

※Please note that this translation was generated by machine translation, and there may be some inaccuracies.

September 25th 2024

President's Commencement Ceremony Address for September 2024

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Kyushu Institute of Technology (Kyutech)

To all of you who have successfully completed your degrees, congratulations! It is a great joy for Kyutech that you have earned your degrees today. On behalf of the faculty and staff of Kyutech, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to you as you embark on this proud new chapter of your lives. I would also like to express our sincere gratitude and congratulations to the families, friends, host families, and all others who have supported you both materially and emotionally up to this day.

In recent years, the speed at which generative AI technology is being implemented in society has been remarkable. With the help of generative AI, all kinds of information processing have become significantly more efficient. For example, complex texts can now be translated quickly across language and cultural barriers, with greatly improved accuracy. In light of this, we have decided to try something new for this address. I will deliver it in Japanese, the language you used during your graduate school years. The content has been machine-translated into several languages and distributed in advance. While there may be some inaccuracies, sharing this moment in multiple languages adds great value for everyone present.

With the rise of generative AI, there are varying opinions on its use in educational and research settings. Some caution against over-reliance on AI, while others believe that with the right mindset, not using such a powerful tool would be a missed opportunity. Here at Kyutech, you have acquired advanced knowledge, honed your thinking skills, and fostered a commitment to addressing societal challenges through your research. As a result, you now possess the ability to not be controlled by AI, but to skillfully harness it. I encourage you to continue utilizing innovative technologies and to strive for even greater heights in your future endeavors. At the same time, sharpen your foresight to develop the technologies that will shape future societies.

I believe the rapid progress of modern science and technology is the result of innovation born from the encounters and exchanges of people with diverse intellects and personalities in a free and open environment. If global divisions were to cut off the exchange of knowledge, the loss would be immeasurable. In this context, what becomes essential is the ongoing global interaction between individuals and between organizations.

Looking around the world today, it is unfortunate to see that conflicts and political tensions are becoming more severe due to many divisions. In such a situation, the role that you, who are receiving your degrees today, will play in society becomes extremely important. By observing, analyzing, and thinking things through thoroughly, and by maintaining a commitment to seeking the truth, you can work with colleagues from many countries without being swayed by political circumstances. By seizing opportunities to collaborate and compete with engineers worldwide, you can contribute to future world peace. Imagining your future in such roles fills me with great excitement and anticipation.

At Kyutech, people from many countries and regions have come together, sharing daily life, facing challenges, and supporting each other, culminating in this day. I believe you have also had the opportunity to engage with the many cultures of Fukuoka, Kyushu, Japan, and beyond, building personal networks along the way. As you now begin to walk your own paths, I hope you will continue to strengthen and deepen the bonds you have formed here. Even when separated by distance, you can remain connected in many ways, and when you meet in person, I encourage you to rekindle those relationships with handshakes and hugs. Academia can foster relationships where, instead of fighting with weapons, we engage in passionate debates and exchange ideas.

At Kyutech, we emphasize "the creation of diversity" as a key concept. Diversity is an essential element for fostering innovation through integration. Although we are a single-focus university specializing in engineering, we are working to diversify in terms of gender, nationality, and ethnicity. By involving people from other universities, local governments, and industries, the probability of generating ideas that would not have arisen in a limited group increases dramatically. In other words, a high level of diversity is strongly correlated with more opportunities for innovation.

I am sure you have made many wonderful friends here at Kyutech. I believe that all the encounters and connections you have made here will enrich your future. The networks

you have built will continue to expand like a web, merging with Kyutech's network, and will become a source of great strength for all of us.

Finally, I wish you all the best as you take the valuable relationships you have formed here and continue to build new knowledge with energy and enthusiasm, while enjoying life to the fullest. Once again, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all of you as you embark on this new journey. Thank you very much and congratulations.