

Ceremonial Address for the September 2017 Degree Ceremony  
The United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences, Ehime University

Good afternoon.

I would like to sincerely congratulate the 21 people who are being awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy today.

I believe that all of you have studied hard and diligently to fulfil your research over the past few years. Now that, you could have enhanced your abilities and insights as a scientific researcher and attained your results. The degree you have in hand today is the proof of that. I would like to give unstinted praise to your efforts. I would also like to express my respect to your supervisors and instructors, who have guided and encouraged you with enthusiasm, and to your family members, friends and others who have supported you.

Of the 21 people who were awarded their PhD today, 19 are international students from 8 countries: Bangladesh, Indonesia, Thailand, Nepal, Vietnam, Malaysia, China and Ghana. I can imagine that there were difficulties and hardships for you in an unfamiliar life including climatic conditions, food, cultures, etc. in Japan. However, I believe that your high sense of purpose and love for your home country were the driving forces that helped you overcome those.

Some of you have already had a job and played an active part in society, and some of you will begin your new career in earnest. The research results you have achieved for your dissertation, the specialized knowledge and skills you have gained and, above all, processes you have traced are irreplaceable treasures. So, everybody, let's launch out into the sea of the new research life, now.

The United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences, Ehime University (UGAS) is a consortium of the graduate program in agriculture of Ehime, Kagawa and Kochi universities and was established with the aim of producing exceptional people who will be leaders globally and locally. UGAS has already marked its 32nd year. We aim to undertake the important mission to train people who can contribute to communities through visionary, creative and ingenious research, to accept high-achieving students from around the world and to produce researchers who will carry the future and contribute to the building of a sustainable society in which people and the

natural environment can co-exist.

There have been more than 1,000 UGAS graduates in 30 years. It is our desire at UGAS that there are no boundaries to graduate activities. I hope you could collaborate each other, develop a variety of networks for exchanging academic achievements and support your successors who are now studying and who will study in UGAS.

In addition, UGAS has established the Special Doctoral Program for International Students in Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture and Related Sciences and the Special Doctoral Course for International Students from Asia, Africa and the Pan-Pacific Rim. To date, including you, more than 600 international students have been awarded a degree by UGAS. Many of your predecessors are now making brilliant contributions around the world, working as agricultural researchers and engineers, and valued, competent people in government and business. This is the jewel in the crown for UGAS, of which we are extremely proud.

The studies for your PhD are originally related to the primary industries, such as agriculture, forestry, or fisheries. The research in these fields is important in supporting the foundation of any country. Moreover, these would have links with the secondary and tertiary industries for innovation. I am convinced that you will play an active role globally in many aspects.

Lastly, new PhDs here, I do hope you continue to broaden your horizons and make your mark in the international community. Best wishes to everyone.

Thank you very much for your attention.

September 22, 2017

Hiroki Oue

Dean

The United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences, Ehime University