TOHOKU UNIVERSITY

For more than a century, Tohoku University has been consistently ranked amongst the top academic institutions in Japan. Its research achievements and contributions, coupled with its wide network of collaborative partners, led to it being one of the first institutions to be conferred the status of a Designated National University by the Japanese government in June 2017

Kuniaki Sato

Vice President for Reform and Planninng

Kuniaki Sato has been Vice President for Reform and Planning at Tohoku University since October 2021, and he has over twenty years of experience in higher education policy development.

Prior to 2021, Sato was Chief Director for University Reform at the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology's Higher Education Bureau. He was involved in the establishment and management of a public university, Akita International University, before his transfer to MEXT. Sato led the development of a variety of internationalization initiatives in Japan, such as the Go Global Japan project, the Top Global University project, the Inter-University Exchange Project and the formulation of Joint Degree Guidelines. In addition, he dedicated himself to harmonizing processes in higher education, especially with other Asian countries, through various initiatives such as the CAMPUS Asia Project, the AIMS Program, and the UNESCO Tokyo Convention. At Kyoto University from 2015 to 2017, he served as the Director of Planning, the Special Advisor to the President for International Strategy, and as the Director for the Office of Provost.

After returning to MEXT in 2018, he served as Inspector and Director for University Reform, and in July 2019, he became the Director of the Office for International Planning. He has been the Chair of the OECD's Group of National Experts on Higher Education since January 2023. M.A. in Education by the University of Tokyo.