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In order to resolve the various social problems arising in the contemporary world, policy formulation utilizing the results of advanced research is required. Up to now, faculty members of the University of Tokyo have contributed to the process of policy making on an individual basis. But today, when universities are increasingly called upon to contribute to society at large, the University of Tokyo believes that making available the intellectual resources needed for policy formulation and articulating policy alternatives is one of the roles it should play. Thus, on July 8, 2008, the Todai Policy Alternatives Research Institute was established under the Office of the President. The institute is a small organization comprising just seven members, but as the hub for policy research on campus, it will act as an organization for disseminating policy alternatives

# Todai Policy Alternatives Research Institute

to society, based on its own policy proposals as well as the ideas it gleans from the research results of a variety of other departments and institutions within the university. It also hopes to establish networks with government agencies, corporations, mass media, and other organizations outside the university, seeking a mutual exchange of ideas and the invigoration of policy studies. This

academic year it will inaugurate policy research units on security in Northeast Asia, intellectual property and innovation, technology governance, and healthcare policy. As its research progresses, it will share the results with society at large through a broad spectrum of media from published materials and its website to public symposiums and other events.

