

2. Education and Research Organization

1. Description of Current Conditions

- (1) **Are the colleges, courses, graduate schools, majors, affiliated research institutions and centers suitable in light of the university's mission and purpose?**

In response to the changing national and international social and educational trends, APU reviews its educational and research organization as appropriate in line with the university's mission and purpose. Since the last accreditation assessment, APU established the Education Development and Learning Support Center (EDLSC) in AY2008 and changed the name of the College of Asia Pacific Management to the College of International Management in AY2009.

The Opening Declaration states: "Given that the 21st century will see the emergence of a global society, we firmly believe that coexistence between mankind and nature, as well as between diverse cultures, will be indispensable for the peaceful and sustainable development of the Asia Pacific region." Based on this recognition, the mission and purpose of APU is to "nurture the young talent capable of contributing to the future shape of the Asia Pacific region" (Ref. 2-1). Even today, this mission and purpose is understood to be important, and APU's educational and research structures have been creating in line therewith.

APU's mission and purpose in terms of research are as stipulated in the Opening Declaration: "to create a new academic discipline which will help shape the [Asia Pacific] region's future" (Ref 2-1). To this end, APU cooperatively established and administers the Ritsumeikan Center for Asia Pacific Studies (RCAPS), which encompasses a diverse array of disciplines, and an international hub for communicating information from RCAPS, the International Association for Asia Pacific Studies (IAAPS).

1) Education and Research Organization

At present, APU, is an education and research institution focused on social sciences that has two Colleges, each with one Department, two Graduate Schools, one research center and three other organizations that provide support university-wide education.

Undergraduate Programs	College of Asia Pacific Studies-----Department of Asia Pacific studies College of International Management-----Department of International Management
------------------------	--

2. Education and Research Organization

infrastructure. The CLE is an important educational organization that supports dual language education by ensuring that students who enroll on either a Japanese or an English basis can become proficient in their non-basis language* by graduation. The EDLSC was established to provide support to ensure that students from around the globe who possess diverse set of academic backgrounds can make a smooth transition into the education system offered at APU.

* The language other than the language of enrollment. The non-basis language for Japanese-basis students is English, while the non-basis language for English-basis students is Japanese.

[4] Research Structure

At APU, the Ritsumeikan Center for Asia Pacific Studies (RCAPS) is responsible for the promotion of Asia Pacific-related research and for the dissemination of research achievements. This center was established in 1996, four years before APU opened. The major activities of RCAPS are as follows:

- Convocation of the Asia Pacific Conference, an international academic conference, once per year;
- Publication of the *Ritsumeikan Journal of Asia Pacific Studies* (once per year) and *Polyglossia* (twice per year);
- Convocation of RCAPS Seminars and RCAPS Current Research Seminars;
- Online publication of working papers;
- Administration of the following affiliated research centers for specified purposes:
 - APU Center for NEXT Generation Business and Industrial Creation (APU-NEXT);
 - Center for Democracy Promotion; APU-Integrated Man-Biosphere Center (APU-IMAB);
 - Digital Technologies Innovation Center.

To elaborate upon the “creation of a new academic discipline” set forth in the Opening Declaration, APU played a leading role in the establishment of the International Association for Asia Pacific Studies (IAAPS), which holds international academic conferences every year (2010: Beppu, 2011: Beppu, 2012: Hong Kong, 2013: Philippines, 2014: Korea) and publishes a journal called *Asia Pacific World* twice a year. IAAPS aims to shape and promote Asia Pacific studies and become an intellectual hub that can accumulate and disseminate research results in various academic disciplines as they pertain to the sub-regions of the Asia Pacific.

2) Activities since Inception

Having opened in 2000, APU is still a young university. This, coupled with the fact that we have an extremely unique mission and purpose, means we need to thoroughly analyze the activities of our alumni both in Japan and abroad and examine our educational structures while keeping an eye on both domestic and international trends.

In the process of implementing the AY2011 academic reforms, we found that the mission and purpose implemented at the time of inception still held strong, and these are becoming

2. Education and Research Organization

increasingly important to the university. Based on this, we strive unflinchingly to enhance academic content in line with the global trend toward the assurance and improvement of quality in education.

Based on this awareness, we changed the name of the College of Asia Pacific Management to the College of International Management (in AY2009) to provide a clearer picture of the College's academic content, we implemented academic reforms based around interdisciplinary fields and an increase in student intake capacity (in AY2006), and we established the Educational Development and Learning Support Center (EDLSC; in AY2008) to respond to domestic and international educational trends and strengthen faculty development (FD). Moreover, we have undertaken measures as needed in response to social trends both at home and abroad, including changes in the advancement of higher education in the Asia Pacific region (e.g., setting country/region-specific international student admission quotas) and the need to develop graduate students into national and local government officials in the Asia Pacific region (e.g., Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) Program, Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship for Young Chinese Leaders (JDS China), Indonesian Advanced Human Resources Development Project, Asian Development Bank Japan Scholarship Program and the Joint Japan/World Bank Graduate Scholarship Program).

We are also oriented to comprehensively engage in research on the Asia Pacific with our all-encompassing university-wide research organization, the Ritsumeikan Center for Asia Pacific Studies (RCAPS). We respond to the needs of society by flexibly administering limited-term, externally-funded research centers under the auspices of RCAPS.

(2) Are the education and research organizations regularly reviewed for suitability?

Since our inception in 2000, the AY2004, AY2006 and AY2011 academic reforms have been used as turning points to review the education and research organizations at APU.

To verify whether the education organizations are in alignment with APU's mission and purpose and the demands of society, we examine our educational objectives, diploma policy, curriculum policy, educational content and methods by way of a process that consists of research and analysis conducted by the Division of Academic Affairs, discussions in the Faculty Council and Faculty Discussion Meetings, and confirmation at the University Senate Meeting. The results of the most recent review were incorporated into the AY2011 academic reforms (Ref. 2-2; Ref. 2-3; Ref. 2-4). The first full cycle of these academic reforms concluded in AY2014, and after a comprehensive review thereof, we will plan the next round of academic reforms in or after AY2015.

As for research organizations, verification is conducted by way of a process that consists of research and analysis conducted by the International Cooperation and Research Division, discussions in the Graduate School Faculty Council Meetings, and confirmation at the

2. Education and Research Organization

University Senate Meeting (Ref. 2-2; Ref. 2-3; Ref. 2-4). Most recently, this was conducted in line with the formulation of an Academy-wide action plan when a review was conducted and a policy roadmap devised in 2011.

2. Assessment

(1) Items that are Showing Results

1) Restructuring of organizations in line with the mission and purpose

We restructure organizations as needed in response to education and research issues, as evidenced by the establishment of the Educational Development and Learning Support Center in AY2008, the renaming of the College of Asia Pacific Management in AY2009 and the inauguration of the International Association for Asia Pacific Studies in AY2010 (Ref.2-5).

(2) Areas for Improvement

Nothing in particular

3. Strategic Direction for the Future

(1) Items that are Showing Results

1) Restructuring of organizations in line with the mission and purpose

Every several years, we have reviewed our academic reforms and revised education and research organizations in response to social demands. In a four to six-year reform cycle, we will continue examine the consistency of how our education and research organizations align with the university's mission and purpose. In particular, we will focus on international compatibility when we conduct this review.

(2) Areas for Improvement

Nothing in particular

4. Supporting Resources

2-1: Declaration on the Occasion of the Opening of Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (same as Ref. 1-1)

2-2: Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University Faculty Council Regulations

2. Education and Research Organization

- 2-3: Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University Graduate School Faculty Council Regulations
- 2-4: Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University Regulations for the Management of the University Senate Meeting
- 2-5: International Association for Asia Pacific Studies Statement of Objectives