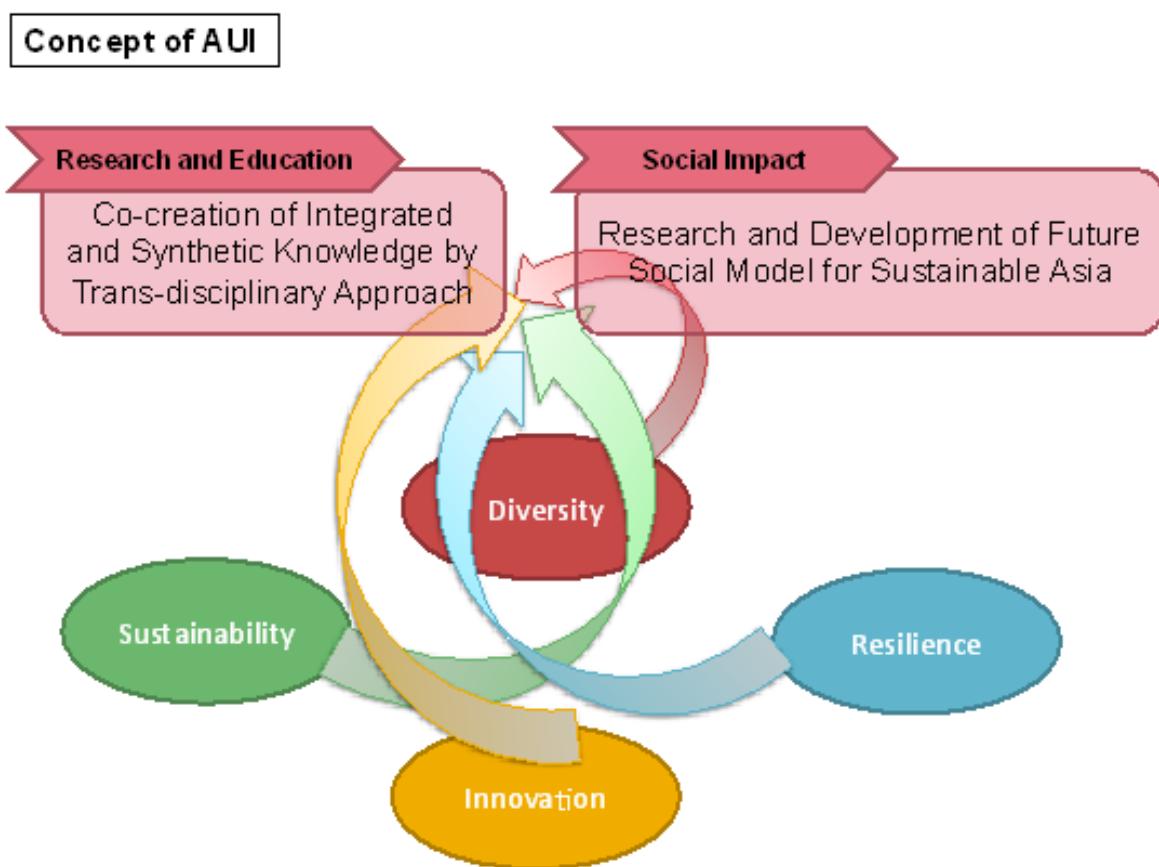


## Organization for Creating Asian University Institute (AUI) Statement

### Vision of AUI



### Five-Point initiative of Asian University Institute (AUI)

- a. Seeking a sustainable development with peace, fairness and vigor in Asian countries, establishment of institutions of regional cooperation is required, fostering specialized leaders at the postgraduate level. For this, it is important to create an international regional university within a graduate school, as an intellectual platform, not only taking in existing graduate schools and students' exchange at the national level, but also promoting Asian countries' cooperation at the international level; thus founding Asian University Institute (AUI).
- b. AUI will establish a new academic field, "Co-creation of Integrated and Synthetic Knowledge", from the idea of coproduction in arts, sciences and society (trans-discipline by collaboration among specialists in arts and sciences and civil society), based on diversity in Asian countries. Through instruction of such Integrated and Synthetic Knowledge, we will foster Professional Regional Designers who will become key players in the field of Asian regional corporation in the future.

- c. AUI will provide innovation based on diversity in Asia and conduct research on “social model of the future” for sustainable employment, industry, and organization in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. AUI introduces such a model focusing on the Asian region and international society.
- d. It is significant for Japan to establish AUI, which aims to form a sustainable and hopeful future in Asian society, collaborating with Asian countries. This effort will bring Japan, not only intellectual cooperation toward these countries, but also a policy of reconstruction from disaster with them and a development strategy to rebuild its society.
- e. Considering formation of the ASEAN Community in 2015 and relationship between neighboring Asian countries and Japan; now is the time that the last one introduces the initiative of the AUI to the first ones, and takes a historical step to found it.

## **1. Background of Asian University Institute and its necessity**

Once branded “Stagnating Asia” for a long time, the region has now become “Booming Asia” through industrialization and regional specialization since the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Today, Asia achieves its status as the growing center of the world and has literally become what the world knows as “Global Asia.” However, “Global Asia” has various social problems, such as environmental pollution and human rights issues.

The Asian Financial Crisis, which occurred in 1997, was such condition, revealing vulnerability and the lack of a system for cooperation in this region, which shed light on the necessity to create resilient regional institutions against risk. These institutions aiming for sustainable development in Asia are indispensable for “the common good” not only in this region, but also around the world, to realize a sustainable global society.

To establish a fair, vigorous and sustainable Asian society, it is important to exploit a “social model of the future” and to make a regional intellectual platform to foster specialized leaders who can conduct regional cooperation. Hence, we emphasize the creation of an International Regional University Institute such as AUI, which goes beyond existing graduate schools at the nation state level.

## **2. What is Asian University Institute?**

Going forward with the institutionalization for sustainable Asian regional cooperation, it is necessary to foster specialized regional leaders who carry out regional organization (including both public and private ones). Such leaders should be Professional Regional Designers, experiencing exchange studies in Asia through close cooperation of each country and university, having sensitivity about diversity in this region and acquiring the “Integrated and Synthetic Knowledge” from coproduction in arts, sciences and society (trans-disciplinary of collaboration among specialists in arts, sciences and civil society), at the MA or PhD level.

Thus, Asian University Institute serves not only as an educational institute to foster specialized regional leaders, but also as a research institute, like a Global Research Center (COE) in this region, to propose policies, having a dual-role of regional think tank, and to publish its own international journal, etc.

Furthermore, AUI invests in innovation based on the diversity of Asia and a “social model for the future” for sustainable employment, industry and organization. Thus, through AUI, we will create a social industrial congregate as such model, and introduce it toward Asian and international society.

Therefore, through such education, research, and social contribution based on the diversity of Asia, we present the AUI, as a new global intellectual platform, which is an Asian style university of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, beyond American Style University of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## **3. Educational research policy**

The AUI takes its stand on “Open Regionalism.” It offers the highest and the latest academic learning through

the “Integrated and Synthetic Knowledge” from coproduction in arts, sciences and society to graduate students, to seek creation of a model for sustainable regional cooperation in Asia based on the diversity of this region from global aspects.

Academic research of the 21<sup>st</sup> century should aim to create “Synthetic Knowledge,” not only from existing interdisciplinary research conducted by specialists in arts and sciences, but also from trans-disciplinary ones co-produced by specialists in arts, sciences and civil society: AUI will take a role of creation and learning of such “Integrated and Systematic Knowledge”.

#### **4. Reconstruction disaster and development strategy in Japan through AUI**

Within the “Lost Two Decades” after collapse of Japan’s bubble economy, Japanese society is predicted to struggle as a result of its depressed economic situation. On top of this, Japanese universities are losing their competitiveness within the international sphere. The Great East Japan Earthquake and the Fukushima Nuclear Accident, which occurred on the March 11th, 2011 made Japan, reflect on the shape of its university, research and science technology. Having to face huge damage and economic loss from the aftermath of such a disaster, Japanese society is still far from reconstruction. Thus, it is important that Japan reconstructs itself and rebuilds its society, with the power of Asian countries, which have offered strong support to this country.

AUI is a very important initiative that Japan can offer as a repayment to Asian countries for their help and support by creating a symbiotic relationship with them. For decades, science and technology has been considered a way to resolve the problems arisen from disasters. But, today, post-Great East Japan Earthquake and the Fukushima Nuclear Accident, it is evident that “Integrated and Synthetic Knowledge,” including humanity, importance of community, cognition of history and multicultural symbiotic relationship, is required for societies to regain energy including Japan which is rebuilding its society with the cooperation of Asia. Introduction of such new “Co-creation of Integrated and Synthetic Knowledge,” in the world is the mission of Japanese universities and scientists of the 21<sup>st</sup> century; the AUI will focus on this field of study.

Additionally, based on the core conception of AUI, which offers education and research through the “Integrated and Synthetic Knowledge” from cooperation in arts, sciences and society and the diversity of Asia, we aim to produce continuously various innovations, corporations, and industrial clusters. This includes a “social model of the future” including a sustainable living and working conditions of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, which would be a rebuilding model for economic society of Japan, in cooperation with Asia. This would become s the core concept for a development strategy of Japanese society.

#### **5. Timeline**

From the above mentioned goals and necessity of such a global platform such as AUI, should be founded as soon as possible, combining the bottom-up process, such as the civil society organization’s activity by various people from university and industry, and the top-down process such as the political process by the East Asian Summit (EAS) or ASEAN +3 meeting. Whatever the case, we will move quickly to prepare the establishment n of AUI, as an international institute (regional system), pursuing the international treaties. AUI aims to establish a sustainable Asian regional society and global society.

#### **6. Foundation of AUI as part of Asian Collaboration**

Historically, considering Japan’s academic record, it is important that Japanese universities and society take leadership and strive to establish an intellectual cooperation framework and platform; AUI is an international contribution to Asia from Japan. Therefore, Japanese society and government should launch full-scale efforts to formalize AUI project with cooperation from all Asian countries. Focusing on the regional framework of the ASEAN +6 and considering which of the EAS or APEC in some cases, AUI should be based on “Open Regionalism” to construct a wide global cooperative relationship.

## **Organization for Creating Asian University Institute (OAUI)**

### **Purpose of OAUI**

#### **1. Purposes and Membership of OAUI**

The purpose of OAUI is to review, research, and promote initiatives of AUI. OAUI is a voluntary organization consisting of like-minded citizens in Japan, Asia, and around the world.

#### **2. Board of OAUI**

Chair Dr. Shunji MATSUOKA, Professor at Waseda University  
Dr. Kumiko HABA, Professor at Aoyama Gakuin University  
Dr. Norichika KANIE, Associate Professor at Tokyo Institute of Technology  
Dr. Yuto KITAMURA, Associate Professor at University of Tokyo  
Dr. Toshiko KOMATSU, Professor at Saitama University  
Dr. Akifumi KUCHIKI, Professor at Nihon University  
Dr. Junji NAKAGAWA, Professor at University of Tokyo  
Mr. Hiroshi NAKAMURA, Global Environmental Forum  
Ms. Yoko SHIBATA, Global Environmental Forum  
Mr. Kyoichi TANAKA, Toyota Foundation  
Mr. Keiichi TANGO, Former Board Member of Japan Bank for International Cooperation  
Dr. Makoto TANIGUCHI, Professor at Research Institute for Humanity and Nature  
Dr. Noriyuki UEDA, Professor at Tokyo Institute of Technology  
Dr. Shujiro URATA, Professor at Waseda University

#### **2. Secretary Office and AUI website**

##### **Global Environmental Forum**

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[http://www.gef.or.jp/activity/another\\_group/aui.html](http://www.gef.or.jp/activity/another_group/aui.html)