivate advanced researchers and professionals who will contribute to the sustainable development of and coexistence in the Asia Pacific region and achieve an advanced capacity for pioneering new academic disciplines required for the development of the Asia Pacific region.

◆ Graduate School of Management

The Graduate School of Management (GSM) was established in April 2003. Currently, this school only has a Master's Program in place. The educational and research objectives (human resources development goals) for GSM, which are stipulated in the University Regulations, are as follows (Ref. 1-2, Article 2, Paragraph 23):

The Mission of GSM is to cultivate creative well-rounded professionals and leaders who will play a central role in resolving management issues at globalizing enterprises and other organizations by imparting advanced management skills, a good understanding of business ethics and a deep insight into globalization.

(2) Are the mission and purpose of the university, colleges and graduate schools known to faculty, staff and students and have they been made public?

◆ University-wide

The mission and purpose of the university have been made public in the Declaration on the Occasion of the Opening of Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, which can be found on the APU homepage. Also, the Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University University Regulations are publicly available on the Ritsumeikan Trust homepage. Meanwhile, the educational and research objectives (human resources development goals) are communicated both within and outside of the university (Ref. 1-1; 1-2). In addition, a plaque engraved with the

1. Mission and Purpose

Declaration on the Occasion of the Opening of Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University is located in the center of campus. It serves not only as a symbol of APU's basic ideals, it is also highly visible to all students and visitors to the campus.

◆ College of Asia Pacific Studies

At the time of enrollment, the College of Asia Pacific Studies (APS) distributes Japanese and English versions of the Undergraduate Academic Handbook, which contains both the Declaration on the Occasion of the Opening of Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University and the College's educational and research objectives (human resources development goals), to all incoming freshmen in an effort to notify them of this information (Ref. 1-4, p.1). This Handbook is also available at any time from the Academic Office, and an electronic version (in Japanese and English) is published on the university's official homepage (Ref. 1-5; Ref. 1-6).

◆ College of International Management

At the time of enrollment, the College of International Management (APM) distributes Japanese and English versions of the Undergraduate Academic Handbook, which contains both the Declaration on the Occasion of the Opening of Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University and the College's educational and research objectives (human resources development goals), to all incoming freshmen in an effort to notify them of this information (Ref. 1-4, p.1). This Handbook is also available at any time from the Academic Office, and an electronic version (in Japanese and English) is published on the university's official homepage (Ref. 1-5; Ref. 1-7). Furthermore, APM hangs posters on campus bulletin boards and distributes Mission Statement Cards (English only) in an effort to notify students of its mission (Ref. 1-8).

◆ Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies

The Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies (GSA) distributes the Graduate Academic Handbook (English only), which contains the School's educational and research objectives (human resources development goals), to all students and publishes the same information on the university homepage in an effort to notify students of this information (Ref. 1-9, pp. 19 and 77; Ref. 1-10).

◆ Graduate School of Management

The Graduate School of Management (GSM) distributes the Graduate Academic Handbook (English only), which contains the School's educational and research objectives (human resources development goals), to all students and publishes the same information on the university homepage in an effort to notify students of this information (Ref. 1-9, p. 49; Ref. 1-11). Furthermore, GSM hangs posters on campus bulletin boards and distributes Mission Statement Cards (English only) in an effort to notify students of its mission (Ref. 1-

1. Mission and Purpose

8).

(3) Are the mission and purpose of the university, colleges and graduate schools etc. regularly reviewed for suitability?

◆ University-wide

The suitability of APU's basic ideals and educational and research objectives is reviewed every two years during the self-assessment process as well as during the formulation of mid to long-term university visions, academic reforms (i.e., curriculum reforms), and mid-term plans.

More recently, this was performed during the formulation of the APU2020 Vision and the APU Phase Three Plan, the AY2011 academic reforms and the AY2014 graduate school reforms (Ref. 1-12; Ref. 1-13; Ref. 1-14). APU is currently in the process of formulating the APU2030 Vision.

However, the slogan used in the APU2020 Vision—"Towards becoming a global university where diversity breeds creativity by demonstrating the true value of "freedom, peace and humanity"—served as a reaffirmation of APU's basic ideals. In the APU2030 Vision as well, we have confirmed that, even after more than 10 years, APU's basic ideals and human resources development goals continue to sufficiently respond to the needs of society, so we have decided to present them in even more concrete terms.

◆ College of Asia Pacific Studies

The human resources development goals for the College of Asia Pacific Studies are reviewed during the self-assessments conducted every two years, and the suitability and significance thereof is assessed by the College and the Division of Academic Affairs every time academic reforms are carried out. More recently, these were confirmed during the discussion of the new curriculum adopted in AY2011 (Ref. 1-13, pp. 28). At present, discussions have been initiated on the next round of curriculum reforms, and the educational and research objectives (human resources development goals) will be reviewed again as part of that process.

◆ College of International Management

The human resources development goals for the College of International Management are reviewed during the self-assessments conducted every two years, and the suitability and significance thereof is assessed by the College and the Division of Academic Affairs every time academic reforms are carried out. More recently, these were confirmed during the discussion of the new curriculum adopted in AY2011 (Ref. 1-13, pp. 28). Moreover, the mission and purpose are currently under review as part of the process of obtaining accreditation from AACSB. At present, discussions have been initiated on the next round of curriculum reforms, and the educational and research objectives (human resources

1. Mission and Purpose

development goals) will be reviewed again as part of that process.

◆ Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies

The human resources development goals for the Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies are reviewed during the self-assessments conducted every two years, and the suitability and significance thereof is assessed by the Graduate School every time academic reforms are carried out. More recently, these were confirmed during the discussion of the new curriculum adopted in AY2014 (Ref. 1-14).

◆ Graduate School of Management

The human resources development goals for the Graduate School of Management are reviewed during the self-assessments conducted every two years, and the suitability and significance thereof is assessed by the Graduate School every time academic reforms are carried out. More recently, these were confirmed during the discussion of the new curriculum adopted in AY2014 (Ref. 1-14). Moreover, the mission and purpose are currently under review as part of the process of obtaining accreditation from AACSB.

2. Assessment

(1) Items that are Showing Results

◆ University-wide

1) Penetration of the university's mission, goals and social significance

Since its inception, APU has continued to broadcast the significance of its basic ideals and education and research activities in both Japanese and English throughout the world. As a result, we have created a rare multicultural campus where young people from around the world with whom APU strikes a chord gather and where nearly 50% of the student body and faculty are non-Japanese (Ref. 1-3, p. 6).

Amid the continuing globalization of the economy and society, people from around Japan and the world have become extremely interested in APU students because they are equipped with advanced intercultural understanding skills and language proficiency. With a focus on the Asia Pacific region, which is developing rapidly and becoming increasingly complicated, the mission and purpose of APU, which were devised to produce human resources who embody the ideals of 'Freedom, Peace and Humanity', 'International Mutual Understanding' and 'The Future Shape of the Asia Pacific Region', have accurately responded to the needs of contemporary society, and we deem them to be suitable.

1. Mission and Purpose

(2) Areas for Improvement

◆ University-wide

1) Communication of the mission and purpose

Compared to the penetration of the basic ideals, which are contained in the Opening Declaration and other documents, we have not sufficiently communicated the educational and research objectives (human resources development goals) of the Colleges and Graduate Schools. In light of APU's unique characteristics, we have typically focused efforts on communicating information on the homepage, so our publicity by way of pamphlets and printed matter has been somewhat weak.

3. Strategic Direction for the Future

(1) Items that are Showing Results

◆ University-wide

1) Penetration of the university's mission, goals and social significance

To ensure that the basic ideals and educational and research goals are easy to understand, leave an impression and strike a chord with outside parties as well as people affiliated with the university, we will consider more effective methods of information dissemination and strive for further penetration of the university's mission and purpose. In AY2015, the first year of the APU2030 Vision, we will begin undertaking in-depth discussions and initiatives.

(2) Areas for Improvement

◆ University-wide

1) Communication of the mission and purpose

We will strive to communicate the educational and research objectives (human resources development goals) of the Colleges and Graduate Schools. In AY2015, we will also seek to enhance publicity in pamphlets and printed matter in addition to the homepage.

4. Supporting Resources

- 1-1: Declaration on the Occasion of the Opening of Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University
- 1-2: Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University University Regulations
- 1-3: APU Data Book 2014
- 1-4: 2014 Undergraduate Academic Handbook

1. Mission and Purpose

- 1-5: APU homepage, Academic Office
- 1-6: APU homepage, Facts and Figures for the College of Asia Pacific Studies
- 1-7: APU homepage, Facts and Figures for the College of International Management
- 1-8: College of International Management/Graduate School of Management Mission Statement Card
- 1-9: 2014 Graduate Academic Handbook
- 1-10: APU homepage, Facts and Figures for the Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies
- 1-11: APU homepage, Facts and Figures for the Graduate School of Management
- 1-12: APU2020 Vision
- 1-13: APU Phase Three Plan Outline
- 1-14: AY2014 Curriculum Reforms in the Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies Master's Program and the Graduate School of Management Master's Program