

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to stand before you to celebrate the entrance of new students into Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology. Today, 17 Master course students and 23 Ph.D. course students are enrolled to start new challenges with us. Congratulations and welcome! You had finished your undergraduate education, and chose the steep and narrow way to be a top-level scientist to contribute to our better future. Climb this mountain and pursue your dream. We will do our best to assist you.

As you know, recently, serious environmental problems threaten the survival of humanity. Global warming, energy problems, food supply dilemmas caused by rapid population growth --- all these issues are pressing us to create urgent and effective solutions for the coexistence of humanity and nature. And we, as scientists, are expected to play important roles now in the innovation of environmental and life sciences, which is called “Green Innovation” and “Life Innovation.”

For more than 130 years, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology has established itself as a leading research-oriented academic institution in Japan. We are putting up the basic principle of promoting intellectual innovation and cultivating global human resources for “the realization of sustainable society,” that is, living in harmony with nature. As approaches for this mission, we have developed agricultural and engineering researches, and created new fused grounds of study. And we have also succeeded to develop active collaborations with diverse research groups of academia, industry or government sector to maximize the effectiveness of our cutting-edge researches and harvest its fruits. Furthermore, we have exerted ourselves to maintain fully internationalized atmosphere to bring up opinion leaders who work globally. Now, we have more than 400 foreign students from all over the

world, and signed more than 80 international collaborative agreements that promote the exchange of leading researchers and talented students. All these approaches are making this university a perfect environment for you to accelerate your potential.

All of you are promising scientists, but to become the distinguished one, you have to go through many turns and twists. You may be lost or deadlocked. Even when you want to give up, don't be satisfied with easy way. Think hard, experiment hard, and study hard. Never be afraid of failures, and try over and over again. And at all times, let you be open to new ideas and advices. You will be learning from the greatest and brightest masters in your field. Re-viewing old topics in a fresh-new ways helps you overcome the barriers, and makes you be better, more competent scientists than you are today.

In addition, to accomplish your challenge, you need a strong body as well as strong will. Especially the students from abroad will find a lot of difficulties in living in a different culture. Take good care of yourself, and take a look around you. People in this room will be your friends, your colleagues, and most importantly, your partners in your personal and professional life. They are your best source of power to make the most of your experience here.

I hope you can enjoy and get a rare but an extraordinarily valuable set of experiences in your university-life here, and spread your wings for your bright future and for our beautiful world.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Tadashi Matsunaga
President