

Congratulatory Address from the Chief Trustee, Entrance Ceremony 2022

On this fine spring day, we celebrate the entrance ceremony of Miyazaki International College. On behalf of Miyazaki Gakuen, I would like to extend my congratulations.

Congratulations to the entering class on your enrollment. Congratulations as well to your parents and families. Together with all of us at Miyazaki Gakuen, I am pleased to welcome you to Miyazaki International College.

Miyazaki Gakuen was founded in 1939 by its our Chief Trustee, Sukehide Otsubo. The institution has carved out a history that spans 83 years and has weathered the diverse changes and developments of the three eras of Showa, Heisei, and Reiwa.

MIC stands on the spot where Soshu, father of the Confucian scholar Yasui Sokken, opened a private school called "Meikyodo" and taught Confucian studies, believing that a place for learning was needed in Kiyotake. This place is truly a "hill of learning," whereupon Yasui Sokken and others sent out talented people to realize the modernization of Japan in the early Meiji era. The desire of our predecessors to transmit learning from Kiyotake is still alive and well today, one hundred and ninety years hence.

MIC was founded in 1994 by our second Chief Trustee, Hisayasu Otsubo. Aiming to cultivate human resources who can play active roles in our globalizing society, the College has been provides and promotes an advanced liberal arts education in English. In 2014, the year of its 20th anniversary, the College established the School of Education, thus beginning efforts to train teachers.

The educational philosophy of the College is "Respect and Diligence". The great hope of this philosophy of "Respect and Diligence" is to build a society where the earth is at peace and all people respect each other. What we wish for you, our students, is your growth as human beings.

In the spirit of "Respect," we should strive to respect civility and humanity, to discipline ourselves, and to put ourselves in the shoes of others. Specifically, we should aim to develop the ability to think and to act on one's own initiative, imagining what needs to be done now and what is required of others.

Furthermore, in the spirit of "diligence," we should endeavor to apply ourselves mentally and physically in the active pursuit of everything we do, for these are the attitudes required to live with sincerity in our daily lives. Through the next four years of your MIC education, we will empower you with the foundation you will need to develop your careers and to use those careers to contribute to society throughout your lives.

At MIC, you will apply yourselves to your studies as you aim to mature into young men and women who have achieved this kind of personal development. The era in which you will be working after graduation is said to be one of rapid change and unpredictability. In the past year, we have experienced the disastrous effects of the coronavirus, earthquakes, and the invasion of Ukraine. It is precisely in times such as these that those of you who have the opportunity to study at universities must work now to expand your knowledge and experience in order to contribute to society. Learning in university is different from learning in high school. We hope that you will learn to question the true nature of things. I hope that you will learn to think for yourselves and to face things head-on.

At MIC, "encounter scenery that you've never seen before, encounter a 'self' that you've never known." Now it's time to get started.

We at Miyazaki Gakuen will do our utmost to support your new learning.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere wishes for a fruitful and productive college life.

April 6, 2022

*Keiko Yamashita,
Chief Trustee of Miyazaki Gakuen*