

October 2nd, 2023

Congratulatory Address for the Fall 2023
Graduate School Entrance Ceremony

Yasunori Mitani, President
Kyushu Institute of Technology (Kyutech)

Congratulations on your admission and welcome to Kyutech. On behalf of our faculty and staff, I would like to express my respect for your effort to enter our graduate school, and it is our great pleasure to welcome you all today.

At the beginning of this academic year, the restrictions due to the covid-19 have finally been lifted in Japan, and today we are welcoming all of you in the same mode of our entrance ceremony as we used to hold before the pandemic, which is a great pleasure not only for all of our faculty and staff but also everyone supporting our university.

Today we have 71 new students here, and 97% or 69 students are international students from 22 different countries and regions. I would like to give my gratitude to you from many different countries and regions for choosing Kyutech in this such unstable situation of the world, and for coming a long way to join us.

As we are seeing these days, the world is currently exposed to many social divisions, but I believe in the world where science and technology can always bring about innovations through meetings and exchanges between people with various intelligences and personalities in a free and open environment. I am certain that this is the right way for our progress. I expect and hope that you will meet new mentors, make many friends, interact with diverse researchers, expand your network, and greatly deepen your knowledge during your life at Kyutech.

In recent years, our social life and economic activities have been greatly affected in various way by current social divisions and intolerant nationalism with extreme ideology. When disruptions in supply chains affect the distribution of energy and food, causing various problems that are directly connected to our lives, it reminds us clearly that our lives are made up of complex interconnections in the world which must be stable. In addition, political ambitions often create even more unnecessary confusion in the competitive progress cutting-edge technological products, such as semiconductors and electric vehicles. Each of us is now required to have the ability to survive in this unpredictable and unstable world where a series of dramatic changes happen in such a short period of time. Now, all of you here today have made a first step of your new life in this uncertain and unstable era.

What you can do in our graduate school is to acquire the skills and intelligence necessary to contribute to building a prosperous and peaceful world. You need to have curiosity, sense of exploration, and persistence. If you have strong curiosity and sense of exploration, you will be able to learn positively to acquire new skills and intelligence in order to continue to grow with your persistence. In addition, when you acquire the ability from your many experiences to respond to various changes, you will be able to advance the abilities you have acquired with your new experience. You will be blessed with various opportunities to learn and experience many things in today's world with the rapid progress of science and technology.

The evolution of generative AI is becoming a hot topic around the world. I am certain that most of us have ever actually used and been amazed by its capability and performance. Meantime, I assume that people are also aware of the limitations of AI. Although AI is not perfect, you can learn how to bring AI technology to work together with other technologies in promoting your research work in our graduate school. It is the people, human being, who can approach to confront the reality with passion, strong attention, curiosity, and sense of exploration base on real experience whereas AI can derive some samples of answers to a question from a huge historical database in a short time. Thus, what is important for you is to

have as much real experience as possible with a strong sense of critical thinking towards everything. I do hope that you can develop your own curiosity and inquisitiveness persistently to develop your personality and abilities to prevail over AI in this sense.

Last but not least, to conclude my address, I wish you good health and the best of luck on making successful start of your new life at Kyutech where you can grow your intellectual curiosity, take advantage of various learning opportunities and environments in this new place, and have a valuable graduate school life so that your choice of entering our university will bring the best result for you. Congratulations and welcome to Kyutech.