

## President's Address for Commencement Ceremony

I am delighted to deliver the congratulatory address to 23 graduates of five faculties, 2 graduates of Master's Program and 2 graduates of Doctoral Program 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 selected Shimane University as a place of study to fulfill your dreams and aspirations. I realize that the COVID-19 pandemic greatly affected your student life from your enrollment until falling into category 5 of COVID-19. However, 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. I hope you also enjoyed your university life as it gradually returned to its original state after "with corona". Today, you will be awarded your degree. For this, I am truly glad and respectful.

All of graduates who completed the master's and doctoral programs came to Matsue-Shimane in Japan, far from your home countries, to study at Shimane University as international students. You studied hard in order to utilize your knowledge to solve problems and develop your home countries. I would like to express my heartfelt respect and congratulations to each of you for successfully summarizing your unique research into papers and obtaining your degrees.

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.

There is no doubt that the specialized knowledge and skills you have learned at university will serve as the foundation for your future. On the other hand, in the course of your studies, I believe that you have realized that even if you pass the exam, you have not learned everything, and even if you have written your thesis, there are still many issues that remain. I believe that one of the most important things to learn at university is to realize that the more you learn and research, the more you have many things to learn and research.

Expert knowledge and technology are being updated every day at an accelerating rate. However, there is still so much left that we need to know. In the first place, we cannot actually explain why we are here. Of the energy in our universe, less than 5% can be explained by ordinary matter, and 95% is tentatively named dark matter and dark energy, but in short, we do not know anything about it, not yet. Furthermore, it has been theoretically shown that the universe is not a universe but a multiverse, that is, there are countless universes. If more than 95% of that single universe is unknown, how much has progress essentially changed between the time when the geocentric theory was advocated and the state of the art now?

Now I will change the subject from the universe to the human body, based on anatomy which is my specialty. Just as it is natural that each person's face is different, in fact, the bones, internal organs, and muscles are also all

different for each individual. Medical students through anatomy training experience and realize this uniqueness, which is the most fundamental understanding when working with incomparable patients in future clinical settings. I always told medical students that textbooks only show just one example of all human beings who existed, exist, and will exist from the birth of humanity to its extinction, and that all the answers we should really know lie within each person's body but not in the textbook. It is miraculous that each individual can see, hear, feel, speak, think, and move, just like I am doing right now, and we still have essentially no explanation of the body and mind that make this possible.

The amount of information is increasing day by day, but the cutting edge is only the cutting edge of that era whether it was 100 years ago, now, or perhaps in the future, and what we know continues to be limited. No matter what path you take, no one knows what the true answer is, so keep reminding yourself of the "knowledge of ignorance" over and over again throughout your life and humbly continue to learn every day.

There is a concept called "Roppou Yoshi: six way satisfaction". As you continue to learn in a broad sense throughout your life, you will keep this in mind in order to realize a sustainable earth and society as advocated by the SDGs in today's era of confusion and uncertainty, where human civilization is exceeding the limits of the earth. "Sampou Yoshi: three way satisfaction", known as the philosophy of Omi merchants who were active throughout the country during the Edo period, is "good for the seller", "good for the buyer", and "good for society". This was an idea that valued the interests of buyers and social contribution, rather than pursuing only the interests of the seller or himself. The "Roppou Yoshi: six way satisfaction" for realizing SDGs, a sustainable society, includes three additional elements: "Good for craftsman", "Good for the earth", and "Good for the future". In order to think about all the people who are directly or indirectly involved, and to pass on a rich earth to future generations, please always keep in mind "Roppou Yoshi: six way satisfaction" and proceed on your own path.

Shimane University has a history of over 70 years and has produced over 68,000 alumni. Even after graduation, we hope that you will continue to be involved with Shimane University and Shimane Prefecture, valuing the connections you have made with alumni, faculty and staff, and the local community. Shimane University has alumni associations in various parts of Japan, including Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, Fukuoka, and Hiroshima, as well as alumni associations in eight overseas countries. Please participate in the alumni association and take advantage of Shimane University's network that transcends faculties and age groups. Furthermore, as a senior who studied at Shimane University, I would be very grateful if you could support the further development of Shimane University for the benefit of your juniors.

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 20, 2024

OTANI Hiroki

President of Shimane University