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April 7, 2026

## President's Entrance Ceremony Address for April 2026

Takuo Yasunaga, President  
Kyushu Institute of Technology (Kyutech)

To our new students, families, and friends, congratulations on your admission to the Kyushu Institute of Technology.

On this beautiful spring day, it is a profound pleasure for all our faculty and staff to welcome you here to our Memorial Auditorium for this ceremony.

Kyushu Institute of Technology, or "Kyutech," was founded in 1909 as the private Meiji College of Technology, known as Meisen. We became a national university in 1921, and this year marks our 117th anniversary. Dr. Kenjiro Yamakawa, the first president of Meisen and former president of the University of Tokyo, articulated our school's philosophy at its founding: "Educating gentlemen with excellent knowledge and skills in technology." This spirit means more than just training engineers; it means developing people with strong ethical values who wish to contribute to society as a whole. This spirit remains at the heart of our education and research today.

History is all around you here. Our original buildings were designed by Kingo Tatsuno, the famous architect of Tokyo Station. Today, only the Main Gate and the guardhouse remain, but they are registered as part of Japan's modern industrial heritage. The gate was built using "slag bricks," which were cutting-edge technology at that time.

The Memorial Auditorium where you are sitting today was built in 1959. Its unique fan-shaped design was created by the famous architect Kiyoshi Seike. This building symbolizes Kyutech's enduring commitment to leading technological advancement.

Kyutech is not just a place where people gather. It is a place where new questions are born, where ideas clash, and where we create the future. To put it simply, Kyutech is not a place to come for "ready-made answers." It is a place where you encounter "questions that have not yet been named."

I have a question for you. In our school philosophy, what does it mean to be "excellent in technology" in today's world?

Think about a simple example. Have you ever used a map app on your smartphone? If you enter a destination, it shows you the fastest route within seconds. It is very

convenient. But what if the destination itself is wrong? What if you needed to go elsewhere? No matter how smart the navigation is, it cannot decide "where to go" for you.

Generative AI offers a similar example. It is very good at collecting data and providing responses that appear to be answers. But what we aim for, what we value, and what we choose to see as a problem—these are things only humans can decide.

In your future studies, what is important is not just the power to find answers quickly. It is the ability to ask the right questions, with a sense of responsibility.

Let's compare learning at university to a game. Until high school, many games had fixed rules and fixed goals. But university is different. It is like "Minecraft." You must understand the rules, but you must also set your own objectives. What do you want to achieve? How deep will you dig? How will you connect with society? You decide these things. Please use everything Kyutech offers. We offer numerous opportunities to collaborate with universities and companies in Japan and abroad.

Kyutech is a university that values "Social Implementation"—the application of technology to real-world problems. We aim to drive innovation by engaging diverse people. We believe in learning that does not remain confined to a laboratory. It is learning that "extends beyond simulation and enters the complexity of the real world." Sometimes, a design that works perfectly on a computer does not work in the real world. People might not act the way you expect. Data might not match reality. This is where the *real* learning begins. Please, enjoy this process of trial and error.

I have one more question for you: "Is a failure really a 'failure'?" Think back to the day you first learned to ride a bicycle. Almost nobody can ride without falling. Because you fell, your body learned to maintain balance and recover. Learning is the same. In the long run, "knowing how to fall" is more important than never falling at all.

This campus is a place where people of different ages, nationalities, cultures, and professional backgrounds meet. You will have many opportunities to connect with people of diverse values and skills. When you meet them, please ask yourself: "What did I think was 'normal' or 'obvious' until now?" That feeling of difference is not a mistake. It is a sign that you are "updating" yourself.

Finally, I have a request for you. Throughout your university life, please keep asking these questions: "What kind of engineer, researcher, or creator do I want to be?" "For what purpose, and for whom, do I want to use my technology?" Your answers can change many times. In fact, it is natural for them to change as the world changes.

I hope that your world, starting with this Memorial Auditorium, will be one where you ask questions, try new things, and rewrite your own future. Kyutech stands ready to support you through your challenges and to walk alongside you in your growth.

Once again, congratulations. Welcome to Kyutech.