

Issue 1

For Planetary Health, Nagasaki University

January 6, 2020

Happy New Year!

This is Kohno Shigeru from Nagasaki University.

Best wishes for the new year.

I declare the President's theme for the year of 2020 to be "For Planetary Health, Nagasaki University." Let me explain what this means.

When I talk about "Planetary Health" out of the blue, many people may think this is not the business of a university president. But this is something I have been thinking about since my inauguration.

Our planet's environment, or health, is becoming more serious.

For example, if a person's health is in danger, then treatment becomes necessary.

What is threatening the health of the planet?

Consider global political issues such as the environment, international conflicts, and the proliferation of nuclear weapons. In Japan we face many local problems including population decline, the cost of healthcare and social security, inequality, and access to education. These global and local problems are a threat to planetary health, directly or indirectly.

Under these difficult conditions we have welcomed the year of 2020. However, I remain positive and optimistic. If people have created an unhealthy planet, then cannot we also restore the health of the planet? The ability to heal the planet is certainly within our scientific capability. Starting now is the most important thing we can do.

Furthermore, as members of Nagasaki University, I think we should act to restore and protect the planet's health.

As we move from last year's theme "Healthy Campus Project," let's take the first small step towards this year's theme – "For Planetary Health, Nagasaki University." I look forward to explaining more about this theme in a series of emails.

Thank you very much.