

『It is a great pleasure to give a welcome address in the presence of the Deans, Directors and academic advisers at this Matriculation Ceremony of the United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences, Ehime University joined with Kochi University and Kagawa University. I congratulate all of you on your getting admission to doctoral courses including the Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture Sciences Course and the Asia, Africa and Pacific Rim Agricultural Sciences Course.

Of 14 new students, 13 are from foreign countries. Some students may have already stayed in Japan for a few years, but others may have just started living in Japan. For the latter students, it may take several months to get accustomed to Japanese life. I advise such students to learn Japanese language as soon as possible to make earlier adaptation to Japanese life. Each of the three universities offers several Japanese language programs at varied levels. Each university also has a special program, the Career Development Program for Foreign Students in Japan by providing special classes to prepare students for employment in Japanese companies and assisting in their search for employment in Japan. These programs will assist you in learning a higher level of Japanese language and culture.

All of you are from Asian countries where agriculture, forestry and fishery are of primary importance. Your research subject is probably related to one of such study fields. Efficient production of plant and animal resources, sustainable management of natural resources, and mitigation of natural disasters are particularly important in order to develop your countries. You are expected to be leaders of your countries, but you should not concern only about the development of your own countries. In the present day of globalization, there are many global issues to be resolved, such as global warming and the maintenance of biodiversity. I hope you also contribute to such global issues.

Finally, I hope you all will establish good relationships with your friends and academic advisers and will advance learning and research in this graduate school.

Thank you. 』