

May, 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020

To all NAIST students, faculty and staff

Concerning the responses to the new coronavirus infection, the state of emergency issued on April 16<sup>th</sup> for Nara prefecture by the Japanese government was lifted on May 14<sup>th</sup> and on the following day, May 15<sup>th</sup>, Nara prefecture rescinded its request to restrict university operations. Additionally, the state of emergency issued for Osaka and Kyoto prefectures was lifted on May 25<sup>th</sup> and those for the remaining prefectures in Japan were lifted on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

As for NAIST, our faculty and various offices have continuously worked together to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus infection, while keeping the safety of our students, faculty and staff as our first priority. I would like to sincerely thank all the students, faculty and staff for their understanding and cooperation in the measures taken throughout this period.

However, medicines and vaccines are still in the development stage. The new coronavirus infection has not been completely eliminated and, considering the warning of a possible second wave of infections, we believe that the implementation of further necessary measures will be required.

NAIST has already begun online lectures using the lecture archive, paying attention to students' digital communication access, to help ensure the health of our students, faculty and staff, and to maintain a safe campus environment, while also quickly facilitating the government's financial and other assistance for students so that they are able to maintain their learning environments. Also, NAIST is continuing to move forward with new efforts, such as teleworking and online classes and events, etc., for our faculty and staff.

NAIST will advance our sustainable institutional operations, quickly establishing a practical example of a 'new type of lifestyle' to further prevent the spreading of infection, while also promoting various measures so that students, faculty and staff may all realize their full potential in education and research at NAIST.

I would like to once again ask for your continued understanding and cooperation.

YOKOYA Naokazu

President, Nara Institute of Science and Technology