

President's Address for Commencement Ceremony

I am delighted to deliver the congratulatory address to 14 graduates of three faculties, and nine graduates of three graduate schools. On behalf of the board members, faculty, staff, and current students at Shimane University, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations.

You selected Shimane University as a place of study to fulfill your dreams and aspirations. I realize that the COVID-19 pandemic has greatly affected your student life since your enrollment. For international students, in particular, some of you had difficulties in coming to Japan. Even after arriving in Japan, you spent many anxious days here, in an environment different from your home country, amid the spread of infectious disease. Despite this difficult situation, you maintained your interest in your majors and strong motivation to study, overcame many obstacles, and have now successfully completed the program in your field of study through your continuous hard work. Today, you will be awarded your degree. For this, I am truly glad and respectful.

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 all of you will walk your own path while thanking those people who supported you during your student life here.

This summer is said to be the hottest in the past 126 years. It has been exceptionally hot in many parts of the world, with reports that the era of global boiling has arrived. We need to take immediate action to tackle global warming and achieve carbon neutrality. Also, we are facing complex and diverse global-scale issues, such as energy issues and the emergence of generative AI in response to an advanced information society. To give you an example, generative AI can take on routine tasks and respond to creative activities that were once considered to be done only by humans. It has a high possibility to significantly change the way we work and live. Furthermore, there is a need to immediately form a social infrastructure to keep pace with the development of generative AI, as people point out the risks of malicious use of generative AI and delays in the development of social infrastructure.

Even excellent science and technology that brings innovations can entail significant

risks along with its convenience. However, the development of science and technology should not be interrupted because of risks. What I believe important is to assess the possible risks and utilize science and technology while minimizing risks. Those issues mentioned earlier are broadly, deeply interrelated with each other, increasing complexity. Therefore, it is difficult to tackle them utilizing expertise from a single major. A convergence of knowledge across multiple disciplines is needed. In this society of increased uncertainty in today's social situations, you are expected to design and create a new generation to realize a sustainable, better society. Through your study at Shimane University, you acquired advanced knowledge and skills in your majors, education in a broad range of subjects, global perspectives, communication skills, and the ability to proactively create new value. Based on these abilities, I encourage you to acquire broader perspectives, an ability to overlook, and a sharp insight into the relations among individual events. I hope you will establish your identity founded on various skills, look forward to the future, and courageously try. I wish you the best of luck in the creation of a bright new generation with strong resolve and global flexible creativity.

Shimane University has a history of more than 70 years since its establishment and has over 64,000 alumni. I wish you will always cherish the "relationships" that you established with people in Shimane even after graduation. I also would like your continued involvement with the university and Shimane. Now, Shimane University has alumni associations in Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, Fukuoka, Hiroshima, and other locations in Japan, as well as in six countries overseas. I hope that you will join one of these associations and enjoy yourself with other alumni across affiliations and generations. of Shimane University. Furthermore, 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.

Please remember to try your best, no matter the situation or your surrounding environment. 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.

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 22, 2023

HATTORI Yasunao, Dr. Sci.
President of Shimane University