

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to be here to celebrate the entrance of new students into Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology. Today, we have 20 master course students and 33 Ph.D. course students from various countries to be enrolled to start the new challenges. Welcome to join us! I hope you can enjoy the struggle and finally get a big big success.

On this special day for you as a scientist, I would like you to redraw a clear picture of your dream in your mind. It is better if it is as clear and detailed as possible, because it will help you in the near future. The days you will spend with us may be neither fun nor easy. As you can imagine, the daily life of scientists requires being patient. Your experiments will not always work smoothly. You will be disappointed even more than you find the joy. It is tough. Even if you like it, it is so tough. When the busy days and unrewarded works make you lose your way, please remember the dream that I asked you to redraw. For each research activities – experiments, discussions, writing manuscripts, and everything, please picture a detailed image of the ideal fruit and believe that you can get it. Anatole France, a famous French novelist, said that “To accomplish great things, we must not only act but also dream, not only plan but also believe.” Yes. I do agree. Dreaming and believing in your work will bring you a “better” success.

This Anatole France's phrase is very important and meaningful especially to us, the professional scientists. As you know, recently, serious environmental problems threaten the survival of humanity. Energy problems, natural disasters caused by global warming -- all these issues are pressing us to create urgent and effective solutions for the coexistence of humanity and nature. And we, the scientists, are expected to play positive and aggressive roles now in the innovation of environmental and life sciences. We are not mindless robots or something like that just to operate scientific research. We are the one who should draw the compassable map to our beautiful future. Dream it. Dream your success to contribute to the world as scientists. The experiences you will have here at Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology will give you a strong confidence that you are capable enough, because we are giving full support to accelerate your potential, through many efforts like active and global research collaborations and other new and advanced organizational and curriculum reforms. And this year, we are starting the new project to receive some world top-level researchers as professors and lead our research worldwide. The environment is prepared for you. Now it is your turn. Picture your dream and believe you can realize it. We are so much expecting your unlimited ambition and attempts for future success.

In addition, to accomplish your challenge, you need a healthy mind and body as well as strong will. Especially, the students from abroad will find a lot of difficulties in living in a different culture. Take good care of

yourself, and take a look around you. People in this room will be your friends, your colleagues, and most importantly, your partners in your personal and professional life. They are your best source of power to make the most of your extraordinary valuable experiences here.

Once again, I would like to extend my cordial welcome to you, and hope you can enjoy your university life here and spread your wings for bright future and for our beautiful world.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Tadashi Matsunaga
President