

President's Address for Commencement Ceremony

Congratulations everyone!

I am delighted to deliver the congratulatory address to 11 graduates of the Faculty of Law and Literature, the Faculty of Education, the Faculty of Human Sciences, the Interdisciplinary Faculty of Science and Engineering, and the Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences. I also welcome 6 graduates of the Doctoral program of the Interdisciplinary Graduate School of Science and Engineering, and the Master's and Doctoral programs of the Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology. On behalf of the board members, faculty, staff, and current students at Shimane University, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations.

You enrolled in Shimane University with your own dreams, goals, and abundant motivation and enthusiasm for learning. Then, you acquired advanced knowledge and skills in your majors, and education in a broad range of subjects. Today, you are here to be conferred your degree.

I imagine that the infectious spread of the novel coronavirus over the past two and a half years has brought a significant impact on your student life. The university has continued its education by using online and face-to-face techniques, depending on the situation. I realize the inconveniences caused to you by the restrictions on classes and extracurricular activities in response to the COVID-19 prevention measures. For international students, some of you were not able to enter Japan as scheduled. You have spent many anxious days here, in an environment different from your home country, amid the spread of infectious disease. I also can imagine that you must have been worried about your family members and friends back in your home country. Despite this difficult situation, you overcame many obstacles and have now successfully completed the program in your field of study through your continuous hard work, and will be awarded your degree. For this, I am truly glad.

You are here on the day of graduation through the support and involvement of people around you, including your supervisors who guided you during your studies, your friends with whom you discussed your future, shared problems, and studied hard together, the regional community who supported you in various aspects, and your family members who watched over your growth. I hope that you will take this opportunity to recall your studies at Shimane University and thank once again those people you have met during your student life here.

As the COVID-19 pandemic unexpectedly proved, a phenomenon occurred in an area spread instantly across the globe in today's world of globalization and borderless society. Events that seem to have nothing to do with you may become your own issues in an instant. Also, we are facing diverse and serious global-scale issues, such as energy issues, environmental issues including global warming

and ocean pollution, the transformation to an advanced information society, and geopolitical issues around the world. In addition, social transformation is progressing at a high speed toward achieving the SDGs and carbon neutrality. These issues are broadly, deeply, and intricately interrelated with each other, increasing uncertainty in social situations. Even in this situation, you are expected to design and create a new generation to realize a sustainable, better society. In this society of increased complexity and uncertainty, you are required to have a broad perspective, an ability to overlook, and a sharp insight into the relations among individual events. I encourage you to establish your identity, look forward to the future, and courageously try something while understanding the risks. I wish you the best of luck in the creation of a bright new generation with strong resolve and global flexible creativity.

Please remember to try your best, no matter the situation or your surrounding environment. You cannot always make changes by yourself. However, working hard on what you can and what you must do now will open the door to the next path. No one has the perfect answers for your life. So the way you boldly carve will be the answer for you. I hope that all of you will steadily and confidently walk your own path.

Shimane University has a history of 73 years since its establishment. Over 63,000 alumni are active both in and outside Japan at present. Now, Shimane University has alumni associations in six countries, in addition to those across Japan. I hope that you will join one of these associations and enjoy yourself with other alumni of Shimane University.

Shimane is known as the land of "relationships" and "bonds." You established various "relationships" with people in Shimane. I wish you will always cherish these "relationships" and "bonds. I also would like your continued involvement with the university and Shimane. As for your role, I would like you to support the classmates under you as well as become further invested in the future of Shimane University.

I hope all of you will have a bright future. Once again, I would like to extend my congratulations to your family members and the people around you who have supported your growth with high expectations.

My best wishes for your future!

September 16, 2022

HATTORI Yasunao, Dr.Sci.

President of Shimane University