

President's Greeting

June 1st 2013



Principal and Vice Chancellor Gerry McCormac and Director of Development and External Affairs Ms. Kerry Bryson at the University of Stirling, Scotland, UK, distinguished guests, and Miyazaki City Mayor, Mr. Tadashi Tojiki, along with faculty members, staff, alumni and current students, it is a great honor and a pleasure to welcome you to the 20th Anniversary of the founding of Miyazaki Municipal University.

Looking back to MMU's beginnings, Miyazaki Municipal University's first students were admitted on April 1st, 1993, the same year of its establishment. And the first memorial founding ceremony was then held on June 1, 1993. It is wonderful that 20 short term exchange students from the University of Ulsan of Korea are also celebrating with us on this special occasion.

After 20 years, there are MMU 3,342 alumni. Alumni including public servants, teachers and employees of various companies are playing active roles in society. Their achievements embody the spirit and goals of this university's establishment - that is "Endow with knowledge extensively; teach and study professional research deeply and cultivate human resources rich in humanity with deep insight and international perspectives. Also, contribute to the advancement of lifelong learning, the development of industrial economy and culture as an open university in local society."

Miyazaki Municipal University could pursue these goals primarily due to the unstinting support of Miyazaki City, the Founder of MMU, the University Support Committee as well as the Alumni Association and local citizens.

To foster international exchanges, one of our key objectives, MMU has concluded academic agreements and Memorandums of Understanding with Suzhou University of China; University of Ulsan and Ulsan College of Korea; University of Waikato of New Zealand and Vancouver Island University of Canada. Many students through their experiences with these university programs have learned about globalization. And at today's ceremony, as a symbol of MMU's commitment to the future advancement of internationalization, we are holding a signing ceremony with Principal and Vice Chancellor Gerry McCormac of the University of Stirling to conclude an academic agreement.

MMU started as a university of liberal arts education, namely, with only one department in one faculty-Department of International Culture in the Faculty of Humanities. Presently, there are very few universities of liberal arts in Japan.

Twenty years after MMU's establishment, however, we are facing big problems, such as an increase of new universities and a decrease in the 18 years old population. Thus, we would like to maximize this occasion to return

to MMU's founding spirit. As a university for globalization and the advancement of human resources, we think it is the time to further develop the quality of education for practical linguists, basic scholarship and specialized knowledge.

In 2014, we will start a 3-course-system - languages and culture, media and communication as well as international politics and economics to deepen and promote a well-developed liberal arts education. Through this reorganization of curriculum, students can study proactively and think about their lives in the future.

As a municipal university, we have consistently aspired to be an open university in the local community. And we have pushed ahead with study and research. In 2005, the community study center was established at this university.

Today, the Japan Association of Municipal and Prefectural Colleges and Universities President Naohide Kinase's memorial speech is about "The Future of Public Universities in Local Communities. Related to this idea is the newly-launched plan by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, which emphasizes universities as one of the key intelligence centers of communities." MMU has to develop studies and research to contribute to the community in Miyazaki. We appreciate your future support.

To commemorate this 20th anniversary, we have newly established the emeritus professor and the scholarship systems. We decided on three colors-red, green and yellow to reflect our symbol flower camellia and university's spirit. And we have also decided on an innovative university logo based on these three colors.

A well-known proverb says, "Gather new wine into new wineskins." Along with all university staff and students, MMU shall focus more energy on establishing an environment for open education and research. And we shall deepen our exchanges with domestic and international universities, colleges and research institutions. Finally, I would like to conclude this address for our 20th anniversary by manifesting our firm commitment to meet more broadly educational challenges and contribute to cutting edge research.

Thank you very much.

HIROKO HAYASHI
President of Miyazaki Municipal University