

Address by the President of Okayama University at the 2023 Autumn
Matriculation Ceremony

It is my great honor and pleasure to hold the 2023 Autumn Matriculation Ceremony in another word entrance ceremony of Okayama University together with members of the academic and executive staff. Welcome, everyone, to Okayama University! On behalf of the university, I would like to extend our sincere congratulations to you. We are very happy to see that you here in good spirits today.

I am extremely grateful to the 164 talented incoming students who have chosen Okayama University to pursue their academic interests. 106 are joining doctoral programs, 33 are joining master's programs, and 25 are joining the Global Discovery Program. Today, we welcome 119 global learners from 21 countries.

We at Okayama University stand ready to support you in your ambitious pursuit of research and study. We hope that you will have a rewarding study abroad experience as a result.

According to archeological findings, Okayama was once a center of culture and economic activity in Japan, as you will come to understand when you have the opportunity to visit the ancient burial mounds (kofun) in the Kibi area. Okayama is also a land blessed with abundant nature surrounded by beautiful mountains to the north; the Seto Inland Sea with its art-loving islands to the south; the city of Bizen, the historic site of Japanese education, to the east; and Kurashiki, with its deep culture and thriving industry, to the west. No wonder The New York Times ranked Setouchi as 7th on its list of 52 places to visit in 2019 in Japan.

As a student studying at a research university promoting the SDGs, we hope that you will learn many new things with your friends, colleagues and us that will enable you to produce and deliver innovative discoveries, skills, and applications to the world. With that purpose in mind, please enjoy the opportunities to experience the history and culture of the Okayama region as well

as its rich natural environment.

I understand that, for many of you from abroad know, living in foreign country is challenging issue for your life. I myself experienced same situation 30 years ago with my family. It may take sometimes to be accustomed with the different lifestyle from your home countries including language. But I know that your will be familiar with them soon. In order to do so, we are ready to support you with various way. Please do not hesitate to ask us! I am convinced that your efforts which will be made with us from now, and your experiences with us from now will stimulate you and enrich your life even after you will graduate from Okayama University (in short OKADAI)

I hope your will become loving Okayama and OKADAI and feel proud of being a member of OKADAI. I call it OKADAI LOVE as a today's important take home message. In order to foster OKADAI LOVE among you all, I myself and faculties and staffs of OKADAI promise you to do our best.

Today you are standing at a new gateway in your academic and life career. Step ahead and challenge yourself to create a new path. We are here with you to support you!

To conclude, let me once again express my heartfelt congratulations to everyone on your matriculation today.

Thank you!

Yasutomo NASU, President,

Okayama University,

October 2nd, 2023