

Address from the President

It is a great pleasure to hold the 2025 Entrance Ceremony of Miyazaki International University on this beautiful day of full spring bloom. I would like to express my gratitude to President Samejima of the University of Miyazaki and all the distinguished guests for taking time out of their busy professional and private schedules to attend today's ceremony. Congratulations to all the new undergraduate and graduate students who have just been granted admission. I would also like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the family members present here. I believe that all the new students are filled with excitement and anticipation as they welcome this joyous day. This year, we are delighted to welcome international students from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, the Philippines, South Korea, and Nigeria, in addition to students from Japan.

The location of our university is the place where Professor Soshu, the father of the Confucian scholar Sokken Yasui, established the private school 'Meikyodo' to teach Confucianism, believing that a place for learning was necessary especially in Kiyotake. The place that sent out Sokken Yasui and other individuals to contribute to the realization of Japan's modernization in the early Meiji period is truly a 'Hill of Learning'. The wish of our ancestors to spread knowledge from Kiyotake has been passed down through 190 years of history and continues to be carried forward to this day.

The founder of our university, Dr. Hisayasu Otsubo, established Miyazaki International University in 1994 with the goal of reexamining the diverse cultures of the world from a global perspective and providing the ideal environment for pursuing the academic field of 'Comparative Cultural Studies'. Our university has a history spanning 31 years.

The international liberal arts education at the School of International Liberal Arts is highly regarded from the perspective of fostering global talent. Those who graduated in March this year have developed strong language skills and critical thinking abilities, and have gone on to fulfill their dreams, securing positions in airlines, government, hotels, and publicly listed companies.

The School of Education, established in 2014, has achieved an impressive record with a 100% first-time pass rate for the elementary school teacher recruitment exam two years ago, and a 96% pass rate this year. In addition, graduates have excelled in securing positions as public nursery school teachers and in certified

children's centers, making remarkable contributions as essential workers.

Furthermore, the first cohort of graduate students who completed their studies this March have deepened their learning and are advancing toward their goals, with some planning to pursue doctoral programs overseas.

The foundation of our university's education is based on the spirit of 'Respect and Diligence.' This spirit reflects our aspiration for global peace and the personal growth of our students as human beings. The spirit of 'Respect' emphasizes respecting the humanity of oneself and others, self-discipline, and considering things from the perspective of others. Meanwhile, the spirit of 'Diligence' encourages actively working with both body and mind, making earnest efforts in all endeavors, and approaching everything with sincerity.

Today, as the President, I would like to share three wishes with you. First, I hope you will experience the joy of learning. Second, I hope you will feel what a multicultural society is really like on our campus. And third, I hope you will discover a new you.

Today, we are living in the VUCA era, which stands for volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity. I believe that you have faced many unexpected challenges in your junior high and high school years, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, earthquakes, tornado damage, and for international students, the impact of wars. At the same time, the rapid advancements in science and technology, such as AI, have greatly transformed the way we learn. The skills required in the VUCA era are the ability to think for yourself, collaborate with others, and create something new, even in the absence of clear, correct answers.

From today, your learning will undergo a significant transformation. It will shift from education centered on memorization to education focused on critical thinking. What is emphasized at our university is critical thinking, or multifaceted thinking. By examining things from various perspectives, based on academic evidence, and considering other possible ideas, you may arrive at new insights. This is where the joy of learning is born.

Second, I hope you will experience diverse values and immerse yourself in a multicultural society on our campus. Currently, our faculty members come from 14 different countries, and international students from 13 countries are sharing campus life here. I encourage you to engage with others beyond your school or department. Through interactions with people from many different countries, you may find that what you consider 'normal' is not the same for everyone, which may be confusing at times. By sharing meals, enjoying nature, and engaging in dialogue, you will experience living alongside people with different values and lifestyles, which is truly

the essence of multicultural coexistence. This is a unique experience that only our university can offer.

Third, I hope that through your four years of undergraduate studies and two years of graduate studies at our university, you will discover a new version of yourself. You all have many possibilities. You may not yet realize some of these possibilities. In addition to your studies, various new experiences, such as club activities, volunteer work, and obtaining qualifications, will expand the opportunities for you to encounter a new version of yourself. Furthermore, take some time to reflect on why you live and what you can do for others and for society. I believe there are things that only you can do, things that only you can achieve.

In the Bible, there is a saying, 'I focus not on what is seen, but on what is unseen.' As you take on various challenges, I believe that through being open to feeling what is unseen with your heart, the possibilities for encountering a new version of yourself will expand.

“See landscapes you’ve never seen before, Encounter a version of yourself you’ve never known before.”

This is a quote from one of our graduates, your senior, who, through their time as a student at our university, encountered a new version of themselves, one they had never seen before, and then went on to venture into society. Please continue to believe in your own potential and keep challenging yourself. Step forward with courage. A meeting with a new version of yourself is waiting. Today is the start of that journey. The faculty and staff of MIU will fully support your new learning journey.

In closing, I sincerely wish that your university life at Miyazaki International University will be a fruitful and rewarding experience.

With my best wishes for the happiness of everyone present today, I conclude my address as the President.

April 5, 2025

Keiko Yamashita,
President of Miyazaki International University