

Address from the President, Entrance Ceremony 2022

Congratulations on your entering Miyazaki International College. On behalf of all the faculty and staff, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to all of you.

I would also like to express my respect to all of you for studying and making your way successfully to MIC amidst various restrictions and measures imposed due to the novel COVID-19 virus.

I extend my congratulations and gratitude also to your families who have been giving you love and support through this period of hard work.

Although it is uncertain as to when this COVID-19 pandemic will end, the next four years of your life at MIC are extremely important as a period of preparation to be successful in society in future or to plan your own future life. Despite the pandemic, you must acquire a wide range of knowledge, skills and abilities. I would like you all to do your best.

Modern society is, in a word, a globalized and information-oriented society. It has become a common place for cross-border exchanges to take place at various levels, including political, economic and cultural. The speed at which COVID-19 spread globally, the worldwide distribution of the vaccines, and the instantaneous diffusion of information and personal data from many countries around the world are examples that make you realize that is in fact the case. Despite such rapid advancement in modern society, it is estimated that there are some 500 to 700 million people in the world who live in extreme poverty and lack access to daily food. In the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the first of the seventeen goals is to “End poverty in all its forms everywhere.”. This “poverty in all its forms” includes not only economic problems, but also lack of access to education and employment opportunities, as well as lack of or inability to access essential goods and services such as food, water, hospitals and housing. We too must contribute to the achievement of these SDGs.

In such a global and information-oriented society, there are concerns that cultural clashes, friction and differences in values may arise in the interaction of people with diverse values and cultures. Examples include global environmental issues, global warming and recent conflicts and wars.

Diversity is important, not least to solve various problems that arise as society becomes increasingly globalized or information oriented. Diversity means “to accept differences in nationality, gender and age in an organization and to make use of the diverse values and ideas of each individual.”. It is very important that we respect each other. While you are here at Miyazaki International College, you will learn to understand the structure of globalized and information-oriented societies and acquire the principles of diversity.

At College, you will receive a different style of education from what you have received in junior high school and high school. You will be required to reset your learning attitude from the passive of the past, where teachers prepared for classes in detail and taught in detail, to an active learning attitude in which students ask own questions, do own research and come up with own answers. Instructors will give you support and appropriate advice. In other words, you will need to understand that it will change from the instructor-led to the student-led style. It is a characteristic feature of MIC that instructors look after each student with great care and give appropriate advice.

I mentioned earlier that college is a preparation period before entering working society. As well as acquiring specialized knowledge, it is also a period during which you can develop

the ability to look at yourself objectively in society, that is to say to develop meta-intelligence. I hope that you will develop a view that can remain objective and think critically at all times.

Of course, the college is a small society itself. You will be asked how to position yourself and how you will be acknowledged in human relationships with the faculty and staff or friends and senior students, and in human relationships in your work experiences such as internships. In other words, you are required to brush up your ability to establish yourself in society.

Although it may not be appropriate for the President's address, there are some things which I have learnt from my own experiences that are relevant to what I have just said, and I would like to share with you to conclude my speech.

If you want your opinion to be listened to in society, first become a person who can listen to other people's opinions, and then you may get a lot of your opinions listened to. If you want people to acknowledge you, then become a person who acknowledges those around you and others. If you do this, you may get yourself acknowledged. If you want to be happy, make those around you happy. If you do so, you may become happy yourself. When one loses modesty, one may also lose personality, and when one rejoices in defeating others, it may be when one is defeated in oneself. At the College, you are still inexperienced. It is OK for you to make mistakes and get embarrassed. Asking questions may make you feel embarrassed at the time, but leaving the question and remaining ignorant may be a lifelong shame.

I hope that you will have the strength to overcome loneliness, the strength not to be afraid of failure, the strength not to be embarrassed to ask question, and that you will be eager to learn and will build a solid foundation for your future. And, make the most of your valuable preparation period for entering society here at Miyazaki International College.

Once again, congratulations on your entrance ceremony day.

April 6, 2022

*Noboru Murakami,
President, Miyazaki International College*