

Preface

Time and tide wait for no man. Almost without warning, three years have passed since the founding of Aino University. Aino University now strides into its fourth year of establishment as a university. Due to an ordinance of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the university is obligated to faithfully and exactly follow the initial plan declared in its application for university status. Thus, as a general rule, faculty and staff are not allowed to resign and curriculum must remain unchanged. In other words, until being admitted as a university, the institution is not independent during its first four years of conception.

Aino University is now facing two major tasks prior to the end of its establishment years. First is the provision of effective teaching in order to help students pass the national examination for the licenses of nursing as well as physical and occupational therapy. It is now the time for both students and faculty to aggressively prepare for the national examination, which the university is experiencing for the first time. The second task is to launch an Aino University postgraduate program for students who desire to do research on their own projects. Aino University has many students possessing excellent research skills.

Six years have passed since the Aino Journal launched in 2002. Filled with richer and richer contents, the Journal covers everything from clinical studies to basic research. In this volume, reports of 12 papers indicate the excelling achievements of the educational foundation that is Aino Gakuin (Aino University). One of the principles of Aino Gakuin is a well balanced triangle of educational, clinical, and research activity. From this point of view, the Journal seems to be a symbol of the development of Aino Gakuin activities. It is said that the birth of the Journal facilitated the launch of the university. Furthermore, the university has accelerated the growth of the Journal. Thus, the relationship between the Journal and the university is mutually stimulating and important. I hope the Journal further develops after its establishment years and the new postgraduate school continues to accelerate the growth of the Journal.

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