

Address from the President

Congratulations to all new Miyazaki International University undergraduate students and first-year master's degree students in the Graduate School of International Liberal Arts. On behalf of the entire faculty and staff of Miyazaki International University, I would like to extend our compliments. I would like to express my respect to all of you for having studied under the various restrictions and cautions caused by the new coronavirus, and for having successfully enrolled in the university or advanced to the next level of education. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation for and congratulations to your families and all those who have lovingly supported you in your endeavors.

As you know, much of the lifestyles of high school and university students was lost during the Corona crisis. Attending live concerts and events, traveling domestically and internationally, including school trips, studying abroad, lunches and dinners with friends, club activities, and much more. Of course, some of the ways in which we used to educate have also been lost. It is now incumbent upon you to create a new era of youth.

The next four years of university or two years of graduate school are extremely important for you as a period of preparation for becoming active members of society or for planning your future lives. I hope that you will always cultivate an objective point of view and critical thinking skills, not to mention specialized knowledge, and that you will acquire sufficient meta-intelligence (meta-cognitive skills?), or the ability to look at yourself objectively. In addition, for those of you enrolled in the graduate school, I ask that you further polish the skills you have developed at university and in society and acquire the ability to become leaders in the future.

Now, modern society is, in a word, a global society and an information society. It has become commonplace to see cross-border exchanges at various levels, including politics, economics, and culture. The speed of the global spread of the new coronavirus and the worldwide dissemination of vaccines, as well as the instantaneous spread of information and personal data from multiple countries around the world, may be examples of how we have realized these phenomena. Despite the rapid progress of modern society, we are faced with many challenges. Even today, it is said that there are approximately 500 to 700 million people in the world who live in extreme poverty and lack access to daily food. Global environmental problems, global warming, energy issues, and recent conflicts and wars are also global issues.

At the very least, diversity is considered to be one of the keys to solving these global issues. The meaning of diversity is "to accept differences in nationality, gender, age, etc., in an organization and to take advantage of each person's diverse values and ideas. It is particularly important that we respect each other. At Miyazaki International University, you will understand the structure of global society and the information society, and you will learn the principles of diversity.

At university, you will receive a different style of education than you have received in junior high and high school. As students, you will need to change from the passive learning attitude of the past, in which teachers meticulously prepare for classes and teach in detail, to an active learning

attitude in which students ask their own questions, conduct their own research, and come up with their own answers. Teachers will support and give you accurate advice. In other words, please understand that the learning will change from faculty-led to student-led. One of the unique features of our university is that teachers take care of each and every student and give them appropriate advice.

In graduate school, research for your master's thesis will take up a large part of the program. You must find your own issues, conduct your own research, obtain your own results, and then consider and summarize them. You will need to be both active and proactive.

Now, finally, although it may not be appropriate for the President's address, I would like to share with you what I have learned from my experience and hope you will find it helpful.

If you want your opinion to be heard in university and in society, first become a person who can listen to others' opinions, and you may find that many of your opinions are heard. If you want people to approve of you, be a person who approves of those around you. In doing so, you may find that others approve of you, too. If you want to be happy, make those around you happy. If you do so, you may become happy yourself. When one loses humility, one may also lose character, and when one revels in defeating an opponent, it may be the time when he or she meets his or her own defeat. You have yet to mature in this university. You should not be afraid to embarrass yourself. Asking questions may be a temporary shame, but remaining ignorant could be a lifelong shame.

Please have the strength to overcome your loneliness, the strength not to be afraid of failure, and the strength not to be ashamed to ask questions, dive into your new environment without hesitation, meet irreplaceable people, study hard, improve yourself in the process, and build a foundation for your future at MIU. I have high expectations for you.

Congratulations on your enrollment today.

April 6, 2023

Noboru Murakami,

President of Miyazaki International University