

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to announce that today we have 53 students from various countries as the newest TUAT members. Among them, there are 16 students for masters and 37 for Ph.D. courses. On behalf of the faculty members and the staff of Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, I welcome you all.

Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology is a relatively small-sized university. However, we deal with two broad research areas, agriculture and technology. These two areas are very important for our society and indispensable for our future. Here, you will have many chances to learn not only about your major field but also plenty of related topics in these two areas and other surrounding subjects. Furthermore, you will have the opportunity to meet many people – such as professors, faculty staff, laboratory colleagues, classmates – during your time here. If the people you mingle with will become important connections in your career or close friends that share special moments, no one can tell. In any case, be sure to socialize and make as many friends as possible here.

Back to science, there are other fascinating environments in our university. Since its establishment, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology has focused on the globalization of its researches. We have succeeded in achieving 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 use these collaborations effectively.

I am afraid that you will be very busy learning not only science but also getting acquainted with national and international associations, but I assure you, they are all fun.

We make a continuous effort to support all our students with the best educational and

research environment. We are glad 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 tell you about an additional role of the university. Students from abroad will meet many difficulties hereafter. However, do not worry. There are many people working and studying in our campuses. This is one of the most important merits of the university. Whenever you need help, there will be someone willing to help you and *vice-versa*. You are not alone: we all are always with you. Also, as I mentioned previously, enjoy campus life with your friends. Friends are priceless.

Before I close my speech, I would like to give you one more piece of advice. To accomplish your challenges, 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 enjoy your campus life.

The future is yours! But only if you can catch it!

Good luck! And thank you for your attention.