

# TIME 100

THE  
WORLD'S  
MOST  
INFLUENTIAL  
PEOPLE  
DUA  
LIPA

BY PATTI SMITH

## Island Living and Learning

The Okinawa-based University of the Ryukyus prides itself on a sense of community.



—**Mutsumi Nishida**  
President,  
University of the Ryukyus

The Japanese island chain of Okinawa has a proud history stretching back thousands of years, with a local population closely connected to land and sea. These traditions are alive and well at the University of the Ryukyus, which works to maintain a close bond known locally as *yui* between the faculty, student body and wider community. The university is known for its work

in marine biology and medical science, which according to President Mutsumi Nishida, is an integral part of island life. “Nurturing students with science education is important, and improving labor productivity directly impacts the entire prefecture. Students who learn here will contribute and help with regional revitalization,” said Nishida. Key work includes research into oceans and coral reefs and conservation studies of the unique environment. Medical research involves regenerative medicine, T-cell leukemia treatments and improving



The University of the Ryukyus is known for marine and medical research.

life expectancy. The university also has strong international connections, with more than 100 partnerships around the world and close ties to Hawaii in particular. As part of its modernizing and global outlook, it is working to transform its operations with a unique version of digital transformation (DX) called Ryudai transformation (RX). At the heart of everything is the Okinawan sense of *yui*. “This is the lynchpin of our culture and we will always strive to maintain a truly harmonious relationship between all stakeholders here in Okinawa and beyond,” said Nishida.

