

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, I am happy to announce that we have 59 students from various countries as new TUAT members. Among them, there are 22 students for masters and 37 for Ph.D. courses. On behalf of the faculty members and staff of Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, here I welcome all of you.

First of all, I would like to say that you are very lucky.

Why lucky?

Because you chose our university. As you may know, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology is a relatively small sized university. However, we deal with two large research areas, agriculture and technology. These two areas are very important for our society and indispensable for our future. You will all have many chances to learn more about these two major areas and surrounding subjects.

Furthermore, there are other fascinating environments in our university. Since its establishment, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology has focused on the globalization of our researches. We have succeeded to achieve profitable collaborations with a large number of domestic and foreign research groups in the academia, industry, and governmental organizations to maximize the high quality of our cutting-edge researches. I hope you will effectively use these collaborations.

I said that you are lucky, but it would be true only when you catch the “goddess of fortune”. So, how to catch her? The most important thing is your will. Please keep strong will to catch the goddess of

fortune. In Japan, there are 8 million gods and goddesses, so it is quite easy to find them. But remember that you should keep your will strong to pursue your studies. Where there is a will, there is a way.

We will make a continuous effort to supply all of you with the best educational and research environment. Also we are happy to nurture young and talented researchers like you. Throughout your campus life, I hope you will find your role and purpose in the future society. Please study hard to become leaders in the future.

Finally I would like to ask you to think about an additional role of the university. Students from abroad will meet many difficulties hereafter. But, do not worry. There are many people working and studying on our campus. This is one of the most important merits of the university. Whenever you need help, there is somebody who can help you at any time and *vice-versa*. The primary purpose for all of you should be to study hard, but please do not forget to make friends. Some of them will become your life-time friends, good partners for business, and so on.

Before I close my speech, I would like to mention one more thing. To accomplish your challenge, you need both a healthy mind and a healthy body, combined with a strong will.

Once again, I would like to extend my cordial welcome to all of you, and I hope you will enjoy your campus life. The future is yours! But you have to catch the wind for the future.

Good luck, and thank you for your kind attention.