



III. Hitotsubashi as a Powerhouse of Research Activities

Hitotsubashi aims to pursue cutting-edge research relevant to the 21st century by creating new research areas within the social sciences. This will be achieved through the establishment of world-class research institutions, the construction of global networks, and the advancement of traditional social sciences and interdisciplinary research in the social sciences and cross-disciplinary research systems. Also, in order to attract more high-caliber international researchers, the creation of world-class research environments and the construction of global networks are essential. The International Strategic Concepts in research activities aim to contribute to the development of a society with liberal political and economic systems and to foster leaders capable of participating in global affairs. Hitotsubashi also aims to meet the demands of the 21st century by being a worldwide hub through the promotion of cutting-edge research in the social sciences.

1. Promoting the International Strategic Concepts in research activities

Under the auspices of the 21st COE (Centers of Excellence) Program, Hitotsubashi has advanced the quality of research conducted in areas of the social sciences such as management, finance, economics, law and social relations, interdisciplinary research in the social sciences field and cross-disciplinary research systems. Within the International Strategic Concepts, the University allocates resources for research with a strategic focus on Asian studies, and aims to support research in the social sciences conducted by the Institute of Economic Research, the Institute of Innovation Research, and each graduate school and faculty. In particular, the “Asia Long-Term Historical Statistical Database for the period of 1995-1999”, funded by The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and managed by the Institute of Economic Research is a good example of the research accomplished with the support of the COE Program. Promoting such research allows Hitotsubashi to make constructive contributions to the international relations, economic systems, financial systems, management systems, and legal systems of the Asia region, comprising of Japan, China, and ASEAN countries. The International Research Center and the Hitotsubashi Beijing Office were established to strengthen the University’s Asian Studies program, however in the near future Hitotsubashi intends for them to make even larger contributions to the

program and the Asia region. Furthermore, the Asian Public Policy Program in the School of International and Public Policy, established in 2005, will become involved with various projects aimed at the construction of networks between researchers and policymakers in the Asian region as an Asian hub. Networks for researchers of Japan and information exchanges among higher education institutions will also be strengthened to further enhance international awareness of Japan and Japan studies.

2. Expanding international research networks

Hitotsubashi provides quality facilities such as joint research project rooms at the International Joint Research Center and accommodation facilities for researchers to create an attractive environment for researchers. However, as it outlined in the international strategic plans, more action needs to be taken such as monetary incentives, to further attract high-caliber international researchers. By concluding academic agreements with 47 institutions around the world, Hitotsubashi has already created global networks and is expected to further strengthen these networks by utilizing the institutions included in the international strategic plans; compiling the Faculty Research Database (Research Paper Database); and establishing a network of researchers centered around former visiting international researchers to Hitotsubashi.

3. Enhancing the International Joint Research Center

Hitotsubashi intends to form an international working group and establish a new research center to conduct research on long-term international strategies of politics, economics, and various social sciences topics including Asia-related matters from a global perspective. The research center will consist of two groups: a research group consisting of only University faculty, and a joint research group consisting of various researchers. The researchers in the joint research group will be of various nationalities, but the share of Japanese researchers is expected to be around fifty percent. This joint research center will also support other international research networks independently operating on campus, manage various research networks, and hold conferences and workshops concerning joint research.

4. Promoting organic cooperation among research institutes on campus

The various experiences of EU integration provide helpful input to research on dynamism and regional integration within Asia. Through the efforts of the 21st Century COE Program, “The Center for New European Research – Conflict and Settlement,” Hitotsubashi has been conducting research on these issues. Moreover, the University has

established the EUIJ as a consortium with three other universities under the financial assistance of the EU headquarters, and continues to conduct collaborative research on EU-related studies with European researchers in cooperation with the EU headquarters. In this manner, Hitotsubashi will strategically advance worldwide cutting-edge research on both Asia and Europe and aim to generate synergies among these areas.

In order to implement international strategies while focusing on European and Asian studies, the University has been promoting the organic cooperation of the International Joint Research Center, the Institute of Economic Research, the Asian Public Policy Program in the School of International and Public Policy, the Hitotsubashi Beijing Office, and the EUIJ. With each facility focusing on its specialized area- Asia, China, and Europe- it is expected that an organic and efficient integration of resources will produce synergistic effects, leading to higher quality research, which can be well utilized by international organizations, national governments, research institutes, and companies to further develop political, economic, financial, legal and management systems in Asia.

Hitotsubashi has a strong track record in industry-government-academia collaborative research, and intends to extend this success with more collaborative international joint research. The Hitotsubashi Beijing office has already held an international symposium in cooperation with China enterprises. This kind of research provides valuable data for companies and governments on activities in China.

5. Extending the global reach of research activities

A major goal of the International Strategic Concepts is to make research and developmental activities widely available to international and local communities. Moreover, while other Japanese universities are struggling to compete at the international level, Hitotsubashi will strengthen its position in international academic rankings as an intellectual powerhouse in higher education.

For this goal, the OPIR intends to support, strengthen, and promote the following activities:

- a) Construction of international research links
- b) International symposiums and joint research activities
- c) Making presentations at conferences and submitting papers to journals
- d) Translation support system to publish academic papers

- e) Publicizing and disseminating research and developmental activities and other accomplishments to international communities
- f) Publicizing and disseminating research and developmental activities and other accomplishments to local communities
- g) Conducting overseas seminars and lectures in cooperation with partner or sister universities
- h) Advertising multilingual educational and research activities, enhancing the university's official websites such as its multilingual sites, improving brochures, and disseminating information to the media
- i) Promoting the "University" and "Corporate" identity through comprehensive advertising aimed at furthering global reach

A task force within the OPIR will be established and entrusted with the duty of executing these activities, with outsourcing being considered for a part of the PR activities. Furthermore, the Hitotsubashi Beijing Office, the International Joint Research Center, and the EUIJ are also expected to play a role in PR activities.

6. Implementing a "one-stop service" for international programs

International activities such as overseas business trips, receiving international researchers, and international conferences, all involve time-consuming and sometimes complicated procedures such as arranging entry visas and submitting documents to various government bodies. To ease the burden on applicants, Hitotsubashi will consult with travel agents and professionals in the convention industry to create a streamlined consulting service that simplifies procedures and paperwork to create a more convenient "one-stop service".

