

Chapter 1

The Mission of IIAS

fundamental philosophy

**Conduct research for the future and
happiness of mankind**

Being an international research institute

**Implementing fundamental research in
progressive fields and issues**

Ensuring that research topics and researchers remain flexible

Cooperating with industry

1. Recalling the founding philosophy of IIAS, and its implementation

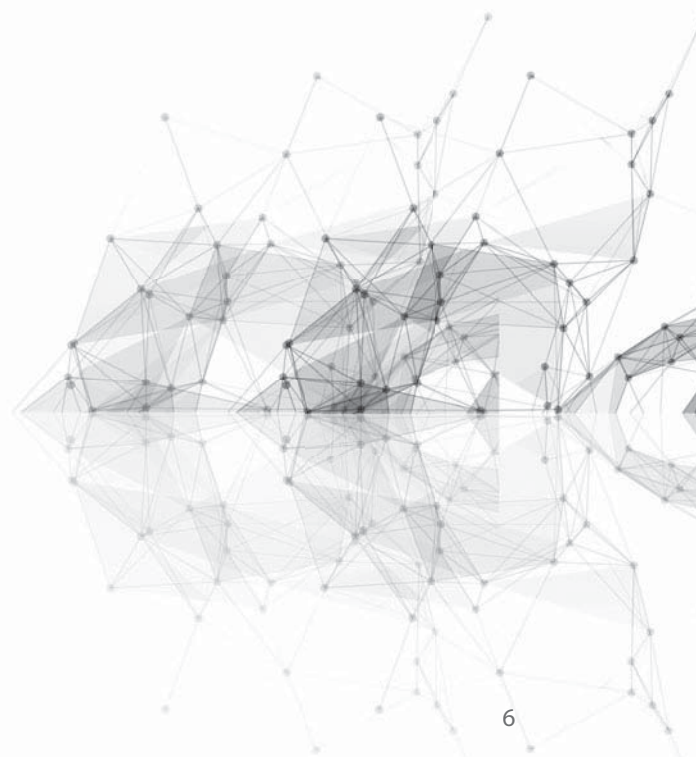
The founding philosophy of IIAS is as follows:

"Humanity is currently facing a number of challenges to its continued existence caused by a range of factors. Can we or future generations continue to live on this planet in the same way and with the same values we've held up to now? How can we resolve such problems that have historical and social origins? And in the 21st century, what form should our culture, science, and technology take? There are no set methods for developing ideas when it comes to such challenges.

IIAS's fundamental philosophy is to 'conduct research for the future and happiness of mankind,' and we address these issues through fundamental research based on cooperation among government, industry and academia. By consolidating wisdom from around the world and taking research forward, we aim to produce new directionality in academic research or orient ourselves towards creating new concepts, and contribute to the development of academic research culture."

At the time of its establishment, IIAS made it its policy to provide highly talented researchers from different countries and fields of research with an environment conducive to completely free interaction and discussion. As such, we have been placing importance on the following four pillars.

1. Being an international research institute
2. Implementing fundamental research in progressive fields and issues
3. Ensuring that research topics and researchers remain flexible
4. Cooperating with industry



2. Strengths of IIAS

IIAS is situated at the center of Keihanna region—spanning Kyoto, Osaka, and Nara prefectures, all of which have created and accumulated much of Japan's cultural and economic values throughout its long history—[giving it a location that enables it to view Japan's superb culture, art, craft, technology, climate, and environment in a holistic manner and tackle everything from issue identification to resolution](#). There are a number of similar institutions around the world, but this historical and social environment allows IIAS to take advantage of its strengths—uniqueness and autonomy.

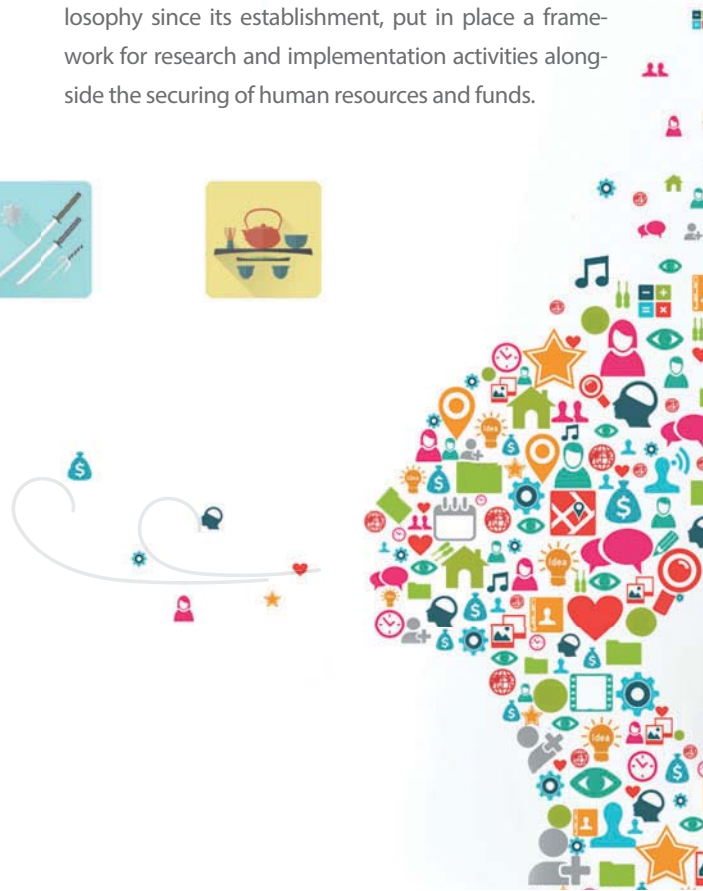
As such, IIAS should work to provide a venue for educators, scientists, business persons, intellectuals, religious leaders, and members of the public to come together regardless of the country, organization or field they belong to and hold discussions in a liberal yet disciplined environment, from which new directions in terms of knowledge, culture, society, and economics may be discovered and made practical use of.

3. Cultivating and exercising the “ability to pose questions”

We are said to have entered a “trans-science” age in which our modernistic way of thinking and behavior is no longer valid. In such an age and in an increasingly globalizing world, we need to seek and identify fundamental issues relating to the coexistence of states and ethnicities as well as the sustainability of society and the human race, and to convey these issues to the world. Furthermore, for IIAS to demonstrate its social value, it is important to discuss these critical topics with diverse domestic and global sectors, both within and outside of the academia, to find solutions and put them into practice.

From this perspective, IIAS’s founding philosophy of “studying what we should study,” established by Azuma Okuda, is still relevant and very important.

[The ability to pose questions equates to intellectual ability, imagination, insight, and information processing ability, but in order to command this ability one must also have financial muscle](#). To possess such a gamut of abilities in a centralized and sustainable manner as an organization, IIAS must, based on the fundamental philosophy since its establishment, put in place a framework for research and implementation activities alongside the securing of human resources and funds.



4. The significance of IIAS posing questions to the world

While Japan is a small island nation, it has four distinct seasons and abundant nature. It has developed in its people a generous and resilient spirit through mild religions such as Shinto and Buddhism, and refined capabilities through a mindset of diligence and improvisation. Moreover, Japan has succeeded in creating technologies that its people can be very proud of, and while maintaining an almost aesthetic sensibility for harmony with the entirety. With the advancement of civilization, it has become abundantly clear that we are living on a planet with finite resources. *For humanity to peacefully coexist on this "isolated island in the universe" that is our Earth, it is important to present to the world the significance of the aforementioned Japanese approach to life that Japanese people have developed over the course of history.*

This is something that can only be done by Japan, and only by IIAS.

If countries, ethnicities, and people around the world fail to comprehend this approach of generosity, resilience, and harmony, and share it to cooperate to live together then it must be said that the future of the planet, humanity, and society will be in peril. As such, it is important for IIAS to set out direction and develop a concrete picture of the future of humanity and promote this to a wide variety of groups and organizations around the world so that we may think together about the issues faced by the planet, the human race, and society, and drive forward collaboration for the resolution of these issues.

