

Postface

Since issuing the 1st Research Activity Report (1987-1992 issue) in 1992, IMR has published the 2nd Report (1993-1994 issue), the 3rd Report (1995-1996 issue), the 4th Report (1997-1999 issue), the 5th Report (2000-2001 issue) and the 6th Report (2002-2005 issue). According to the proposals made by the External Evaluation Committee in November 2001, the 5th Report started to include new information on the brief descriptions of representative accomplishments in the individual research laboratories, post-doctoral status, and the contributions to the local community. The 7th Report also includes these activities during the dynamic year following the transition from the status of a national university to an independent administrative one.

Similar to the previous issue (6th Report), this issue was published both as a brochure and on the web site, which was intended for a broad circulation of the report to the public and aiming at the accountability to the society. English versions of the 7th Report and the Publication List as an appendix are also published as informative document for the External Advisory Board meeting (five non-Japanese and three Japanese members) to be held in December 2005.

This report includes data that were collected and processed by the personnel in charge of the cooperation of all IMR members.

Data on the teaching staff are the same as those in the Tohoku University Information Database that started operation in December 2004. With the Tohoku University Information Database, Tohoku University is going to give information to the public which can be used to see the current status of various activities at the university, contribute to policy making to improve the activities, and provide a measure for internal and external evaluations of the university. This covers data about educational and research activities as well as university management performed by each institute, faculty and graduate school and the whole university. Currently, the database is being upgraded by integrating the previous Researchers Information Database, and is scheduled to be completed by August of this year with enhanced output functions. Unfortunately, the database was limited when we prepared this report for publication. This database is expected to help to improve the publication efficiency of subsequent issues of the reports. This report also includes a variety of data collected by IMR's administrative office. With the cooperation of the administrative office, the format of the data has been standardized within the organization. The use of Excel files makes it easy to incorporate

the data into the database and the electronic file also allows directly printing out these data. Therefore, the editing efficiency was significantly improved.

The Review Office, which edited and published this report, was under the direction of the Research and Planning Coordination Committee (the Review Committee before 2002) before national universities were granted corporate status. With the reorganization, it is now under the Office of Information and Public Relations directly managed by a deputy director. The Review Office, which comprises of the deputy director and a research associate, is responsible for the management of the Tohoku University Information Database at IMR (please refer to Part 5 of “Chapter 4 Review Office at the Office of Information and Public Relations”).

This report describes IMR activities in the first year as an independent corporate body. Hopefully, this report will be widely used as valuable basic data and information and be helpful for the further development of IMR in the push as an independent administrative institution.

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