

## President's Address for Entrance Ceremony

It is my great pleasure to welcome five new students to the Master's Program of the Graduate School of Human and Social Sciences, five students to the Master's Program, and two students to the Doctoral Program of the Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology. On behalf of all Shimane University professors and staff as well as the existing students here, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to you.

Eleven of the new students are international students. I'm glad that you selected Shimane University as the place of study out of a large number of universities. We are ready to support you so that you can pursue the learning and research that will lead to your dream future. I'm delighted to be here with you today to congratulate you on your enrollment.

At Shimane University, our activities are almost restored to a normal state. We are conducting face-to-face classes for most of the classes while taking infectious prevention measures to ensure the health, safety, and security of students, as well as provide high-quality education. I hope that you can learn to the fullest and conduct research that will lead to the creation and discovery of new knowledge.

I believe that some of you entered a totally new environment after enrolling at Shimane University. If you have any concerns about learning at the university and life here in Shimane, please consult your academic advisor, the office in charge, or the Health Service Center. Shimane University fully supports you, your studies, and your research.

You enrolled in our graduate school with high aspirations and enthusiasm for academic pursuits. You got the opportunity to acquire further advanced fields and abilities based on the knowledge and skills you acquired in your bachelor's program. Shimane University sets our vision for graduate school education to nurture professionals of knowledge who lead the future of society. We aim to foster highly skilled specialized professionals with a rich global perspective who will contribute to the development of both domestic and international industries. To this end, Shimane University encourages students to acquire specialized knowledge as well as promotes education to increase practical skills to apply your academic learning in society, through offering joint classes with companies, Project-Based Learning (PBL) classes, various internship experiences, and study abroad programs. I am hoping that you will gain highly specialized knowledge as well as intellectual and practical skills that contribute to a knowledge-intensive society in a variety of ways so as to play an active role in the regional community and the world along with the ability to broadly overlook.

Furthermore, we are expected to take full advantage of our university's educational and research environment and diverse educational programs to play a role as an entity that produces knowledge and

creates value in an increasingly sophisticated and complex future society. Our lifestyles are about to change dramatically due to advanced information technologies such as generative AI. To realize a society in which each of us has a diverse sense of value and lives a safe, and secure life with a feeling of happiness, the convergence of diverse cross-disciplinary knowledge is necessary. I encourage you to review the highly specialized solid knowledge you have acquired following your own intellectual pursuit and curiosity in relation to other specialized fields and to consider how it can be applied in the real world. Please enjoy your learning and research based on unbridled imaginations in a wider range of fields. The value of the knowledge you acquire will be highly appreciated when connected to other specialized fields or applied in the real world going beyond the bounds of your laboratory. It is my hope that you demonstrate your potential to the fullest while developing an outward mindset, the ability to think and design, and then proactively think and act to contribute to the creation of innovation.

Now, I would like to give a word of caution regarding the use of generative AI. It is an extremely superior and useful technology and is widely used in many areas today. Its use will expand rapidly soon. I'm imagining that you would use it for various purposes, such as preparing for classes, writing reports, and writing papers. However, you need to be fully cautious that there is a possibility of unintentional leakage of confidential information, personal information, copyright infringement, and, especially when creating reports and papers, it may be considered fraudulent activity, depending on how you use it.

Shimane University formulated the "Shimane University Principles for SDGs" in November 2019, and we are making various efforts toward achieving the SDGs. In addition to supporting research related to the SDGs, we also support your learning about the SDGs by clearly indicating the relationship between the class content and the SDGs on the syllabus. You are expected to be highly aware of the SDGs in your activities.

Shimane University aims to be "a unique university rooted in the regional community and standing out in the world" by thoroughly refining its individuality and enhancing its functions of education and research.

I hope all of you will look forward to the future, engage in learning with a broad perspective encompassing local to global views, and spend a fulfilling life of study at the university surrounded by abundant nature, history, and traditional culture while interacting with friends, faculty, and staff members.

My best wishes for your success!

October 10, 2023

HATTORI Yasunao, Dr. Sci.

President of Shimane University