

March 25th 2024

Congratulatory Address for the 2024 Spring Commencement Ceremony

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It is our great pleasure us to hold the 2024 Spring Commencement Ceremony with you today.

On behalf of the faculty member and staff of Kyutech, I would like to offer heartfelt congratulations to everyone who receives the degrees today. Also, I would like to convey our celebration and gratitude to the parents and families who have supported the graduates in every possible way until this day.

You may reminisce about the days when you worked hard on your research and the time you spent with your friends, seniors, and supervisors, therefore let's take this significant opportunity and a moment to express your sincere gratitude to all of them and your family who have supported you throughout your academic life at Kyutech.

Most of you were forced to start your university life which was uncertain of the way forward during the unforeseen state of emergency due to the pandemic which also suddenly disrupted your interactive and enjoyable campus life four years ago. I am certain that those of you who have overcome the difficulties and such drastic changes in lifestyle will surely overcome any future challenges in your life as well. One of the most important keys to success is to take such an incident as valuable experiences and maintain a positive attitude towards tackling any challenges. In your future life, please do not be bound by common sense, use your experience of various events during your university life as fuel, and have fun taking on many challenges.

Now, one of the most significant changes occurred in your university life is that AI has become integrated into many aspects of our lives. I'm sure you have all used generative AI on various occasions. The best example of this can be said to be the spread of generative AI represented such as by ChatGPT.

On the other hand, the so-called "singularity", a technological singularity where generative AI exceeds human capabilities, is becoming a reality. As a result, there are growing concerns that many human jobs will be replaced by AI. With generational AI advancing to this point, we are now entering an era in which it would be no surprise to think that this congratulatory address that I am giving to you today was also written by AI

Under such circumstances, what should you do from now on to avoid losing your job to AI? It is believed that AI primarily targets what are known as "manual workers" or those who only wait for instructions before starting to work. In contrast, the ability to think critically, discover and solve problems with a rich human network, experience, and initiative, while maintaining curiosity towards everything, is an irreplaceable human skill by AI.

Fortunately, for those of you who graduated from Kyutech today, I believe you have had the opportunity to experience discovering social issues and solving them in a variety of situations since we, Kyutech, have been increasing opportunities and creating environment for you to train critical thinking based on knowledge and experience.

I expect you to be able to acquire skills and continue learning many things in the future. The important thing is that this graduation should not be a graduation from learning but an entering to a new advantage of various opportunities and continuous learning.

Today we are forced to carry out social activities under a number of extremely difficult constraints and problems of environment, energy resources, international conflicts and divisions, and the international political situation. It will be a big challenge, but flexible thinking and action are the key to turn a crisis into an opportunity.

I can ensure you that the solid science and engineering skills and ethics which you have cultivated and the bonds with people around the world that you have interacted with during your university life and the youthful power, action, and breakthrough power backed by your global competency will be

fully demonstrated in the future so that I can expect to see the dramatic development of our society which process will act as a powerful restoring force that will return the world to a state of peace, and that it will become a driving force for global prosperity.

For those of you who are about to embark on your journey into society, I am confident that you will fully utilize the abilities you have acquired at Kyutech and overcome various difficulties. Meantime, we will always open our door for you as we are evolving ourselves to become the place where you can have consultations based on the trust but also brush up your skills and to create new collaboration.

I have long believed that a university should not be just a place for nurturing young people because innovation explosion does happen when people with diverse attributes such as nationality, ethnic background, gender, ages, and so forth come together.

Finally, I would like to extend my congratulations on your new start for your prosperous future and success by continuously enjoying your life, experiencing many things, thinking, learning, and playing an important role in this ever-changing era by utilizing the many good encounters you have had at Kyutech as a valuable asset. I would like to conclude my address by wishing you all the best in your life and congratulating you on your new successful journey.

Thank you very much and congratulations.