

## Welcome Address to Incoming Students

I am very pleased to give a congratulatory address for your entrance to Shimane University on behalf of all members of the university.

All of you here have enrolled in the Graduate school of Science and Engineering, and the Graduate school of Life and Environmental Science. I am pleased to welcome you.

You may have some difficulties here with a language and customs different from your own. However, you can also have a big chance to come into contact with real Japanese culture in wonderful atmosphere of Shimane. More than 100 years ago, world famous Japanese researcher and writer, Lafcadio Hearn, was teaching English at Matsue normal school before becoming Shimane University. He introduced good tradition of Japanese cultures that were still in Shimane to the world by his novels.

I am sure you can adapt and enjoy Japanese culture. Japanese classmate should support you and to be good friend.

Students in the Special Program receive academic classes in English, but it is strongly recommended that you learn Japanese. If you can speak Japanese, it will be a great advantage not only for your daily life but also for finding employment especially in Japan related company. We have a Japanese language class available for beginners. Studying the Japanese language will help you to understand Japanese culture and customs, and I hope you take opportunities to explore and to understand Japan. I also hope that students from foreign countries will play an important role in enhancing the mutual understanding between your countries and Japan. Please participate actively in the community where you live, so that you can make many friends in Shimane and you come in contact with an outstanding cultures and old history in this area.

Your main purpose here is to gain skills and knowledge in your chosen scientific field, to be an independent researcher, and finally, to contribute to the development of scientific technology and public welfare. Faculty members and staff will support you in reaching your goals. Also we will support your employment in Japan if you want. I wish all of you success in your studies so that you can graduate from the university.

Finally, I believe you have very promising futures, and I hope you will be able to be your goals by dedicating yourselves to your studies.

Best wishes for the future!!

October 6, 2014  
The President of Shimane University  
Shotai Kobayashi, M.D., PhD