

September 25th 2026

President's Commencement Ceremony Address for September 2026

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Kyushu Institute of Technology (Kyutech)

To all of you completing your master's and doctoral programs here today, congratulations. On behalf of Kyushu Institute of Technology, I offer you my heartfelt best wishes. I also extend my deep respect and gratitude to your families, friends, supervisors, and everyone who has supported your study and research.

Many of you came to Kyutech across boundaries of country, language, and culture to pursue advanced study. There were days when research stalled and you had to question your assumptions. Working through those moments and acquiring the process of scientific inquiry are what your degree attests to. Whatever field you enter, this will be a firm foundation for your work in the world.

The founding ideal of Kyushu Institute of Technology is officially expressed in English as "Educating gentlemen with excellent knowledge and skills in technology." The original Japanese is Gijutsu ni kannō naru shikunshi—技術に堪能なる士君子. Please remember its sound as well as its translation. Today, I understand shikunshi not as a reference to gender or status, but as a person who unites expertise with character, purpose, and responsibility, and continues to ask why, and for whom, technology should be used. Such a person is never finished. The Japanese verb koshiraeru—拵える—means to prepare with care, work on something, test it, revise it, and gradually bring it into form. In this address, I will use the English word craft to express this idea.

We see the university as an institution that puts knowledge into practice in society. We move between society's needs and the seeds of research, reconsider questions, create new knowledge, and implement it as value. This cycle is a defining feature of Kyutech.

Under the tagline "Impact the Next Industry," Kyutech Vision 2040 advances future-

oriented innovation in both technology and people. Wherever you go, your expertise, perseverance, and ability to collaborate across differences can help turn this vision into reality.

Generative AI has made it easier to obtain something that looks like an answer. For that very reason, the human role does not become smaller; it becomes deeper. What question should we pose? Why, with whom, and for what future should we pursue it? That judgment and responsibility matter more than ever.

Ask yourselves: Where do I stand, and what are my strengths? How can I turn experiences and perspectives that distinguish me from others into an interface where new knowledge can emerge? Metacognition—the ability to step back and observe yourself—can be a compass for using your expertise in society.

A question is not complete when it is first discovered. It must be refined; it must be crafted. Think of Minecraft, a game known around the world. First, you search beneath the surface and mine the materials you find. Then you combine those materials and craft something that did not exist before. Questions are much the same. We find clues in observation, data, experience, and dialogue. Yet mine also means “belonging to me.” The knowledge we uncover should not remain mine alone. We share and combine it with others, and craft it into meaningful new questions. This is where the work of opening knowledge to society begins.

Because AI can generate answers so skillfully, crafting reveals human responsibility. A question is not good enough merely because it can be solved technically. Whom might it overlook? What effects could it have on society and the environment? Who will take responsibility after implementation? A modern shikunshi must weave these concerns into the question itself.

You will sometimes compete within the same field, by the same criteria, and by the same speed. But there is more than one axis: expertise, the ability to cross cultures, implementation, communication, and connecting people. Choose the combination through which you can create value, and propose new standards that society needs.

Enjoy not only creating knowledge, but also sharing it and connecting it with the knowledge of others. Knowledge becomes stronger and richer when it is shared,

examined critically, and tested in different settings. What you communicate can begin the next study, collaboration, and implementation.

I hope you will have the courage to carry technology into society and the humility to bring society's voices back into research. Moving between needs and seeds means allowing your own knowledge to change through dialogue. Try, learn, and revise. That honest repetition turns possible futures into reality.

Recognize how much you have grown—not only in knowledge and skill, but also in how you think, persevere, and relate to others. That growth is the result of your effort. Please also remember with gratitude the place that made it possible, the faculty and researchers who guided you, and the friends who faced challenges beside you. The connections formed here do not end today; they will continue to support you. Kyutech is a place to which you can always return. Come back with new questions and achievements to share.

Today, you complete your studies at Kyutech. But neither the questions cultivated here nor the journey set out in our founding ideal ends today. Wherever you go, keep crafting who you are, crafting worthy questions, creating knowledge, and putting it into practice in society. Unite technical excellence with responsible character and open the future along the dimensions that are uniquely yours. I sincerely wish you every success. Congratulations on your graduation.