

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology celebrates the enrollment of new promising students; 20 for masters and 32 for Ph.D. courses. To you, young scientists from various countries, welcome to join us! You will start new challenges here to pursue your research and to be top-level scientists. The way you chose will be rough and tough, but I am sure it must lead you to a worthwhile life.

Louis Pasteur, the famous French chemist and microbiologist, said “Science knows no country, because knowledge belongs to humanity, and is the torch which illuminates the world”. As you know well, he had lived his life in accordance with this belief, and left a lot of achievements. Especially the vaccination and pasteurization have saved or helped people of all over the world then and even now. And this university is one of the places that embodied his spirit the most. Since its establishment, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology has focused the globalization of our researches and exerted ourselves to maintain fully internationalized atmosphere to bring up opinion leaders who work globally. We have succeeded to develop active collaborations with diverse domestic and foreign research groups of academia, industry or government sector to maximize the effectiveness of our cutting-edge researches and harvest its fruits. The open mind to create new attractive curriculums and programs for global research is our

remarkable characteristics, and we have invited or employed many foreign researchers for them. For example, the Global Innovation Research Organization, that we started last year, focuses on the areas of “food”, “Energy” and “Life science” as the most urgent issues for all humanity, and has about 20 excellent world-leading researchers as our professors to solve the issues together. And now more than 110 international collaborative agreements are signed to promote the exchange of leading researchers and talented students, and now more than 410 foreign students from all over the world are studying with us. For the best results, we should have some rules or ethics, but no limit nor boundary. Research areas, business categories, countries, ages, genders -- on everything, we have no boundary. The one and only shared aim of our university is promoting our scientific research to intellectual innovation and cultivating global human resources for “the realization of sustainable society”, because we believe that science should be for the good to everyone, something that lights up the darkness and gives us bright hope for our better future. Therefore, this university is a perfect environment for you to accelerate your potential. We do hope you take as many advantages we provide as possible. If you devote 100 % to your research with them, for yourself, your family and friends, and the future generation, you can get the height higher than you expect as illuminators of the world. You have enough talent for it.

Before I close this speech, I would like to mention one more thing. 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. We are expecting your big success.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Tadashi Matsunaga
President