

Hitotsubashi University and the Global COE Program

Further Expanding Our Presence as an International Center for Education and Research

In fiscal 2002, Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology launched the 21st Century Center of Excellence (COE) Program. The Global COE Program is a new initiative being implemented based on an assessment of the 21st Century COE Program and a verification of the results achieved. The Global COE Program aims to raise the international competitiveness of Japanese universities by providing

priority funding support for establishing education and research centers that perform at the highest levels of global excellence. The program will further enhance and strengthen the education capabilities of Japan's graduate schools. Using world-class research infrastructure, it will foster highly creative researchers who will go on to become world leaders in their respective fields.

The 21st Century COE Program sought to promote university reform, to develop outstanding young researchers, to pioneer new academic areas, and to raise the standard of research. With the emergence of the knowledge-based society and the advancement of globalization, however, it has become increasingly important to develop researchers with abilities that are



among the most advanced in the world. The Global COE Program thus targets all academic areas, including interdisciplinary areas, combined fields, and new disciplines, and aims to establish education and research centers that perform at the highest levels of global excellence and to radically strengthen universities' capabilities to develop young researchers who can serve in all fields of society, including business.

Two Hitotsubashi University projects have been selected as Global COE Programs for fiscal 2008: "Innovation in the Japanese Corporation—Education and Research Center for Empirical Management Studies" (Business Management and Accounting Area, Graduate School of Commerce and Management;

Project Program Leader: Professor Tsuyoshi Numagami) and "Research Unit for Statistical and Empirical Analysis in Social Sciences" (Institute of Economic Research and Department of Economics, Hitotsubashi University; Program Leader: Professor Kyoji Fukao).

Both of these programs aim to further advance the findings of past 21st Century COEs. Selection as Global COEs is proof that our past education and research achievements are highly evaluated. Global COEs are good opportunities for Hitotsubashi University to further increase its international presence. Global COEs are five years in length, but we see that merely as one milestone; the centers will continue to serve as international hubs for education and research after that point as well.