



The 5th Japan-Mexico Rectors' Summit Global Risks and Universities Joint Statement

On October 6th and 7th, 2022, the 5th Japan-Mexico Rectors' Summit was hosted by Sophia University. Also, parts of these efforts were the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), El Colegio de México (COLMEX), the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), the National Council of Sciences and Technology (CONACYT) the Embassy of Mexico in Japan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA), the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (MEXT), Japan Student Support Organization (JASSO). The initial hosting of the 5th Summit was scheduled for 2021, but it had to be postponed until now due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To build momentum for the face-to-face Summit, an online pre-event was held on October 7th (JST) / 6th (CDT), 2021. This event fostered exchange of information on world university rankings, international efforts in industry-academia collaboration, and the activities of female researchers between the two countries, where unique and interesting approaches were introduced. The 5th Summit, which has taken place after 3 years since the 4th Summit, has been entitled "**Global Risks and Universities.**" More than 30 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) from Japan and Mexico reunited to discuss and share good practices on the following four areas:

1: Future direction of international exchange and educational activities between Japan and Mexico (e.g. sharing experiences after the COVID-19 pandemic)

The HEIs of the two countries need to promote student mobility and academic exchanges in such a way that young people from Japan and Mexico can pursue their studies in a different social and cultural environment and get to know people and societies with different traditions and ways of thinking. Knowing others will make leaders of next generations prioritize equality and social inclusion.

2: Issues of social fragmentation and inequality

Natural phenomena mentioned in the previous point can lead to economic and social hardship such as food shortages, poverty, forced migration, and war. These affect mostly the people in vulnerable situations and can stimulate social fragmentation and inequality. The HEIs of the two countries need to act to prevent social exclusion in our societies.

3: Environmental issues, climate change, sustainable society

We, the human beings, are confronting various kinds of risks that we ourselves have been creating through our activities. The HEIs of Japan and Mexico need to cope with the problems stemming from those risks bring so that we can leave a sustainable society for future generations.

4: Future directions for international joint research between Japan and Mexico

The HEIs of the two countries can contribute to resolve the problems mentioned above through international joint research projects. The researchers in the HEIs can collaborate bringing together not only their knowledge acquired through their academic careers, but also their wisdom derived from their diverse cultural backgrounds.

The Japan-Mexico Rectors' Summit has allowed Japanese and Mexican Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to continuously discuss common issues and design creative policies for capacity building and best practices. The 1st Summit was held in Tokyo in 2011. It explored actions to foster cooperation and to promote education, science, and innovation. The 2nd Summit was held in Guanajuato and Aguascalientes in 2014, during the Japan-Mexico Friendship Year. It built on the 1st Summit and discussed about global competencies and interculturalism. The 3rd Summit in Hiroshima was held in 2017, focusing on collaboration for innovation among academia, industry, and government. In 2019, the 4th Summit in Mexico City discussed implementation of Society 5.0.

On this occasion, for the 5th Rectors' Summit held in Tokyo on October 6 and 7th, 2022, 42 institutions from both countries gathered to talk about different global risks and how best universities can engage in these situations.



The Pandemic greatly affected and brought drastic changes to people from all corners of the world, but it is not the only issue facing humanity. Different dangers such as energy and food shortages, economic disparity, conflicts, and natural disasters continue to affect Mexico and Japan among many other places in the world while those most affected are socially vulnerable groups. It is an urgent mission of universities for the common good to take part in solving or alleviating these hardships.

Such growing concerns are reflected on some of the subtopics for this Summit, such as environmental issues, climate change, sustainable societies, social fragmentation, and inequality. Throughout the Summit, we discussed ways in which the HEIs, with the mission to be centers of research and capability for interdisciplinary approaches to tackle complex issues, can become the driving force for finding possible solutions.

Other topics were future directions for HEIs of the two countries for student exchange and research, such as effective program styles, promotion of research collaboration, and enhancing support structures at different levels. These issues were discussed based on the belief that building mutual understanding and trust in future generations will be the key to concrete and lasting partnership between our countries.

Participants shared ideas to overcome new challenges and to build a better present and future, and the universities agreed to work together for the advancement of post-COVID era society. The HEIs also stressed the importance of working together to create resilient and flexible societies capable of dealing with new threads, and to educate those who can cooperate against common challenges.

The first day of the Summit comprised of discussions related to the future prospect of international exchange and educational activities between the two countries. An evening reception was held at the Embassy of Mexico in Japan, which became an opportunity for networking among the participants. Although the COVID-19 pandemic suppressed the flow of people, we are all reminded of how important it is to have face-to-face discussions and engage



in dialogues.

On the second day, the participants actively exchanged ideas on three of the four areas: issues of social fragmentation and inequality, the environmental issues, and international joint research collaboration between Japan and Mexico. Through these sessions, the two countries pledged to work together to address such issues, expand research and student exchanges, and create closer cooperation between industry, academia, and government to solve common problems and make our common home a better place.

Statements

On Future direction of international exchange and educational activities between Japan and Mexico

HEIs will work collectively in fostering the next generation of leaders who can solve global issues and play a key role in shaping sustainable societies.

On Issues of social fragmentation and inequality

HEIs will contribute to the elimination of social divisions and inequalities through the rediscovery and re-creation of new visions, and by finding desirable innovations for humanity.

On Environmental issues, climate change, sustainable society

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) will continue to play a leading role in solving these global risks and challenges that threaten sustainable societies.

On Future directions for international joint research between Japan and Mexico

Together, researchers from HEIs in Japan and Mexico will deepen their collaboration by creatively incorporating new knowledge from different backgrounds and perspectives into their research activities, thereby contributing to technological innovation that meets the needs of society.

From this Rectors' Summit, we made considerable achievements in terms of inter-university exchange between Japan and Mexico. Platforms for inter-university exchange between the two countries have been reinforced. As hubs of knowledge, our future task is to expand the volume of exchange between the two countries to respond to the new context of global risks in all areas.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to the personnel from the Mexican Embassy in Japan, as well as to all other personnel and organizations who have helped to realize this summit.

Agreed

For Japan:	For Mexico:
Chiba University	Autonomous University of Nuevo Leon
Hiroshima University	Center for Research and Advanced Studies of the National Polytechnic Institute
J. F. Oberlin University	CETYS University
Keio University	El Colegio de México (COLMEX)
Kyushu Institute of Technology	Ibero-American University, Mexico City
Meikai University	Metropolitan Autonomous University
Nagaoka University of Technology	National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)
Nanzan University	National Center for Research, Documentation, and Information on Visual Arts
Seisen University	National Polytechnic Institute
Shibaura Institute of Technology	Tecnológico de Monterrey
Soka University	Universidad Tecnológica de Querétaro
Sophia University	University of Guadalajara
The National University Corporation Wakayama University	University of Guanajuato
The University of Tokyo	University of Monterrey
Tokai University	University of Veracruz
Tokyo Institute of Technology	Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID)
Tokyo University of Foreign Studies	National Association of Universities and Higher Education Institutions (ANUIES)
University of Tsukuba	National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT)
Utsunomiya University	
Waseda University	