

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

October 1, 2024

President's Address for the Master's and Doctoral Programs
Entrance Ceremony, October 2024

Yasunori Mitani, President
Kyushu Institute of Technology (Kyutech)

Congratulations on your admission to the Kyushu Institute of Technology. I would like to express my deep respect for your passion and hard work, which have led to this special day. It is our greatest pleasure to welcome you to Kyutech.

Out of the 68 new students admitted today, 60 of you, or about 88%, are international students from 20 different countries and regions. We hold great expectations for the many innovations that will be created through learning and interacting with such a diverse group of students.

As we look at the world today, we see many divisions and conflicts. Despite these unsettling circumstances, we are honored that so many people from various countries and regions have chosen to study at Kyutech. Your enrollment will greatly contribute to promoting international understanding and normalizing international relations in the future.

For many of our international students, this may be your first time in Japan. For this address, we have prepared translated materials in several languages using machine translation. As you know, the development of generative AI has dramatically improved the efficiency of all information processing, making accurate and fast translations into multiple languages possible. Today, we are benefiting from this advancement.

There are high expectations for the use of generative AI, and it is certain to be a powerful tool as you face complex social challenges in the future. However, it is essential to develop a proper understanding of generative AI and learn how to use it correctly.

Careless use of AI could, in fact, hinder problem-solving, so you must exercise caution.

During your time in graduate school, it is crucial to make continuous efforts to understand different cultures, stay curious, think deeply when faced with challenges, and maintain a spirit of perseverance. Under these conditions, generative AI can be a valuable tool in tackling technological challenges. However, whether you can master this highly capable tool depends on how you think and act in your daily life.

At Kyutech, we aim not only to develop new technologies in our research labs but also to apply them to society, making possible what no one has done before and bringing about social change. Simply introducing cutting-edge technology is often not enough to solve social issues. What's important is that you always consider how the technology you develop can be applied in society, collaborate with a variety of people, and approach your research with multiple perspectives.

Throughout the history of science and technology, innovation has been driven by the meeting of diverse intellects and personalities in free and open environments, and through the experience of failure. I am confident that you, too, will meet new mentors, make many friends, and broaden your network through interactions with researchers from diverse backgrounds. This will greatly enrich your research.

In recent years, the world has been increasingly dominated by nationalism, leading to growing divisions that have imposed significant limitations on social and economic activities. The disruption of supply chains has affected the distribution of energy and food, causing challenges in acquiring essential goods. Additionally, political factors have made competition in areas like advanced technology, particularly semiconductors, even more complex. The rapid changes in these circumstances have increased the instability and unpredictability of the future, highlighting the importance of developing resilience to navigate such an uncertain world. It is in this context that you are taking your first step today.

The primary goal of your studies at this graduate school is to acquire the skills necessary to contribute to building a prosperous and peaceful world. The foundation of this lies in curiosity, a spirit of inquiry, and persistence. With curiosity and inquiry, you will be able to engage positively in your learning, acquire new knowledge and skills, and continue growing through perseverance.

Furthermore, by gaining the ability to adapt to various changes through a wide range of experiences, including failures, you will be able to maximize your potential and grow from each new experience. In today's rapidly advancing world of science and technology, learning never ends. What's most important is to develop the ability to continue learning and apply it in practice. By maintaining your curiosity, your spirit of inquiry, and a critical thinking approach toward everything you encounter, you will cultivate abilities that cannot be replaced by AI.

In closing, as you embark on your new life here, I wish you the best of health, encourage you to remain intellectually curious, and hope you make the most of the learning opportunities and environments available to you. I sincerely wish that your decision to join Kyutech will bring you the best possible outcomes. Congratulations and welcome to Kyutech.