

1. Mission and Purpose

(1) Description of Current Conditions

Assessment/Evaluation Parameter (1): Are the mission and purpose of the university appropriately specified? Additionally, based on the foregoing, are the goals of the colleges and graduate schools appropriately specified?

Evaluation Points

- Specification of human resources development goals and other education and research goals for each college, department, and course at the undergraduate level, and for each graduate school and major at the graduate level; content of such goals
- Correlation between mission and purpose of the university, and goals of the colleges and graduate schools

■ 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 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, Article 1).

"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. The university has already achieved (and continues to maintain) its Three 50s goal (Ref. 1-3), and aims to realize a more evolved global community and enhance the quality of its education by transcending ordinary multicultural exchange. To this end, it formulated a new Four 100s goal in AY2014, which includes the following objectives: 1) freshmen residency of dormitories as an educational venue: 100%, 2) classes using multicultural cooperative learning, etc.: 100%, 3) domestic students with overseas experience during enrollment: 100%, and 4) countries and regions represented by international students: 100. APU is pursuing its Four 100s goal on a university-wide basis as part of its objectives under the Top Global University Project (SGU) launched by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), and has thus far steadily achieved the objectives set for each academic year (Ref. 1-4).

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:

- 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 2017, five of 19 executives are foreign nationals). (Ref. 1-5)

*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'.

■ 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 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 2-2, Paragraph 3):

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.

Assessment/Evaluation Parameter (2): Are the mission and purpose of the university and the goals of the colleges and graduate schools appropriately indicated in the University Regulations or equivalent regulations, known to faculty, staff, and students, and publicly announced?

Evaluation Points

- Appropriate indicating of human resources development goals and other education and research goals for each college, department, and course at the undergraduate level, and for each graduate school and major at the graduate level
- Dissemination and public announcement of the mission and purpose of the university and the goals of the colleges and graduate schools to faculty, staff, and students through printed, online, and other materials

APU's mission, consisting of its Declaration on the Occasion of the Opening of Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University and its education and research goals (human resources development goals), is published on the official university website (Ref. 1-1; Ref. 1-6 <http://www.apu.ac.jp/home/about/content36/>) and included in the Undergraduate Academic Handbook (geared toward undergraduate students; available in Japanese and English) (Ref. 1-7), Graduate Academic Handbook (geared toward graduate students; only available in English) (Ref. 1-8), and other materials. In this way, it is broadly announced to faculty, staff, students, and the public. In addition, a plaque engraved with the 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.

The Undergraduate Academic Handbook is distributed to incoming freshmen at all colleges and also published on the official university website. All graduate students are notified that the Graduate Academic Handbook is published on the official university website.

Assessment/Evaluation Parameter (3): Has the university specified future-oriented, medium-to-long-term plans and other measures to achieve the mission and purpose of the university and the goals of the colleges and graduate schools?

Evaluation Points

- Specification of future-oriented, medium-to-long-term plans and other measures

APU formulated an APU2030 Vision (i.e., a vision of what APU will be like in 2030 and a vision of what the university wants APU to be like in 2030) in 2015. This vision is the core policy that underpins the APU2020 Second Half Plan, the university's action plan for AY2015–AY2020 (Ref. 1-9). APU is actively broadcasting the APU2030 Vision on and off-campus through activities such as

the creation of a plastic folder imprinted with the APU2030 Vision.

Excerpt from the APU2030 Vision

In our global society of many different cultures and values, conflict and friction are bound to occur. APU strives to cultivate global citizens who will build a peaceful world by understanding and accepting cultural and historical differences. Fostering graduates with these abilities is at the core of APU's ideals of Freedom, Peace, and Humanity; International Mutual Understanding; and the Future Shape of the Asia Pacific Region.

APU Graduates will pursue freedom and peace with a deep respect for human dignity. By acting for the sake of both individuals and society, they can change the world.

Individuals who can change the world:

- Cooperate and overcome conflict through dialog for the benefit of society.
- Tolerate cultural differences and unfamiliar challenges.
- Create new values incorporating diverse perspectives and ideas.
- Envision their own goals and continue to grow as lifelong learners.

To cultivate such individuals, APU will:

- Further utilize its preeminently multicultural campus to immerse students in a Global Learning Community that provides them with opportunities to grow.
- Create a new Global Learning standard by pursuing internationally compatible education and research.
- Strengthen ties with its invaluable stakeholders, from the local community to alumni around the world, working together to design the University and its educational programs.

To achieve the goals in the APU2020 Second Half Plan, the university has formulated annual initiatives for all divisions, colleges, graduate schools, and other organizations. After conducting a mid-year assessment and based on progress at the end of the year, it formulates new initiatives for the next academic year. Such initiatives also reflect objectives pursued under the SGU Project (for which APU was selected) (Ref. 1-10), and cover goals and objectives targeted not only by the divisions, colleges, graduate schools, and other individual organizations, but by the university as a whole.

Furthermore, the heads of each division, college, graduate school, and other organization formulate project policies at the start of each academic year, and related initiatives for each academic year are shared with and discussed in detail at the University Senate Meeting.

(2) Strengths and distinctive features

Since its inception, APU has continued to broadcast the significance of its basic ideals and education and research activities in Japanese and English throughout the world. As a result, we have created a

rare multicultural campus where motivated young people from around the world with whom APU strikes a chord gather, and where roughly 50% of the student body and faculty are foreign nationals.

Amid the continuing globalization of 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 complex, 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 APU deems them to be appropriate. The College of International Management and Graduate School of Management, in particular, have formulated learning goals and learning objectives based on their education and research objectives as a business school. The subjects offered in the College and Graduate School were designed and are operated in such a way as to reflect these learning goals and learning objectives.

(3) Problem Areas

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.

(4) Summary

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.

Going forward, APU will continue to broadcast and disseminate the education and research goals of its colleges and graduate schools through its official website, pamphlets, and other printed materials, and provide opportunities such as orientations to share such goals with enrollees and ensure a firm understanding of the goals among them.

APU will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2020, and will actively push forward with preparations to actively broadcast the university's mission, goals and social significance in the 20th Anniversary Project, which will start from April 2019.