

## Okayama University Fall Entrance Ceremony 2013

On behalf of Okayama University, it is both an honor and a privilege to welcome you today, to the fall enrollment ceremony of Okayama University, for the fiscal year 2013. I'm extremely grateful to all the 33 talented, incoming students, who have chosen Okayama University as an institution to pursue their new, academic fields.

Welcome to Okayama University!

You are here today, because you deserve to be, and I strongly believe that you can contribute something new and exciting to the learning community of Okayama University.

First, I would like to send my message to students enrolled in our Graduate School. After completion of 4 or 6 years of university education, you are going on to graduate school, where the education will be a qualitative continuation of your undergraduate study, and the expectations of society will be completely different. Graduate school educates professionals and intellectuals who possess a high level of expertise, and is responsible for training the next generation of scientists. For that purpose, you need to make an effort to gain a wealth of knowledge and information.

In undergraduate school, one graduates automatically, by attending lectures and earning credits, but in graduate school, one has to master the art of creativity of knowledge through hard work, to obtain a master or doctoral degree. Therefore, it is essential to explore challenges individually with a strong belief, without compromising ones existing knowledge. Let us take the first step today, towards the discovery of newer scientific methods and creation of knowledge.

In addition, we welcome the undergraduate students enrolled in Matching Program Course today. You are the first fall enrollment chosen by International Baccalaureate admission.

In the fiscal year 2012, Okayama University began this special admission which has never been done before across the country. The purpose of bringing in this new method is to cultivate globally-competitive talented personnel. I expect you to devote yourself to your study here, and become core personnel who can lead more internationalization and globalization of our society in the future.

Japanese universities have always been very international and are presently, making huge progress in their globalization schemes. Among the 33 students enrolled here today, we cordially welcome 22 foreign students from 9 countries in Asia, Africa and Europe. It is our pride that Okayama University is already referred to as a beautiful, international, science capital, and we intend to continue our efforts to make it a truly international university.

At Okayama University, we aim to provide a proper study and living environment for all our students and strive to maximize our student's efforts and achievements. We hope each foreign student can spend a meaningful student life at Okayama University, while preserving their own identity and culture. We believe, exploring the scientific and academic world is common and universal. At present, there are many problems and a great deal of confusion all over the world, with no positive outlooks as yet. Therefore, we need to proceed forward with a sense of mission and make an effort to open up the future.

I believe all of you here today, are our future leaders.

All through your undergraduate or postgraduate course, you need to make excellent, academic achievements for world development and the future of your respective countries, and also meet the expectations of your society. I pray that your life at Okayama University will be a wonderful experience for you to look back on. I once again welcome everyone and hope you will participate proactively in the development of the next generation of our society, and work hard with a big ambition.

I conclude, by asking you to make the best of your experience here at Okayama University and share your knowledge and skills and challenge yourselves. You have the power to change lives.

I wish you all the best and congratulations on your successful enrollment.

Kiyoshi Morita,  
President,  
Okayama University  
National University Corporation  
October, 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013