

October 1, 2021

A Welcome Message to New Students of Fall 2021

Yuji Oie
President, Kyushu Institute of Technology

Dear our new students, my warmest welcome to all of you for joining Kyushu Institute of Technology.

In order to minimize the risk of the spread of COVID-19, and for the health and safety of everyone who is involved, we have decided to cancel the entrance ceremony of Fall 2021.

We would like to ask for kind understanding from our new students, their families, and everyone else who have been looking forward to this event for this difficult decision we had to make with the highest priority on ensuring the safety of our students and preventing the spread of infection.

On behalf of Kyutech faculty and staff members, I would like to welcome you to our university, and take this opportunity to congratulate all of you for successfully overcoming the many challenges to open a new chapter of your life. It is my honor to express my sincere respect for your efforts and achievements.

We are pleased to welcome as many as 47 international students from 21 different countries and regions, which consists of around 85% of the new 55 students entering Kyutech today, and I am grateful to welcome these many students from various countries and regions under these circumstances. However, unfortunately many of them are not able to enter Japan due to restrictions because of the COVID-19 pandemic. I hope those of you, who have to study and research by distance for the time being, maintain high

motivation for learning until the day you can finally meet your new friends face-to-face and learn together on our campus.

The global spread of COVID-19 has reached everywhere in the world, even now our movement is severely restricted and various social and economic activities are greatly impacted. With the advance of globalization, the world becomes ever more interdependent, and people and goods move more freely across the borders, and our society, economy, and lifestyle have been changing with the progress of technology innovation; and our future ahead of these changes is yet unpredictable. Furthermore, our lives in future is becoming increasingly unstable and uncertain due to the pandemic

Thus, I would like to express my respect for all of you, particularly under these circumstances, for opening a new chapter in your life to start a new learning, and on this occasion, I would like you to take a moment with us to reconsider what the value of learning means to us.

The greatest value of learning is to enable yourself to develop necessary skills to continue your energized activities. ^[1] The source of motivation for learning is intellectual curiosity and inquisitive mind, both of which enable you to continue to learn, acquire new knowledge and skills, and continue to grow; and then you are able to respond to various changes by utilizing the skills you acquire. With the remarkable advance of science and technology today, you will need to continue to learn more. I expect each of you to value and grow your intellectual curiosity and inquisitive mind through learning at Kyutech.

So, you can organically combine various knowledge and skills acquired through learning and make use of them to shape the future society, eventually leading to the creation of new value. Your knowledge and skill will play a significant role in making today's unstable and uncertain society a safe, secure, and sustainable one. I believe that our campus provides you with the environment and opportunities to take the most advantage to enable such learning.

Another invaluable asset you can acquire through learning on campus is the

bond of trust you can build with your friends and our staff as well as other students and researchers outside the university. Such an intangible asset will be the most precious and irreplaceable asset for you.

Last but not least, during the pandemic there are many online lectures and research meetings, and I understand that you may find it inconvenient. I do hope that every one of you who enters our university under this situation will take good care of your health, maintain your intellectual curiosity, and take full advantage of various learning opportunities and environments, thereby making your graduate school life meaningful and eventually finding your choice to study at Kyutech a right decision.

Congratulations and welcome to Kyutech.

Reference:

[1] “Democracy and Education,” John Dewey, Iwanami Bunko, 1915