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March 25th 2025

President's Commencement Ceremony Address for March 2025

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Kyushu Institute of Technology (Kyutech)

Congratulations to all of you who have earned your degrees. Today, I am truly delighted that we can hold the Commencement Ceremony for March 2025 in a grand and memorable way. On behalf of the faculty and staff of Kyutech, I extend my heartfelt congratulations.

I would also like to express my deep gratitude and congratulations to the parents and family members who have provided both emotional and practical support to the graduates and degree recipients on their journey to this special day.

As you hold your degree in your hands, you are likely reflecting on the days spent immersed in research and the invaluable moments shared with your peers. Today is also an important opportunity to once again express your gratitude to your family, seniors, and friends who have supported you, as well as to the mentors who have guided you along the way.

Now, we find ourselves in an era of unprecedented change. The world is undergoing transformative shifts that challenge long-held values, and even the actions of world leaders have become increasingly unpredictable. As you are well aware, countries around the world, including Japan, are facing numerous challenges.

At the same time, with the power of generative AI, we can easily create solutions for predictable issues. However, it is our ability to respond to the unpredictable—our judgment and adaptability—that truly defines the social value of human beings.

Through the diverse learning experiences at Kyutech, you have not only developed technical expertise but also cultivated the human qualities necessary to navigate an ever-changing world. You have grown through various experiences, and today marks an important milestone in your journey. I am confident that you will make significant contributions to society.

As you move forward, Kyutech, too, hopes to grow alongside you, drawing strength from your achievements.

Looking back, the COVID-19 pandemic that struck us unexpectedly five years ago was a true test of humanity's ability to respond to unpredictable situations. Amidst the many restrictions and challenges, you, too, were forced to adapt to new circumstances and found ways to overcome them.

Kyutech now marks its 116th anniversary. When our university was founded, it was also a time of great turbulence at the end of the Meiji era. During an age of global imperialism, Japan faced immense challenges for its survival. It was through the efforts and resilience of those who came before us that new wisdom and determination emerged, allowing them to overcome adversity.

Academic pursuit plays a crucial role in transforming unpredictable events into more foreseeable ones, helping us develop strategies to respond. However, the more we come to understand and predict, the greater the shock when unforeseen events do occur. The strength to overcome such challenges is cultivated through curiosity, diverse experiences, and learning from failure.

As we gather here today for this Commencement Ceremony, I am pleased to share some wonderful news we received in January. Kyutech has been selected as one of the 25 universities designated by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT) as a “Regional Core and Distinctive Research University.” This initiative, commonly known as “J-PEAKS,” aims to establish 25 prominent research hubs across Japan.

Kyutech has been recognized as a key research university in the northern Kyushu region, capable of launching various global activities. This achievement is the result of the efforts and contributions of generations of students, faculty, and researchers—including those of you graduating today.

Moving forward, we aim to create a sustainable environment where Kyutech continues to drive innovation by making a significant impact on society through the practical application of its technologies. Through this endeavor, we hope to stay connected with you even after graduation, growing together as a community.

I encourage you to take pride in having graduated from Kyutech, one of these 25 distinguished research universities, and to continue making a meaningful impact in society.

Your success will, in turn, further enhance the significance and reputation of Kyutech.

Recently, young Japanese individuals have been making remarkable strides on the global stage, particularly in the world of sports. To achieve such success, it is essential to compete internationally, gain firsthand knowledge of the world, understand one's own position, and develop strategies for self-improvement. This is why Kyutech has emphasized the importance of gaining overseas experience during your studies. I believe many of you have taken advantage of this opportunity.

In daily life, social interactions are largely predictable. However, stepping into an unfamiliar foreign environment means encountering a series of unexpected situations. Shohei Ohtani, who famously said, "*Stop admiring Major Leaguers*," positioned himself as an equal in an unfamiliar world, built his strategies, and carved out a place for himself to succeed.

Similarly, in the field of science, we become aware of distinguished researchers abroad through academic papers. However, merely admiring them from afar does not lead to growth. It is by participating in international conferences, engaging with these researchers directly, and conducting research under their guidance that we break free from admiration and take our own place on the global stage.

Every experience serves as a stepping stone to your next action.

As you move forward, you will engage in societal activities under extremely challenging constraints, including environmental issues, resource and energy challenges, international conflicts and divisions, and the complexities of global political dynamics. You will undoubtedly face a series of unpredictable events.

However, I trust that the solid technical expertise, strong ethical values, and the bonds you have built with people from around the world during your university life—along with your global competencies—will enable you to fully demonstrate your youthful energy, initiative, and resilience. I sincerely hope that these strengths will serve as a powerful force in restoring stability to the world and act as a driving force for global peace and prosperity.

As you step into society, I have no doubt that you will make full use of the skills you have developed at Kyutech and overcome various challenges. However, whenever you find yourself facing difficulties, please do not hesitate to turn to your alma mater for support.

At Kyutech, we have established a system for lifelong learning, ensuring that we can continue to support you even after graduation. Our campus aims to be a place where not only young students but also working professionals returning to study can come together.

By fostering interactions among people of diverse backgrounds—including different ages, genders, nationalities, and ethnicities—we strive to create an environment where innovation thrives.

Finally, I hope that you will cherish the many meaningful encounters you have had at Kyutech as a valuable asset. In this ever-changing era, I encourage you to enjoy life, embrace new experiences, think deeply, continue learning, and thrive in your endeavors.

With my heartfelt congratulations on this momentous occasion, I conclude my address by wishing you all great success in your future endeavors.

Congratulations on your graduation.