

# Hitotsubashi Institute for Advanced Study

Helping enhance the caliber and internationalization of social science research and nurturing researchers of the next generation



## Established in 2014 to promote international, cutting-edge, interdisciplinary research

Hitotsubashi University, which celebrated its 140th anniversary in 2015, has promoted research in various fields as a social science research university. In particular, the university has excelled in research with practical applications—where results directly relate to improvements in society—including work that contributes to solving problems and reforming systems in society, the economy, and law and that helps improve business management. Simultaneously, we place similar importance on basic and applied research, which provides a base for our practically oriented research. Through its education and research, Hitotsubashi University has contributed to the development of Japan and the world and has nurtured the indi-

viduals who facilitate this advancement.

In recent years, however, globalization has progressed at a tremendous pace, and our society today faces a host of serious challenges. Universities must therefore engage in international, cutting-edge, interdisciplinary research so that they can respond to the needs of today's society. In this context, Hitotsubashi University established the Hitotsubashi Institute for Advanced Study (HIAS) in May 2014 to serve as a center for world-class social science research while constructing a network for related research activities.

## HIAS is fully operational under the direct supervision of the President

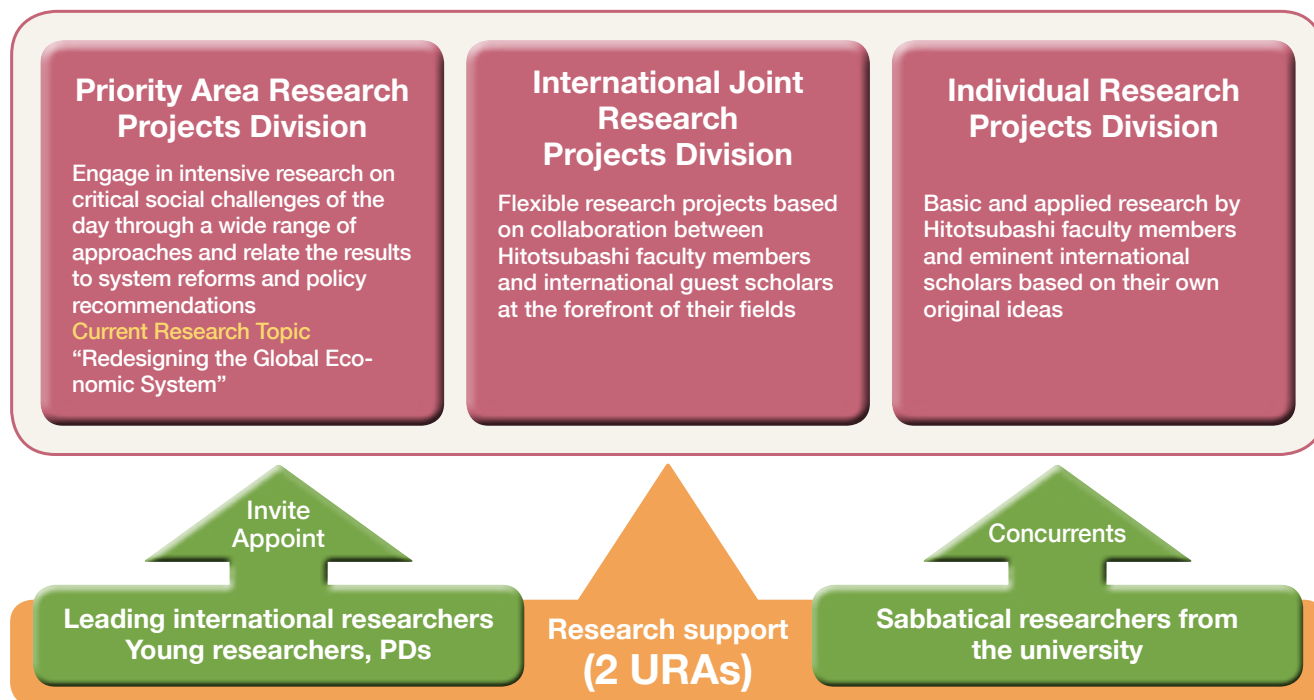
Under the direct supervision of the President of Hitotsubashi University, HIAS has established priority area research projects; while promoting international joint

research projects, it is also focusing on nurturing young researchers who can succeed at the global stage.

In priority area research projects, scholars engage in intensive research on critical social challenges of the day by employing a wide range of approaches, with the aim of connecting their results to system reforms and policy recommendations. HIAS also works closely with the Hitotsubashi University Institute of Economic Research, using valuable statistical data (long-term economic statistics and so forth) compiled by the institute—a longstanding global base for collaborative research—for theoretical and empirical analyses, an area in which Hitotsubashi University excels. Our primary research topic is “Redesigning the Global Economic System: Sustain-

# Research Organization Structure

(as of October 1, 2015)



able Development for Japan and the World,” and we are currently conducting the following four projects.

- Globalization and Economic Policies (Project Leader: Prof. Jota Ishikawa, Graduate School of Economics, Hitotsubashi University)
- Institutions and Policies for Sustainable Poverty Reduction in Developing Countries (Project Leader: Prof. Takashi Kurosaki, Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University)
- Development of Macroeconometric Models with Applications to Macroeconomic Problems (Project Leader: Toshiaki Watanabe, Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University)
- Norms, Institutions, and Mechanism Design: Theoretical and Empirical Studies for Comprehensive Social Sciences (Project

Leader: Reiko Goto, Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University)

In addition, in July and August 2015, the Hitotsubashi Summer Institute was held for the first time. At this event, participants shared details regarding their research activities in the areas of “International Trade & FDI,” “Labor Economics,” “Econometrics: Frontiers in Financial Econometrics,” and “Economic History.” According to HIAS Director Koji Murata (board member and executive vice president of Hitotsubashi University at the time), HIAS intends to establish two additional priority area research projects in the future.

All the projects involve elements of joint international research and collaboration between Hitotsubashi faculty members and international guest researchers who are at the

forefront of their fields. Moreover, HIAS hires young scholars with the qualities required of postdoctoral fellows (PDs) through international recruitment and trains them to conduct basic and applied research based on their ingenuity and free exchange of ideas.

HIAS will give priority to important contemporary research topics that are the focus of international attention, and we will proceed in pursuit of results. Specifically, we intend to give precedence to our sabbatical system for “leading-edge” researchers at the university, that is, faculty members who have shown success in their research and begun to demonstrate consistent achievements at a global level; we also hire such scholars as our HIAS faculty, in addition to their current positions at the university. Moreover, we will also invite world-



Image from the 2015 Hitotsubashi Summer Institute held from July 31 to August 11, 2015.



class scholars and promote joint research and the publishing of research at the university.

### Appointing university research administrators for the first time to provide a dedicated environment for research and the publication of papers

HIAS is managed as flexibly as possible to ensure its excellent reputation worldwide as a base for social science research. Researchers affiliated with HIAS include eminent researchers from overseas, Hitotsubashi University faculty members expected to succeed internationally, and young researchers and postdoctoral fellows hired under fixed contracts through international recruitment. Faculty members holding tenure-track posts are also appointed as HIAS concurrents before going up for tenure review. HIAS has invited or appointed the following researchers during the first two years:

● AY 2014: 1 eminent researcher invited (Prof. Alan Woodland, University of New South Wales), and 1 postdoctoral fellow appointed (domestic)

● AY 2015 (included plans; as of October 1): 11 eminent researchers invited (Prof. Kaz Miyagiwa, Florida International University; Prof. Jay Pil Choi, Michigan State University; Prof. Miaojie Yu, Peking University; Prof. Rene Belderbos, University of Leuven, Prof. Ian Wooton, University of Strathclyde, etc.), and 1 postdoctoral fellow appointed (international)

For young researchers who are capable of producing a large number of academic papers, we reduce teaching responsibilities and have a sabbatical system in place to ensure that they can spend adequate time on their research. Moreover, we employ university research administrators (URAs) to enhance research activities at the institutional level.

URAs have been introduced at

Hitotsubashi University for the first time. To comprehend research developments and to effectively communicate in English to the wishes of overseas researchers, we have appointed two people with research experience to URA posts.

In addition, we nurture scholars of the next generation who can succeed at the global stage by providing opportunities for Hitotsubashi University graduate students



to receive instruction from eminent researchers whom we invite from overseas and by providing support for presentations at international conferences and the submission of papers to international journals.

### Promoting social science research and nurturing next-generation researchers by outlining the “Hitotsubashi University Strategic Plan for Advancement”

As mentioned above, HIAS is under the direct supervision of the President of Hitotsubashi University, Professor Koichi Tadenuma. The “Hitotsubashi University Strategic Plan for Advancement (1): Three Priorities,” announced by the president himself at the beginning of the 2015 academic year, serves as a summary of his ideas regarding the promotion of HIAS.

“As competition intensifies among nations, organizations, and individuals, the world is confronting serious problems such as wealth disparity, poverty, economic instability, environmental pollution, conflicts at the state and corporate levels, and the graying of populations. It will take the collective wisdom of the social sciences to solve these problems and to promote innovation and achieve sustainable growth for Japan and the world.

As a social science research university, Hitotsubashi University will pursue leading-edge research that contributes to addressing these global issues and improving society, the economy, and law.”

While respecting the previous traditions and experiences of Hitotsubashi University, HIAS will play a central role to further enhance the caliber and internationalization of social science research and nurture researchers of the next generation. The development of HIAS will be essential for the future development of global society.