

September 26<sup>th</sup> 2022

## Farewell Address for the 2022 Fall Commencement Ceremony

It is a great pleasure for us to hold the 2022 Fall Commencement Ceremony here today.

First of all, I would like to congratulate all of you on new start of your prosperous future. I would also like to express my heartfelt congratulations to the parents and their families who have been providing much love and support for the graduating students until today.

I understand that you have experienced serious difficulties and spent most of the time under the covid-19 pandemic during your master's or doctoral studies because of not being able to have sufficient discussions with your supervisors and colleagues in person, and having full attention to the prevention of infection when conducting your research in the laboratories; and therefore, I would like to express my deepest respect to all of you for overcoming all of the difficulties and challenges, and finally joining in today's commencement ceremony.

I believe that the progress and development of modern science and technology is because of the innovation that has been created through the meetings and exchanges of people with various intelligence and personalities in a free and open environment.

However, the world now has been facing problems of many social divisions, and if the divided society deprives the opportunities for such exchange from us, our loss is immeasurable. In the depth of divide, you become too blind to find right directions and to make right decisions.

I am certain that all of you here today have been fortunate, despite of the current circumstances, to make this achievement by making good friends, working with your supervisors, and interacting with many researchers from many different countries and regions.

I would like to introduce one of the interesting results of the survey about diversity at universities/colleges in the United States, which may reflect your experiences at Kyutech.

It says that small universities with less than several thousand students are more diverse than large universities with tens of thousands or more students, meaning that it is much easier for students at large universities with large number of students to find and meet people with similar values, views, and background so that it is very likely to form groups among themselves, whereas it is not easy for students in small universities to do the same because of smaller population, and they have no other choice but to interact and associate with people who have different values, views, and background; then this environment leads to diversity, as the study concludes.

High diversity is one of the most important elements and it is proportional to more opportunity to create innovation. I assume that Kyutech is also a small and diverse university where you had to work together and make good friends with people who are not the same, so I am confident that everything you have learnt and every meeting you have been blessed with during your time at Kyutech enrich your future.

I hope you will continue to enjoy interacting with people who are active in a wide range of domains which are different from your specialty in order to expand your network of diverse intelligence and personalities which, I am certain, will help you to develop and advance new perspectives and breakthrough ideas.

Last but not least, I wish each of you joyful and prosperous life with all blessing of many valuable meetings you have at Kyutech, and once again, I would like to send my congratulations on successful departure for your new journey.

Thank you very much and congratulations.

Yasunori Mitani

President

Kyushu Institute of Technology