

2021 ENTRANCE CEREMONY President Address

Congratulations to all new students. On behalf of all the faculty and staff of Miyazaki International College, I would like to applaud you on your admission.

I would also like to pay tribute to all of you for studying and the efforts you made to gain admission under the various restrictions and cautions caused by the new coronavirus.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude and congratulations to all the families and stakeholders who have lovingly supported your efforts.

For the time being, you may feel as if you are forced into an inconvenient student life, but even so, I hope you will work positively and concentrate on how you can best improve yourself.

This place where our university is located is where Confucian scholar Yasui Sokken's father, Soshu, opened a private school, "Meikyoudo," and taught Confucianism. This place, where Yasui Sokken and many more after him sent out human resources to realize the modernization of Japan in the early Meiji era, is truly a "hill of learning." The desire of our predecessors to disseminate scholarship from Kiyotake has been passed down through 190 years of history.

In 1994, our founder, Dr. Hisayasu Otsubo, established Miyazaki International College based on our educational philosophy of "Respect and Diligence," creating the department of "Comparative Culture" to re-examine the different cultures of the world from a global perspective. The greatest intention of "Respect and Diligence" is to build a peaceful society where all people respect each other. In the spirit of "Respect," we aim to respect ourselves and others, and to discipline ourselves to think about things from the standpoint of others. Furthermore, in the spirit of "Diligence", we aim to work hard both physically and mentally and to actively apply our efforts all we do and work diligently to achieve all we strive for. You will engage in your studies at MIC while pursuing these qualities as human beings.

Today we live in a global and information society. Border-less exchanges at various levels, such as politics, economy, and culture, have become commonplace. The fact that the new coronavirus spread all over the world in a short period of time after its outbreak may be an example of how we can understand the global society. In addition, there are many international students in our College. In a global society, it is not possible to make a living in one's country alone, and countries must depend on and help each other. In the case of the new coronavirus vaccine as well, we must also depend on other countries.

As you may know, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) list one of the 17 goals as "end all forms of poverty around the world." This "all forms of poverty" is not only financial, but includes lack of education and employment opportunities, and lack or availability of necessary goods and services such as food, water, hospitals, and housing. However, it is said that there are still about 500 to 700 million extremely poor people who cannot find food to eat every day.

The image of a global society may develop and give the impression of a vibrant world, but I would like you to keep in mind that global society is rife with disparities. And I hope that the education acquired at this College will be useful for solving such issues of disparity in the future.

On the other hand, our information-oriented society can be said to be a society in which the entire world exists in cyberspace, connected by the Internet due to the digital revolution in the past 20 years. Many advances in artificial intelligence technology have already permeated our lives.

In such a global society and information-oriented society, there may be concerns about cultural conflicts, frictions, and differences in values in interactions between people with diverse values and cultures. I think typical examples are global environmental issues and global warming. There are also many problems such as Internet fraud, theft of personal information and corporate data, and cyber-attacks on governments.

At the very least, diversity will be important in solving various problems that occur as society becomes globalized or informatized. This diversity is one of the founding philosophies of our College, Respect. Diversity is described in the dictionary as "to accept differences in nationality, gender, age, etc. in an organization and make use of their diverse values and ideas." Of course, for that purpose, advanced language and communication skills are indispensable. Unfortunately, the English proficiency of the Japanese is ranked 135th out of 163 countries, and 27th out of 30 countries in Asia, which is very low. At Miyazaki International College, we will train everyone to acquire English proficiency and communication skills, cultivate liberal arts, that is, a wide range of knowledge, and develop human resources who can play an active role in global society. In addition, I think that those abilities will be further acquired by experiencing friendships and study abroad with international students.

By the way, in college, you may be educated in a different style from the teaching methods of junior high school and high school that you have experienced so far. You will need to transition from a posture of passive learning, where the teacher prepares the lesson in detail and teaches in detail, to become students who develop your own questions, investigate them, and find their own answers. The faculty will support you and give you accurate advice. In other words, please understand that learning will change from faculty-directed to student-directed.

I have spent 45 years of my life doing research. My specialty is research related to brain instinct. You all have an instinct called group desire. Group desires are fulfilled when you are part of your family, friends, or society. As a result, loneliness and loss of companionship do not satisfy group desires and lead to a very painful mental state. Some animals, such as carnivores, have a desire to attack instead of a group desire. The group desire and the attack desire are two sides of the same coin. If the group desire is strong, the attack desire is suppressed, and if the attack desire is strong, the group desire is suppressed.

You have been satisfied with your family and friends so far, but some people may feel lonely away from family and friends. Please try to make friends and satisfy your group desire. Also, I think many of you are already in a rebellious phase. In this rebellious period, in order to become independent, the desire to attack temporarily comes to the fore as you slip out of the group desire state. Parents should understand that when a child is in a rebellious phase, it is because they are growing up and trying to become independent.

By the way, I would like all students to know that trying to satisfy group desires online is an illusion. The feeling of participating in a cyberspace society on the Internet is not a society that satisfies the true group desire. It is, rather, more likely that doing so diminishes one's thinking ability, judgment ability, reasoning ability, etc. By all means, please satisfy your group desire in the real world and develop your thinking and reasoning skills.

I think you have heard the saying, "the child is father to the man." This is the idea that childhood is the most important time for formation of personality and is a common notion in the world. It is said that it is especially important to be loved at this time. Furthermore, childhood and childhood education are important for building a foundation for various abilities, especially crystalline abilities, as well as for personality formation. Crystalline abilities are those that an individual will acquire through experience, education, and learning, and refers to insight, comprehension, or reasoning. I hope the students enrolled in the Department of Child Education at Miyazaki International College will study hard to grow into excellent nursery teachers and teachers who can fulfill their responsibility to nurture this all-important period of childhood.

Finally, in my 45 years of research life, I have made many sayings to reprove or encourage myself. Some may feel it pretentious and childish to introduce them here, but I decided to introduce some of them in the hope that they will be of some help.

- If you don't listen to others, others will not listen to you.
- When a person loses humility, he also loses his character.
- It is a temporary shame to lower your head, but it is a lifetime shame not to lower your head.
- When we are happy to beat our opponent, we lose to ourselves.
- If you have the courage to take on challenges, you may become a person who is not afraid of failure.
- If you cannot overcome your weaknesses, find a way to utilize your strengths.
- I'm stronger than this. Give me more trials to overcome.

Be sure to have the strength to overcome loneliness, the strength to not fear failure, the strength to not be ashamed to ask questions, learn eagerly, and be sure to lay the foundation for your futures during your college life.

Congratulations on your enrollment today.

April 3, 2021

President Noboru Murakami
Miyazaki International College