

Issue 9
Planetary Health
January 17, 2020

Hello.

This is Kohno Shigeru from Nagasaki University.

The National Center Test for University Admissions will begin tomorrow.
I thank everyone in advance for their support in administering the test.

“How long will the President’s emails last?”

The answer is that I will continue every day up to Issue 10. After that I will send more messages occasionally. I appreciate your attention.

When I thought about the actual steps to lead our university to contribute to “Planetary Health,” the following items came to my mind.

While to design the theme with the cooperation of university management is my role, it is not easy to put all the measures into practice when there are many stakeholders. So, I propose the following six items that we can start working on right now.

◎ Hosting a Planetary Health Symposium or Study Meeting

What about a symposium or study meeting co-hosted with the Dean of the Faculty of Environmental Science and me? For a symposium, I would like to include professors from each faculty and school and high-spirited students like Ms. Greta Thunberg. People of the Faculty of Environmental Science, what do you think?

First, it’s necessary to deepen our common understanding of Planetary Health as a university. In the end, I will think about shaping an organization to incorporate local businesses and governments as stakeholders.

◎ Introducing Planetary Health into current students’ education

In the future, we can add interdisciplinary courses on Planetary Health into the official

curriculum. For now, what is the best way to introduce Planetary Health next semester? Professors, please send me your thoughts. Formulating well-organized content can enhance the understanding of Planetary Health for students.

- ◎ Selecting “Planetary Health” good practices and offering “President’s Awards” for students’ extracurricular activities

Those in charge of student affairs, please send me your opinions. Practical examples are valuable. Once the knowledge has been connected to the society, it gains value as a practical academic discipline.

- ◎ Introducing opportunities to learn and discuss Planetary Health at Nagasaki University Elementary School and Lower Secondary School. Let’s think about the next generation of university students, 10 years from now.

Dean of the Faculty of Education, what do you think?

People are key to the future and will be the driving force toward the goal.

- ◎ Informing high school students about the “For Planetary Health, Nagasaki University” theme before admission.

To the Vice President (Center for Higher Education Transitions), what do you think?

High school students can play a key role as the leading force of the Planetary Health project.

- ◎ Utilizing websites and posters

To the Center for Public Relations Strategy Division Director, how should we advance Planetary Health public relations?

How should we spread this idea to all students, faculty, and staff?

We might be able to see a better-than-expected development if we can disseminate our theme outside the campus and to the public.

I have a reason for asking about these six proposals by email. I am thinking of involving everyone in transforming the university into one with a firm commitment to the practice of Planetary Health. Everyone should transform the university into an organization that works

for “Planetary Health.” That is why I am carrying out this project openly as much as possible.

I would be happy to hear the ideas from the faculty and staff whose names are not included in this email.

You may think your opinions are not important. However, we must first start a big project like this with small steps so that the project does not end in pie in the sky.