

Congratulatory Address from the Chief Trustee

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

Congratulations to our new undergraduate and graduate students. I would also like to extend our congratulations to your parents and families. Together with all of us at Miyazaki Gakuen, we are pleased to welcome you to Miyazaki International University.

Miyazaki Gakuen was founded in 1939 by its first Chief Trustee, Sukehide Otsubo. The Institution has carved out an 84-year history, navigating through various changes and developments over three eras: the Showa Era, the Heisei Era, and the Reiwa Era. The land where the University is located is where Soshu, father of the Confucian scholar Yasui Sokken, opened a private school called "Meikyodo" and taught Confucianism, believing that a place for learning was needed in Kiyotake. The place that sent forth the great Yasui Sokken and other talented people to help modernize Japan in the early Meiji period is truly a "hill of learning". The desire of our predecessors to disseminate learning from this region of Kiyotake is still alive and well after one hundred and ninety years of history.

The University was founded in 1994 by Hisayasu Otsubo, the second Chief Trustee of Miyazaki Gakuen. Aiming to nurture human resources who can play an active role in global society, the university has promoted and provided an advanced liberal arts education in English. In the year of its 20th anniversary, the school established the School of Education and began new efforts to educate and nurture teachers. This year, the 29th anniversary of our founding, we celebrate a glorious year with the establishment of a graduate school.

The educational philosophy of our institution is "Respect and Diligence". At the core of this philosophy of "Respect and Diligence" is the desire to build a society where the earth is at peace and all people share a mutual respect. What we wish for you, our students, is your growth as human beings. In the spirit of "respect," we aim to value civility, respect the humanity of others, discipline ourselves, and put ourselves in the shoes of others.

Furthermore, the spirit of "diligence" calls for active effort in everything we do, both physically and mentally. These are the principles by which we seek to live our daily lives with sincerity. You will all study academically while striving for this kind of personal growth. For the past three years, you have had to endure a great deal in the midst of the Corona crisis. I am sure that you have not been able to lead the high school and undergraduate lives as you would have liked due to the countless restrictions. Fortunately, the Corona crisis has finally alleviated, and I hope during the upcoming four years of student life at the University, you will be able to reclaim the three years of which you were deprived. I hope that you will be able to discuss your dreams with your fellow students, deepen your scholarship, and learn together during these four years. If there is something you have not experienced, please be proactive in gaining as much hands-on experience as you can. My greatest hope is that you will experience the joy of learning together with your fellow students, and that each of you will grow as a person. To this end, it is of utmost importance that you ask questions. The question "why" will greatly nurture you. I hope that you will think well, face things head-on, and have a wonderful student life that will compensate for the three years of the Corona crisis.

At MIU, you will see landscapes you have never seen before and encounter a you that you have never known. You are about to embark on a voyage of challenges. We, Miyazaki Gakuen, will do our best to support your new academic endeavors.

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

April 6, 2023

*Keiko Yamashita,
Chief Trustee of Miyazaki Gakuen*