

Global COE Program Ars Vivendi

Written Materials for External Evaluation

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Self-evaluation Committee

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Itemized Evaluation

[Concerning the University's Future Concept and its Organizational Support]

- **Has your program plan been positioned strategically enough in the university's future concept? And has it worked well?**
- **Has your program made focused efforts towards becoming an internationally excellent educational and research hub under the chancellor-centered management system?**

Ritsumeikan University (hereafter the University) aims to form a “distinctive world-class educational and research hub” and worked towards achieving this goal.

The University, as part of the Ritsumeikan Trust, formulated a “Mid-term Plan (academic years 2007 to 10) in academic year 2006 and set its strategic goal as being “an open to the world educational and research hub in the Asia Pacific region.” The University has focused on cultivating research hubs whose main themes are “people and environment” and “Kyoto in the world” and is committed to providing human resources etc. in order to improve these research hubs.

The Global COE Program Ars Vivendi (hereafter Ars Vivendi) is aimed at “people”; it is working to create a new type of study that focuses on people with diseases and disabilities. What this means is that developing Ars Vivendi to the world-class level has become one of the University's missions. Thus, the University has conducted strategic policies which focus on “doctoral programs,” “young researchers,” and “international research activities.”

(1) Support for Doctoral Programs Programs which Enhance Research in Doctoral Programs

Since academic year 2008 the University has had the “University Incentive Scholarship A / B for Global COE Program” for the Global COE Programs in the University which have been recognized by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (up to 3 million Japanese yen (A and B together) per academic year. In addition, the University has had the “University Incentive Scholarship C for Global COE Program” since academic year 2010 and provides per academic year 0.25 million Japanese yen in scholarship for 9 doctoral students (three for first year (D1), three for second year (D2), and three for third year (D3)). These scholarships enable the Program not only to enhance the doctoral program of the Graduate School of Core Ethics and Frontier Sciences (hereafter GSCEFS) that is responsible for the creation of “Ars Vivendi” but also to expand the research of graduate students.

(2) Research Funds Research Promoting Program, International Research

Promoting Program, etc.

The University established in academic year 2006 a “Specially Promoted Research System” in order to select research able to lead to world-class research achievements. Through this system, Ars Vivendi has received funding of 8 millions Japanese yen in academic year 2007, 7 million Japanese yen in academic years 2008 and 2009, and 11.7 million Japanese yen in academic year 2010.

In addition, in academic year 2010, the University organized a “Research Promoting Enhancement Policy” to enhance graduate school-centered research hubs and to promote distinctive research. Ars Vivendi which is centered at the GSCEFS, which received 20.08 million Japanese yen from the University to (1) establish a network of educational and research hubs in East Asia through a coalition of international educational research institutions, (2) develop research programs by people with disabilities, illness, or differences etc. and their supporters, and (3) develop a research environment which would enable GSCEFS to develop a network of educational and research hubs and research programs by people with disabilities, illness, or differences etc. and their supporters.

(3) Employment of Young Researchers Assistant Professor / Postdoctoral Fellow
Ars Vivendi has hired five postdoctoral fellows using budget provided by the University since in the middle of academic year 2008.

(4) Commitment of the Program Leader Expansion of Research Leave Program
The University has operated a “research leave system”, which enables superior faculty members to commit themselves to research and graduate school education; leaders of 21st Century COE Program have taken advantage of this system to take research leave, as have Ars Vivendi’s executives.

(5) International Collaborative Research Funds Enhancement of International Collaborative Research

The University has augmented by fifty collaborative researches with educational and research institutions in the world through “the international collaborative research system” since academic year 2004. As one of the world-class hubs, we continue our efforts to establish collaborative research with such institutions as the University of Bergamo (Italy) and Université Paris Diderot (France).

(6) Development of Institutions / Spaces for Research Establishment of Research Center for Ars Vivendi

The University has established both a research center and a library for Ars Vivendi.

[About the Whole Hub Formation]

• **Has your project of creating an educational research hub of international level been achieved?**

Ars Vivendi conducted various research activities. The self-evaluation committee's understanding of the international activities in this program is based on the four following types of research frameworks (as for the unique contents of the four types and their achievement points, please refer to pages 11, 12, and 13).

1) Problem Solving Collaborative Type

This is primarily international collaboration the Program and other institutions or groups in Asia working on related issues.

2) International Development Aid / Area Study Type

This is primarily a research and exchange activity that includes assistance and support to regions and countries that need Japanese knowledge and technology.

3) Advanced Area Development Type

This is primarily research which our program members have accumulated, and has won worldwide acclaim.

4) Academic Infrastructure Development Catch-up Type

This is the traditional style of arts and social sciences. Advanced research achievements are absorbed in various themes and genres.

When we look at the academic papers written in English and international presentations in each of these frameworks, although each type is represented the actual number of papers and presentations remains insufficient. However, it is difficult to evaluate the progress of internationalization only by the number of "presentations in English" at "international societies" overseas. At the present moment, the evaluation committee would like to estimate the growth of such sustainable activities as international seminars, study groups for practical collaborative interaction and activities for assistance and aid.

Ars Vivendi is in the process of forming an internationally-superior educational and research hub step by step. There have been exchanges of researchers and involved persons centered on this program. In order for Ars Vivendi to become more an internationally-superior hub, concrete measures such as the creation of an international association or publication of a multi-language journal are required. Moreover, more support is necessary for graduate students' foreign research activities.

[Progress Relative to its Initial Goals]

Promotion of Projects which Include Young Researchers : In addition to presentations at academic societies and writings in academic journals, our publication activity has included *Ars Vivendi* Vol.1, 2, and 3, and fifteen reports (issued by Research Center for Ars Vivendi) over the past 4 years.

Publicity of Research Activities and Information Transmission : Many events have been held by the Program among which many were co-hosted with various institutions, other universities, patients' groups and non-profit organizations. Achievements of all research surveys that can be posted are available to the public on Ars Vivendi's website (<http://www.arsvi.com/>) . From October 4, 2009 through October 4, 2010, the website received 10 million hits. Accessibility is a priority for the website, which consists mainly of text data so that people with visual disabilities can access the website's information.

However, the contents of Ars Vivendi's other website (http://www.ritsumeai.ac.jp/acd/re/k-rsc/ars_vivendi/index.html) are insufficient. In order to improve the situation, it is necessary to integrate the above two websites or reorganize them.

Practice of Research by Involved Persons : Students with disabilities and patients with intractable diseases have been involved in projects as collaborative researchers and have achieved satisfactory research results. Consequently, this has enabled them to increase the level of their research activities. For example, some of them have been asked to give lectures or advice at other university. Groups of people with disabilities and patients' groups also have large expectations for such students.

International Evaluation : Through international symposiums, etc., which were hosted or co-hosted by Ars Vivendi, Ars Vivendi has obtained support and acclaim about both its students' presentations, and significance and achievements of Ars Vivendi from foreign researchers (especially researchers and involved parties from private organizations that would like to establish partnerships in Asia). Among these "Research on Home Care of Patients with ALS in East Asia" held together with the Japan ALS Association a meeting to enable East Asia patients' collaboration, which had been requested by international organizations. Therefore, the self-evaluation committee has high expectations for the future development of this type of collaboration.

In addition, progress has been made in the creation of a research network in East Asia through such events as the "International Seminar on Euthanasia Issue between South Korea and Japan" (November 2009) and "The International Research Exchange Meeting" (May 2010).

Concerning exchanges with Europe and the United States, before the GSCEFS of the

University was established in April 2003, the preparatory program of the GSCEFS had already invited foreign scholars Professor Martha Craven Nussbaum, Professor Giorgio Agamben and Professor Amartya Sen. After the GSCEFS was established, it invited such scholars as Professor Iris Marion Young, Professor Trinh T. Minh-ha, Professor Arthur Frank and Professor Colin Barnes using the “International Advanced Program,” the University’s graduate school internationalization program, asking them to give intensive lectures or participate in workshops hosted by the GSCEFS. Moreover, since Ars Vivendi has been recognized by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, and Technology in Japan, it has held various conferences, inviting Professor Hayden White, Professor Philippe Van Parijs, Professor Thomas Pogge, and Professor Colin Barnes, among others, as guests,. It also held (in both English and Japanese) many international events, for example, “Multiculturalism and Social Justice” (March 2009), “Bonds and Boundaries” (March 2010) and “Democracy and Globalization” (January 2011), and “Translation Studies in the Japanese Context” (January 2010), which was the first conference to focus on “translation studies” in Japan. In order to further promote such research activities, Ars Vivendi has exchanged a memorandum of understanding concerning academic and research collaboration with the Centre for Disability Studies of School of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Leeds and Interdisciplinary Research Centre for Human Sciences, Health and Disease at the University of Bergamo. Moreover, the Executive Editors of *Disability and Society* invited Professor Shin’ya Tateiwa, our Program leader, to become an Occasional Member of the journal’s Editorial Board from April 2011 through April 2013. This makes substantial progress in internationalization of Ars Vivendi.

In East Asia, Ars Vivendi collaborated with the Association for Research on Disability Studies since it was first setup in November 2009 and has exchanged a memorandum of understanding for research cooperation with them, as well.

Academic Society’s Evaluation : In annual conventions of academic societies such as Japan Society of Disability Studies and Japan Welfare Sociology Association, in some instances as many as 20% to 40% of all presenters were from Ars Vivendi. In addition, students from Ars Vivendi presented their research at such societies as the Japanese Society for Science and Technology Studies, the Japan Association for Bioethics, the Japanese Society for Medical History, and the Japanese Association of Qualitative Psychology. In particular, their continuous collaborative research activities have a high standing.

However, the number of presentations at international societies is very limited and needs to be improved.

Evaluation Viewed from Industry, Academia, and Government / Contribution to Society: In 2007 we held together with the Yomiuri Shimbun a survey on terminal care. Collaborative work between the Yomiuri Shimbun and a postdoctoral fellow of Ars Vivendi has been progressing since then and its achievements will be presented overseas. Moreover, collaborative research related to making available digital data of books for people with visual disabilities has been going on with involved parties of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and the National Diet Library etc. In addition, research sponsored by Pastel Labo Co., Ltd. was carried out on the responses of call center to persons with visual disabilities. Finally, some members of the Program cooperated in a survey research of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare concerning assistance / care including medical care to people with severe disabilities.

• **How was your program managed? Did it lead to Ars Vivendi functioning as a hub?**

Close Cooperation : Ars Vivendi has been advancing not only projects whose members are faculty or postdoctoral fellow of the Program but also others led by graduate students (eight projects were approved in academic year 2008, twelve in 2009, and nine in 2010) whose project leader is however member of faculty.

Project management of Ars Vivendi conducts twice-a-year a meeting of all faculty members and related administrative staff, and once-a-month a working meeting of Ars Vivendi's executives and related administrative staff. In addition, a mailing list has been used for matters that need to be decided quickly and for information sharing.

• **Has your program been able to contribute to some extent to the internationalization of the university?**

Ars Vivendi plays a role in internationalization of the University.

It has hosted or co-hosted about 20 foreign researchers for various periods of time. The number of researchers who have visited Ars Vivendi temporally for events such as symposiums is about 40. Long-staying persons like international students and short-staying persons, for example postdoctoral fellows came to Japan after recognizing the significance of Ars Vivendi. Therefore, their very presence proves that the international dimension of Ars Vivendi's activities.

Transmission in Multi-languages : Ars Vivendi publishes an English-version e-magazine since December 2008. Moreover, since it wants to enlarge its network

with Western institutions and to establish one with East Asian institutions, Ars Vivendi is engaged in the making its homepage available in both Chinese and Korean, as well.

Collaborative Research with Foreign Institutions : A representative example is the “Research on the Establishment of a Network for Patients with Rare Diseases in East Asia” (academic year 2008 to 2010). Together with the Japan ALS Association and the Department of Public Policy of the Institute of Medical Science of the University of Tokyo (which includes Korean and Taiwanese researchers), Ars Vivendi has been advancing both collaboration with patients in East Asia and comparative research with these partners. A symposium on this theme was held in February 2009. An Internet site which was made especially for the symposium in cooperation with NPO STAND, with which Ars Vivendi had collaborated on research of a support system for people with visual disabilities, enabled people to watch a live broadcast of the symposium. In addition, Ars Vivendi was involved in the National Museum of Ethnology’s collaborative research project, “Thoughts of Well-being and Lifedesign” in academic year 2008 and a part of its achievements was an international research forum that was held at the University. Ars Vivendi continued collaborative research with the National Museum of Ethnology in academic year 2009. Furthermore, regarding support of information and communication technology (ICT) for patients with rare diseases, Ars Vivendi collaborated with a Good Practice (GP) Program of Shonan Institute of Technology, as well as Japan ALS Association. Concerning cooperation with Africa, Ars Vivendi collaborated with the Africa Japan Forum. At the University, Ars Vivendi held a workshop on patient care and information technology together with the University of Bergamo, which has an Academic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement with the GSCEFS. In academic year 2010, this was followed by a second workshop held at the University of Bergamo. Ars Vivendi has also engaged in a mutual exchange of graduate students with Clark University.

(Development of Human Resources)

• In development of human resources exactly what kind(s) of young researchers have been formed in your program and to what extent did this contribute to the formation of an educational and research hub?

【Cooperative Research Instruction System】 The faculty members of the GSCEFS, who include core members of Ars Vivendi, share among themselves both the educational issues faced by the GSCEFS and the instruction situation of each

graduate students. As a result, all students receive cross-disciplinary collaborative research instruction that is cross-disciplinary. These activities are substantially guaranteed by the GSCEFS's various educational featured systems, for example, such as its project-centered curriculum, study meetings for collaboratively examining academic papers, refereed papers for academic journals and open presentation of pre-doctoral and doctoral theses. Through both individual instruction of faculty member(s) and collaborative research activities with other faculty members, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, research assistants, and members of the Program from outside the University, graduate students acquire not only academic writing skills but the skills in collaborative academic research and project management that can be used in the society. This is how the GSCEFS ambitiously addresses advanced research themes and collaborative research and cultivates human resources that are flexible and active not only in academia but in various fields.

【Individual Instruction that Leads to Presentation】The GSCEFS, which is the basis of Ars Vivendi, prepares various support courses of which “Academic Writing” (writing support in Japanese and English) is the core course. Moreover, by employing other academic writing staff members, the GSCEFS is able to support research plans, presentation at academic societies and academic writing. Also, academic writing staff members support research of individual international students.

• Has your program made efforts to develop human resources that can help internationalization? How well has this worked?

The GSCEFS employs one native speaker of English and supports graduate students in preparing presentations at academic societies overseas and in English language academic writing. In addition the GSCEFS employs one Japanese staff member to advance the students' research level. Ars Vivendi has established a system of “funds for assisting young researchers' global research activities” and has supported 22, initiatives including surveys, presentations at societies and trainings in research institutions. Among the countries student researchers have visited are the U.S. and U.K (academic year 2007), Sri Lanka, Mongolia, France and Australia (academic year 2008), Canada, Cuba, Philippines, Africa and Switzerland (academic year 2009), and South Korea (academic year 2010). The Japanese academic writing staff members, who are employed by the GSCEFS, support international students with individual tutoring. Also, Ars Vivendi accepted a postdoctoral fellow who received a Ph.D from

the University of Bergamo, which has exchanged an Academic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement with the GSCEFS under the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Postdoctoral Program. This postdoctoral fellow, together with two faculty members of Ars Vivendi coordinated an international workshop at The University in academic year 2008 where one of Ars Vivendi's postdoctoral fellows gave his presentation in English.

"The fund for assisting young researchers' global research activities" was established in academic year 2007. Its purpose is to stimulate the global research activities of students whose themes relate to those of Ars Vivendi and to support these activities financially. Those who are recognized by the fund write a brief report about their surveys/presentations in *Ars Vivendi*.

(Research Activities)

• Has your program conducted international research activities? Or has your program conducted active information transmission in a domain unique to Japan or in a research approach that is not found in foreign countries?

Let us begin with the Program's international information transmission activities. Ars Vivendi will start publishing a new foreign language electronic publication, *Ars Vivendi Journal*, whose main language is English, in 2011.

Homepage: First of all, English-version pages of all faculty members and graduate students related to Ars Vivendi have been made (some of their pages have also been made in Chinese and Korean) and posted on Ars Vivendi's website. In addition, some academic papers or presentations in English (including ones which Ars Vivendi asked authors outside Ars Vivendi to provide and revise) have been posted on the website. English-versions of the table of contents of books written or edited by Ars Vivendi Program members as well as abstracts in English have also been posted on the website. Furthermore, portions of reports of international conferences have been written or translated in English have been posted on the website. Finally, Ars Vivendi has made pages concerning international events etc. in English, Chinese and Korean and posted them on the website. Their total number is about 500.

Ars Vivendi, for example, has published an English language e-mail magazine since December 2008. Ars Vivendi has also published Japanese-version and Korean-version e-mail magazines in addition to the English ones, letting readers know about its research activities and providing academic information.

As for information transmission, Ars Vivendi members have given presentations in international societies or seminars as well as meetings in Japan in addition to e-mail

magazines and homepage. Although the number of the graduate students' presentations remains inadequate, that of the faculty members has reached an interesting level.

Let us now state the detailed contents of the four types of international research activities we conduct (see page 4).

1) Problem Solving Collaboration Type

Ars Vivendi has been advancing active collaboration with East Asian institutions (especially Korean universities) whose values and views of families are relatively similar.

Ars Vivendi has collaborated and cooperated with Asian societies by holding events such as the "Conference on the History of Disabled Movements in South Korea and Japan" in October 2008 and the "International Symposium: The Future of Support by People with Disabilities: Possibilities of Collaboration between Japan, Taiwan, and South Korea" in May 2009. Moreover, Ars Vivendi supported the establishment of the "Association for Research on Disability Studies in South Korea" in November 2009. At its founding event, Professor Tateiwa, Ars Vivendi leader, had a memorial lecture. Moreover, *Ars Vivendi: Sociology of Disabled People Who Have Left Home or Institutions*, one of Professor Tateiwa's books, has been translated into Korean.

Ars Vivendi also held the "International Symposium: Research on Home Care of Patients with ALS in East Asia" in 2009 in order to form and maintain an East Asian network concerning rare diseases such as ALS and muscular dystrophy.

Moreover, Associate Professor Amada, one of Ars Vivendi members, and others have been conducting research on the way of aging in Japanese society. This kind of contribution we believe, can lead to collaboration with neighboring institutions in the future.

2) International Development Aid / Area Study Type

This type of activity was conducted in Asia and Africa.

In academic year 2009 and 2010 Professor Mochizuki, an Ars Vivendi member, provided a teacher training program in China (at Qinhuangdao Special School in academic year 2010). This is a part of his efforts to adapt Japanese approaches, converting support for people with disabilities from a medical to a social model, to the Chinese situation., Professor Hayashi, who is also Program member and a medical doctor, conducted survey on famine, AIDS, and assistance in Ethiopia and Kenya.

Various activities have been conducted using the anthropological approach to find out the possibilities of effective assistance. As for medical governance, one of our graduate students conducted research on Buruli ulcer (which is caused by the same kind of bacteria which causes tuberculosis and Hansen's disease and which infects many children in tropical regions, especially in West Africa).

Also, development aid often overlaps with regions where field surveys of classical anthropology have been conducted. Research on the history of anthropology and Africa conducted by Professor Watanabe, an Ars Vivendi member. His students' field surveys in Mongolia, Panama, Argentina and Antilles have been cultivating a contact point between anthropology, as an advanced area of study, and area studies, and have taken a role in adding to the research on "development and justice" conducted by Ars Vivendi members Professor Gotoh and Professor Dumouchel.

3) Advanced Area Development Type

In this category Ars Vivendi members who had research activities are Professor Gotoh and Professor Dumouchel, who made the world-class contribution to economics and philosophy respectively. One example is *Against Injustice: The New Economics of Amartya Sen*, which was co-edited by Professor Gotoh and Professor Dumouchel in 2009.

Professor Gotoh has mainly been involved in international academic meetings on "global justice" since academic year 2003, while Professor Dumouchel has been mainly involved in the issue of "multiculturalism" since academic year 2007. These activities have contributed to international information transmission and international network establishment among researchers. Such international academic contact has helped Ars Vivendi's graduate students to clarify or improve their research.

Another example of international symposiums is "International Symposium "Health, Equity and Human Rights: Seeking Grounds of Anti-Health Gap", which was organized by Professor Matsuda.

As for activities that result from cooperation with foreign institutions, our project with the University of Bergamo can be listed. Based on "the Academic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement" between the Scuola di Dottorato in Antropologia ed Epistemologia della Complessità, Università degli Studi di Bergamo and the GSCEFS, the exchanges have been developing step by step. An international workshop was held at the University in January 2009. In September 2010 Professor Matsubara and Professor Dumouchel organized "The 2nd Workshop: *The Mechanization of Empathy in Health Care*" at the University of Bergamo.

There have been some distinctive achievements as a result of participating in

international societies. For example, Professor Nishi participated in the International Comparative Literature Association in 2010. His research on comparative literature in East Asia shows a new way of approaching post-colonialism. Moreover, Professor Sato participated in the International Society for Dialogical Science. His research on the trajectory equifinality model, a time-space methodology of cultural psychology, has been being accepted by researchers all over the world as a new methodology.

An international workshop was held in August 2010 with Professor Thomas Pogge, author of *World Poverty and Human Rights*. Usually this type of event takes the form of keynote speech by the invited academic, followed by questions from the floor. However, this workshop allowed three young researchers in Ars Vivendi to make lengthy presentation in English and was followed by his extensive critiques. We believe this kind of intensive and deep interchange with world-class academics will help young researchers to create new trends.

4) Academic Infrastructure Development Catch-up Type

As for the relationship with Europe and the U.S. the Program advertised its newness and potential by accepting researchers from Europe and the U.S. and co-hosting symposiums both domestically and abroad in addition to such orthodox activities as translation, introduction, and critical analysis of pioneering theoretical research and presentations at international societies. These symposiums offered an opportunity to introduce Japanese thinking to the world. Discussions on bioethics by Professor Koizumi, Professor Otani, etc., consider both international trend and the Japanese views on life and death. Ars Vivendi has started transmitting their discussions in English.

The purpose of publications such as *Repairing the Tax* by Professor Tateiwa et al. (2009), *Basic Income: Possibility of the Minimal State that Distributes* by Professor Tateiwa et al. (2010), *Japanese Version of Poverty and Human Rights* translated Professor Tateiwa et al. (2010) is not nearly to catch up with international standards, but to introduce new ideas for global discussion.

• Has a system formed and functioned so that researchers who participated in the program have cooperated and collaborated and contributed toward the program formation?

Research Center for Ars Vivendi, which was established at the time of the recognition of the Global COE Program, is placed under the Institute of Human Services and receives some funds as a Specially Promoted Research System from the University.

The Institute of Human Services has been supported by clerical staffs as administrative staff of the University. The project manager not only understands the curriculum of the GSCEFS but also has a certain amount of professional knowledge. The manager is good at English and contributes to the promotion of the project type research of Ars Vivendi, including its international activities.

In addition to these, Ars Vivendi hires five postdoctoral fellows. They not only conduct project research by themselves but support graduate students' project research and organize the research hub of the whole Program.

Doctoral students belong to Project Seminars and cooperate with various project research activities. They write academic papers and their doctoral paper while participating in projects as members.

• Has Ars Vivendi created a new discipline / field of studies, or academic knowledge etc. in its research activities?

Ars Vivendi is academic movement which aims at supporting researchers in philosophy, sociology, economics, science for human services, history of science, psychology, bioethics, biology, cultural anthropology, and comparative literature to pioneer boundary research areas while having them as members whose duty also includes teaching younger researchers collectively.

Ars Vivendi pursues research on the themes of disabilities, aging, illness, and of the various differences people in crisis due to disabilities or on various differences for which were expressed ethical or academic concerns, or research on people who have social difficulties making their living. Although traditional academic fields have tried a variety of approaches to enquire into the life of such people, these approaches are still incomplete and face bias and limitation in each field. What Ars Vivendi aims at is to break the barrier of such bias and limitation. In order to do so, Ars Vivendi firstly encourages "involved persons" in the narrow sense of having disabilities, of aging agents, persons with illness, and various other differences to participate in and contribute to academic research. Secondly, Ars Vivendi enlarges the ranges of "involved persons" to include caregivers, patients' family, potential caregivers, or other social agents as members of participant observation. As a result, researchers who come to the Research Center for Ars Vivendi are to some extent "involved persons" with disabilities, aging, illness, and various differences understood in a broad sense. In fact, academic research covering the above academic fields has been promoted and various types of collaboration with "involved persons" have been developed at the Research Center for Ars Vivendi.

Ars Vivendi's activities are both domestic and "global". Some representative examples

are collaboration with the Centre for Disability Studies at the University of Leeds which has been gaining world-class recognition, and collaboration with the Association for Research on Disability Studies which has produced substantial achievements .

As for Ars Vivendi's academic knowledge, contributions of tremendous quality and quantity have been made public through Ars Vivendi (Vol.1, 2, 3, and 4) and others Japanese language publication. As for information transmission via other languages Ars Vivendi plans to soon publish a multi-language web journal, Ars Vivendi Journal.

Ars Vivendi seeks to respond to various forms of social challenges. One example is that as soon as the Great East Japan Earthquake happened, research and practice concerning "disasters and disabled people and people with illness" was begun.

These are the activities through which Ars Vivendi has been creating a new field of studies.