

## AIU CHRONICLE

Akita International University is a “work in progress,” a term commonly used in the United States when referring to the writing of a new book or creation of a new piece of art. AIU’s aspiration are indeed laudable. The creation of a truly internationally oriented liberal arts institution of higher learning in Japan is long over due. The industrial and technological revolutions of the previous century have created the urgent and rapidly growing need for “international persons.” Such people must be “generalists,” not “specialists..” They must be creative thinkers who can quickly and candidly identify problems and formulate solutions. These “international persons” must then be willing to work with their colleagues to refine their solutions and then effectively resolve a problem.

Consequently, an “international person” must be a leader, someone willing to step out from the crowd, face criticism and assume the risk of failure. They must be “people persons,” individuals who like to work with people more than machine and within the security of regulations and bureaucracy. An “international person” must excel in the art of verbal and written communication. This requires mastering the global language – English. But they must also demonstrate sensitivity for other people’s culture and language, an attitude best acquired by enduring the humiliation of learning a foreign languages.

AIU’s avowed goal is to educate implement able to persuade people to implement their solutions in a particular field. y has brought nations closer together and facilitated increasingly rapid communication,