



【NEWS RELEASE】

*shorter version

August 1, 2024

University of Tsukuba

Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group

University of Tsukuba and Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group Announce
Comprehensive Partnership Agreement

University of Tsukuba and Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group, Inc. (the “SMBC Group”) have concluded a Comprehensive Partnership Agreement. This agreement is aiming to contribute to social transformation by promoting the science/technology advancement and human resource development. Through the agreement, the University of Tsukuba will undertake management reforms to develop sustainable and competitive operational foundation. The SMBC Group, will develop various collaborative initiatives as a partner of the university. We also aim to become a model that foster regional revitalization and the collaboration between universities and financial institutions.

1. Background

The University of Tsukuba, a National University founded in 1973, has been striving to be a university that transform entrenched social systems and values. To solidify the foundations of university management, the university has promoted various educational and research initiatives with a focus on social implementation and contribution.

Diverse initiatives from this agreement aim to not only solve the university's issues in the short term, but also expand and connect with the society and other universities. This is the beginning of a “new adventure” that will open up new horizons for the University of Tsukuba.

Meanwhile, the SMBC Group has placed “Creation of Social Value” as a pillar of its management policies in its current Mid-term management plan, and works to contribute to “Japan’s Regrowth”, which is listed as a key issue to be addressed.

By supporting universities -an organization that brings together a wealth of knowledge and a connection to society- to improve their environment, enhance their competitiveness, and promote regional revitalization that stem from these actions, it will lead to “Japan's Regrowth”,

which must become increasingly important in the future. With these in mind, the SMBC Group resonates the ideals of the University of Tsukuba, and as a transformation partner, the SMBC Group and the University of Tsukuba will work together to implement various initiatives towards social transformation.

2. Overview of the Agreement

The University of Tsukuba and the SMBC Group will create the future with “Finance and Knowledge”, and jointly work primarily in the following five areas:

- (1) Enhancing University Management, including more robust financial foundation - Towards a university supported by the community
- (2) Developing a new joint research and commercialization system – Addressing the social needs
- (3) Fostering talents who can drive education, research and business together - Connecting with society
- (4) Promoting sports and related fields - Leading a brighter future society
- (5) Promoting inclusive education - Contributing to a society that thrives on diversity

The University of Tsukuba and the SMBC Group will expand these on-campus initiatives to the community, leveraging the location of the Tsukuba City, designated as a Super City initiative to provide a place for joint research and proof-of-concept projects with startups and global companies.

We will also work to expand this model across Japan as a leading collaboration model between universities and financial institutions.

END