

Issue 2

What is Planetary Health?

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Hello. This is Kohno Shigeru from Nagasaki University.

I declared the President's theme for the year 2020 as "For Planetary Health, Nagasaki University."

As I thought about Nagasaki University's mission and fundamental targets, I came upon a theme for Nagasaki University going forward. You read more about Nagasaki University's philosophy and fundamental targets here:

<http://www.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/en/about/philosophy/>

After becoming the President, I thought more about the philosophy and targets of Nagasaki University. The word that finally came to mind was "Planetary Health."

What is the meaning of "Planetary Health?" I think that Planetary Health is the condition where the natural environment can support many different forms of life, including human lives. We can live safely in harmony with the planet.

However, if we compare the present state of the planet to the human body, it is suffering from many forms of external stress, has a fever, and indigestion. The planet is not in good health.

In other words, unhealthy. The state of the planet was caused by humans, by us. Our actions are connected to this unhealthy situation. Even if we can't see the effect of our actions directly on the health of the planet, indirectly we are causing harm. We should all take responsibility for this state of unhealthiness. As members of Nagasaki University let's plan to revive the planet.

Using the collective wisdom of Nagasaki University let's find a common purpose and act.

The cause may be found in unexpected places.

I'm looking forward to reading your opinions.