

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

March 25, 2026

President's Commencement Ceremony Address for March 2026

Yasunori Mitani, President
Kyushu Institute of Technology (Kyutech)

To our graduates, both from the undergraduate and graduate programs, who have reached this glorious day: Congratulations on your graduation.

The path you have walked was not always easy. It was filled with challenges and trials. Your efforts—the long hours of study, the deep discussions and experiments in the laboratory, learning from failures, and supporting one another—have all led to this moment. I sincerely respect your courage and your constant spirit of challenge.

I would also like to express my deepest gratitude to your families and friends who have supported you, and to the faculty and staff who have guided you with dedication. You stand here today because of their support.

This year, we are holding this ceremony in a new format, bringing together Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral graduates in one place. Although your levels of study are different, you all share the same journey: facing your own questions and moving toward the future. By gathering here today, I hope you feel the continuity and diversity of learning, and the unity of our “community of knowledge” at Kyutech.

This Memorial Auditorium is a symbol of our history and spirit. It was built in 1959 to mark our 50th anniversary. The former President, Heihachi Kamura, strongly wished to create a place where the younger generation could feel the dignity of science and dream of the future. His vision was realized through the generous donations of our alumni and the local community.

The building was designed by the master of modern Japanese architecture, Kiyoshi Seike. Its elegant roof, spreading like an open fan, has been our symbol for over half a century. In this very hall, at the first graduation ceremony after its completion, Konosuke Matsushita, the founder of Panasonic, gave a speech. His passion for the youth who will lead the future still seems to live on in this space.

Please take a moment to feel the history of this hall. Keep our founding principle, "Educating gentlemen with excellent knowledge and skills in technology.", in your hearts and remember this day forever.

The years you spent at Kyutech were not just about collecting knowledge. Your time here was a cycle of asking questions, testing ideas, failing, and learning together. Today, technology like Generative AI is changing our world rapidly. However, no matter how much technology advances, there are things AI cannot replace: insights born from real-world struggles, the power to question the "obvious," collaboration based on trust, and the creativity born from human connections. These are the strengths you have built here. They will support you throughout your long lives.

Now, I would like to speak about your degrees. Your diploma is a certificate of your growth and hard work.

For those receiving Doctoral degrees, your degree carries a special mission. You are the leaders of knowledge who will open the future of academia and industry. To show the weight of this achievement, I have personally handed the diplomas to each of you today. Your ability to find problems, work with the world, and create new value will be the power that drives our society forward.

To our Bachelor's and Master's graduates: I hope you will consider pursuing a Doctorate in the future. A life of continuous learning makes your life richer and brings new value to society.

Kyutech has been selected as a core research university for Japan's future under the "J-PEAKS" program. We are strongly promoting research that solves real-world problems. We don't want research to stay only in academic papers; we want it to become "solutions" for the world. This follows the spirit of our founders, Keiichiro Yasukawa and Kenjiro Yamakawa: "Practical science that contributes to industry."

This tradition of working with industry and local communities is still alive today. I hope you will create a better future by moving between theory and practice, and between individual research and teamwork.

Through the Social Impact Creation Support Program, Kyutech is also committed to developing talents who can thrive on a global stage. In the future, you will need the power to work with people from different cultures and create solutions that connect the local to the global. Please have the courage to understand others, build trust through dialogue, and act with responsibility. Keep challenging yourselves.

Graduates, receiving your degree is not the finish line. It is the beginning of a new responsibility. Keep polishing your expertise and face society with integrity. Your alma mater, Kyutech, will always support you. Our doors are always open for you to come back and learn. We are always with you.

I sincerely pray that your future is full of hope, possibility, and brilliance.

Congratulations to you all.