1. Outline

**[Name of the Project]**
Bridging the World and Asia
Human development to collaborate across cultures and contribute globally to Asian communities

**[Future vision of the university planned in TGU project]**

Having “globalization” as the pillar of the university reform since 1980, Ritsumeikan University established western Japan’s first College of International Relations in 1988. We have carried out various international programs that have expanded the field of study for students, especially after being selected as a G30 member university in 2009. On the basis of our experiences, through implementing the TGU projects, we aim at developing our education and research as well as our organization in order to develop human resources who will collaborate across cultures and contribute globally to Asian communities. Our future visions are as follows:

1. Enhance the partnerships with universities in Asia utilizing our strength as a comprehensive university to develop human resources who will collaborate across cultures and contribute globally to Asian communities
2. Improve the quality of education and lead the globalization of Japanese higher education system as an Asian leading university

**[Summary of project]**

Through carrying out the projects mainly in the fast-developing Asian region, we will promote students’ learning experiences and interaction with people from other countries. We will develop human resources who will collaborate across cultures and contribute globally to Asian communities; someone who has a deep understanding of “Asia and Japan in Asia”, who has a high aspiration and a spirit that seeks challenge, and who contributes to forming a sustainable world through working in a multi-cultural environment.

Nearly 60% of the entire population of the world live in Asia and we have a variety of languages, religions, manners, customs, social systems and so on. In spite of its highly anticipated economic developments, there are issues that has to be tackled together beyond countries and regions such as environmental energy, food, health, safety, and preservation of peace and order. The key to resolution of the conflicts between nations is to cultivate each individual’s understanding of different cultures and values, not to just be dependent on international politics. Through our TGU projects, students at Ritsumeikan University will actively engage with people around the world and cultivate their abilities to tackle issues and draw a path to the solution.

The Ritsumeikan Trust have designed the mid-long-term vision, “R2020”, with a message “Creating a future Beyond Borders”. We develop the future and contribute to the global society by developing the universities’ international viability, transparency, exchanges and creating opportunities beyond various borders.
[Summary of the 10-year plan]

1. **Contribution to the global Asian communities – Re-question the existence of the world from Asia**
   Through each program, we develop human resources who will connect people with people, knowledge with knowledge bidirectionally between Asia and the world and foster true trust and friendships. We present human resources to the society who will overcome conflicts and frictions between different cultures, develop the value of “Symbiosis, Co-creation and Consonance”, contribute to forming a peaceful, sustainable world, and make a global contribution to Asian communities.

2. **Exploring, establishing, and transmitting the concept of “Asia Literacy”**
   We pursue exploration and establishing the “Asia Literacy” concept as basic knowledge required in order to understand and learn about Asia. Students will learn from the diversity of Asia in accord with historical, cultural, religious backgrounds and cultivate their spirits of symbiosis and multi-cultural cooperation. Ritsumeikan University Asian Research Institute (tentative title), Asia Literacy Center (tentative title), Double Degree Program with ANU are scheduled to be established.

3. **Hub of Asian advanced human development – Contribution to Asia Science and Technology Community**
   We will establish Asia Science Technology Creation Center (tentative title) and utilize our scientific technology in order to solve the problems in Asian countries and enterprises integrating our international deployment, research and educational capacity. We promote cooperation among government, industry, academia and community (internship programs/ PBL) and establishment of joint laboratories with universities overseas for development of diversified learning of students in the science and engineering field at “Asia Lab Learning (tentative title)”.

4. **Hub of leading innovation human development – Asia Innovative Human Resources**
   We will develop programs at the Asia Literacy Center (tentative title) for all students to deepen understanding of Asia. We aim at creating a hub of human development to lead innovation in Asia through designing programs targeting undergraduate students in the art and science field or social science field such as Global Asia Learning Program (tentative title), Japan-China-South Korea Campus Asia Program, East Asia Global Leader Program (tentative title), Abu Dhabi Business Competency Program.

5. **Construction of “Ritsumeikan Learning Model”**
   With the objective of development of students’ specialized knowledge active learning skills beyond borders, we will construct “Ritsumeikan Learning Model” centered around the committee which consists of members from each college, graduate schools, Division of Academic Affairs, Division of Student Affairs. We will offer diverse opportunities of learning outside the classroom such as English programs and multi-cultural programs for both Japanese and international students.

6. **Expanding JD and DD program**
   We will expand joint degree/double degree programs at each college and graduate school with the aim of offering education specialized in each area in a globalized environment. Through partnerships with universities beyond countries, we will expand high-quality and value-added learning opportunities as well as becoming a world-class educational institution.

7. **Development of Asian Studies as Top Global University**
   We will establish Ritsumeikan University Asian Research Institute as we position it one of the Top Global University’s missions to make our base of Asian studies which lead to the knowledge and the practice of symbiosis in Asia.

8. **Establishment of Global Asia Information Transmission Center (tentative title) and information transmission**
   We will improve our presence and branding by presenting information overseas including educational contents, research findings and student’s extracurricular activities or sports activities. We might retain the services of student staff for transmission of information positioning it as extracurricular international PBL, and we will utilize it as the opportunity cultivating media literacy.

9. **Infrastructure corresponding to globalization**
   With the aim of the university’s thorough globalization and improvement of the quality of education and research, we will upgrade the infrastructure such as globalization of the education/learning system (global quality assurance, reform of the academic calendar, course numbering system etc.), reform of admissions (IB admissions, international admissions etc.), networking with the alumni who have global careers (+R Global Career Network), and Global Asia Village (tentative title), Dormitory for both domestic and international students.

10. **Active development of international cooperation projects and establishment of a global network**
    Our strength is the contribution to the global society through our international cooperation projects. We will utilize the strength that we have cultivated through various projects in Asia, Middle East, and Africa including bilateral projects to expand our global network.

[Featured initiatives (Internationalization, university reform, and education reform)]

- **Globalization**: Double degree program with Australian National University (ANU): ANU is a research-intensive university which is ranked 25th in the QS World University Rankings 2014-15. We will develop our education, research, and also quality assurance.

- **University Reform**: We have established the Ritsumeikan Academy’s vision “R2020” with 8 basic strategies in order to make constituent members have the common future vision of the academy. Under the cross-item slogan of “Ritsumeikan Global Initiative”, we have been working on the globalization of the academy by constructing the system which connects reforms in various fields to our globalization tasks.

- **Education Reform**: In order to implement the slogan of “Beyond Borders” in teaching and learning, we will develop projects which improve Ritsumeikan’s international compatibility (JD, DD etc.), the ones which improve its openness (expanding English courses, enhancing Japanese education), and the ones which promotes interactions with other cultures (multi-cultural cooperation projects, activities at Global Asia Village (tentative title) etc.).
2. FY2014 Progress

### Common indicators and targets

#### Internationalization

1. **Discussion with ANU about the double degree program**
   
   We had discussions with ANU to share ideas about the double degree program and to talk about the possibilities to collaborate in research, education, and contents of the program. (December 2014, January and March 2015).

2. **Concretization of JD and DD programs**
   
   We held talks at Campus Asia Program partner universities (Japan, South Korea, and China) about permanent installation of the JD program (November and December 2014). JD and DD programs with American University had also been discussed in terms of the commencing period, framework, subjects, and the name of the degree (February and March 2015).

3. **East Asia Global Leaders Development Program**
   
   With the purpose of inheriting the concepts of Campus Asia and promoting globalization of education and research, Tamkang University in Taiwan, Kyung Hee University in South Korea and Ritsumeikan University will conduct “East Asia Global Leaders Development Program” in April, 2016.

4. **Abu Dhabi Business Competency Formation Program**
   
   It was determined to start an internship program at enterprises in Abu Dhabi, UAE, from 2016 (March 2014). Incorporating the perspective of Islamic culture and global business, students will acquire global perspectives through working with people in the cutting-edge energy industry.

5. **International Cooperation Projects**
   
   Special Training Program for Administrators from Chinese Universities was completed 2 years ago with the completion of the yen loan project, however, we hold a networking event in terms of medium-and long-term academic research and education which also was directed at following up the alumni (October 2014). Ritsumeikan University and Gadjah Mada University in Indonesia cohosted a symposium on disaster mitigation where students and faculty from both universities presented their research findings. Many alumni who were sent to Ritsumeikan from the Indonesian government also participated in the symposium (Photo 1, February 2015).

#### University Reform

1. **Establishment of Ritsumeikan GI (Global Initiative) Promotion Headquarters**
   
   We have established the Ritsumeikan Academy’s medium- and long-term vision “R2020” with 8 basic strategies directed at the last half of the period (FY 2016-FY 2020) positioning the strategy of “Promotion of Ritsumeikan Global Initiative” as a cross-plan strategy. “GI Promotion Headquarters Committee” was set up in order to connect various reforms to the tasks of globalization and head the projects. Several discussions were held on the policy of Ritsumeikan’s international development and progress report from each college and graduate school.

2. **Improvement of the ratio of female researchers**
   
   We have confirmed that we will work on diversity environment infrastructure which improves the ratio of female researchers (target: 25% in the FY 2023) and also allows them to work comfortably. Leveraging our education at our affiliated schools, we will implement efforts to broaden the base of female researchers and also began consideration of the framework in which the maintenance of the environment directly leads to education and research. (e.g. create more touch points between female students majoring in science and engineering at our affiliated schools and female researchers)

3. **Recruitment and training programs which focus on Ritsumeikan’s international compatibility**
   
   Administrative staff are required to have international skills as there are more numbers of international operations. Given that there are also many opportunities for them to work on globalization projects with the faculty, we have established the leave of absence system for those who participate in the language / practical training at partner institutions overseas or obtain a degree at overseas universities (recruitment in the FY 2014, commencement in the FY 2015). We have also actively set up the opportunities to expose them to the international environment in Japan such as interaction with the staff from universities overseas (Photo 2).

#### Education Reform

1. **Concretization of Japanese foundation course concept (Ritsumeikan Pre-College * tentative title)**
   
   With the goal of establishment in 2017, the cross-sectional organization, which consists of Division of Academic Affairs, Division of Admissions, Division of International Affairs, and Division of General Planning and Development, began discussing the curriculum, completion requirements, and the administrative structure.

2. **International Admissions**
   
   We planned effective admission strategies and marketing also including the new regions leveraging our overseas offices. We received applications from new regions which led to the creation of a global environment at undergraduate schools.
1. **Construction of Ritsumeikan Learning Model**
   With the purpose of concretization of “Ritsumeikan Learning Model” (page 2 [Summary of our 10 Year Plan]), globalization of education and learning, reform of English education, reform of the educational system including academic calendar, and the development of students’ active learning in the specialized disciplines beyond borders have been discussed.

2. **Cooperation through reconstruction assistance projects**
   We have been sending students on a continuing basis to the stricken Tohoku area where mid- and long term support is required after the Great East Japan Earthquake. 18 students from Ritsumeikan, students from Taiwan and some volunteer students built a makeshift meeting place in the football ground in Laos. This is the same type of the building, called ODENSE, which students from Ritsumeikan built in Miyako City, Iwate. We have also carried out projects which people learn from disasters beyond nations such as a training program we conducted in Tohoku for Indonesian participants (Photo 3).

3. **Global Human Resource Development Program**
   We have conducted the program with the assistance of 28 organizations in the FY 2014 aiming at developing global leaders through cooperation among government, industry, and academia. The participants aspire to work in a global environment in the future and they address the issues which the enterprises face with in a team consists of students from different colleges and countries.

4. **Globalization of administrative staff which leads to globalization of Ritsumeikan University**
   We position it as one of the pillars of globalization of Ritsumeikan University to globalize our administrative staff. In the FY2014, we sent 4 staff from different divisions to University of York in U.K. for the training program. We will increase the number of staff who have internationally compatible skills and encourage them to utilize their learnings from the training to their operation when they come back to Ritsumeikan in order to promote globalization of Ritsumeikan University and staff development.

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**Featured initiatives based on the characteristics of the university**

1. **Promotion of globalization of all the campuses, colleges, graduate and schools utilizing its comprehensibility**
   We have three campuses and each campus has its own characteristic as follows;
   • Kyoto (The campus for arts and humanities through traditions and creation)
   • Biwako Kusatsu in Shiga (The campus of innovation through the fusion of natural science and social science)
   • Osaka Ibaraki (The campus of problem-solving mind under the concepts of creation of the communities, regional/social cooperation, and the Asia gateway)
   As we fully use the locations and characteristics of each campus, we connect their strengths organically to promote the globalization of the university as a whole.

2. **Education development through cooperation among government, industry, and academia and our research capabilities**
   We carry out research PBL programs in collaboration with the cutting-edge hub of research such as Ritsumeikan Global Innovation Research Institute (R-GIRO), Digital Humanities Center for Japanese Arts and Cultures (Art Research Center), Institute of Disaster Mitigation for Cultural Heritage, Research Centre for Paleoclimatology, Ritsumeikan International Research Center for Gastronomic Science. We also promote global education and research programs with graduate students through research projects.

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**Free description**

1. **Global Asia Village (tentative title) Concept**
   We have been working on the arrangement of the environment which allows our students to have experiences that are “Beyond Borders”. As we clarify the position of the dormitory as a place for education, we will make it a place for multi-cultural cooperation for both international students and domestic students.

2. **Expanding our overseas offices**
   As of the academic year 2013/2014, we operate Ritsumeikan India Office and Ritsumeikan UK Office. We also have established UBC Office at the University of British Columbia which handles operations related to the joint program.
   We will open new offices in Australia, ASEAN countries (Vietnam or Indonesia), the Middle East and so forth to build a network and improve our presence through presenting the research findings and student recruitment.