

# HeKKSaGOn

Heidelberg | Kyoto | Karlsruhe | Sendai | Göttingen | Osaka

NETWORK OF UNIVERSITIES

## Joint Statement

HeKKSaGOn – The German-Japanese University Alliance  
on the occasion of  
the 10<sup>th</sup> German-Japanese University Presidents' Conference

Transdisciplinary Initiatives and Alliance Building for Global Futures



UNIVERSITÄT  
HEIDELBERG  
ZUKUNFT  
SEIT 1386



TOHOKU  
UNIVERSITY



GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITÄT  
GÖTTINGEN

IN PUBLICA COMMODO  
SEIT 1737



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
OSAKA

October 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025  
Hosted by the University of Osaka

## JOINT STATEMENT

At the 10th HeKKSaGOn German-Japanese University Presidents' Conference, HeKKSaGOn Alliance, the German-Japanese University Alliance, reaffirms the enduring value of academic partnership and the vital importance of international cooperation in research, education, knowledge transfer, and societal responsibility. Under the conference theme "*Transdisciplinary Initiatives and Alliance Building for Global Futures*," we underscore the importance of ethical, cross-border collaboration to address the critical issues shaping our global future through knowledge co-creation and transdisciplinary engagement that bridges science and society.

The Presidents of the six HeKKSaGOn member universities agreed during their meetings on the following points:

- **Emphasize our role as the German-Japanese alliance committed to the principles of free and open science**

The Alliance upholds academic freedom, ethical research, and open science as essential to democracy, innovation, and societal resilience. In times of uncertainty, we must serve as spaces of critical inquiry, dialogue, and global responsibility.

- **Reaffirm the importance of the responsible and ethical use of science and emerging technologies**

We reaffirm our commitment to fostering scientific collaboration grounded in shared values such as transparency, accountability, and the responsible use of knowledge. We recognize that responsible research and secure knowledge transfer must prioritize global stability. We aim to play a vital role in fostering dialogue on the societal implications of emerging technologies and in advancing their responsible and ethical application.

- **Lead with purposeful transdisciplinary collaboration to shape a sustainable and inclusive global future**

Our Alliance fosters cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary partnerships to tackle global challenges. By embedding sustainability, ethics, and mutual understanding into research and education, we strive to shape a fair and resilient future.

- **Advance research in three strategic priorities to address shared global challenges**

HeKKSaGOn's three priority areas, 1) Transcultural Studies and the Transformation of Societies, 2) Data Science, Digitalization and Artificial Intelligence, and 3) Life Science, Medicine and Changing Environments, provide a strong foundation to address urgent global challenges.

Building on this foundation, we are committed to deepening transdisciplinary collaboration, unleashing transformative ideas and forging lasting, inclusive solutions for a better global future.

- **Empower the next generation through inclusive, cross-border academic exchange, transdisciplinary training and entrepreneurship**

HeKKSaGOn is committed to creating inclusive opportunities for students and early-career researchers to achieve excellence in their fields and to engage in international and interdisciplinary collaboration. Through integrated training in research, education, entrepreneurship and knowledge transfer, we aim to equip future global leaders with skills for responsible action within and beyond academia. The Alliance will continue to strengthen and foster exchange between science, industry, and society.

### **Acknowledgement**


The Kyoto University European Center in Heidelberg and the Heidelberg University Office Kyoto, which have served as HeKKSaGOn liaison offices providing on-site support for over a decade, are acknowledged for facilitating communication, mobility, exchange, and acting as contact points for students and researchers.

The Presidents also recognize the coordination teams at the individual universities for facilitating fast, direct and effective communication between the partners. It is this exceptional flexibility that characterizes the HeKKSaGOn network.

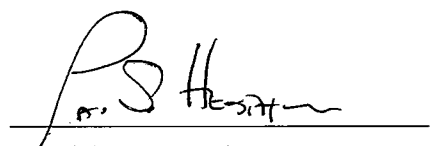
The representatives named below hereby agree to support and encourage cooperation among the HeKKSaGOn Alliance member institutions and sign this statement in witness thereof.



Frauke Melchior  
Rector of Heidelberg University



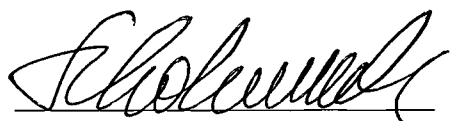
Nagahiro Minato  
President of Kyoto University



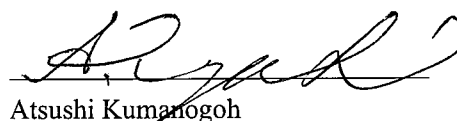
Jan Sickmann Hesthaven  
President of Karlsruhe Institute of Technology



Toshiya Ueki  
Executive Vice President for General Affairs,  
International Relations, and Academic Resources,  
Tohoku University



Axel Schölmerich  
President of University of Göttingen



Atsushi Kumanogoh  
President of The University of Osaka