

President's message to newly matriculated graduate students FY2022

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Let me express my sincere congratulations to all you newly enrolled students.

Under normal circumstances, I would be honoured to speak directly to you and offer words of encouragement. However, due to the fact that many of our graduate students are also active healthcare professionals, thereby posing an unacceptable risk of infection from COVID-19 to society, we have decided to cancel the Opening Ceremony and send you this video message instead.

Even though the ceremonies have been cancelled, I would like to congratulate each of our new students on behalf of the entire faculty of TMDU. You have worked so hard to get into the graduate school in spite of the new normal that COVID-19 and the infection control measures have imposed on everyone's lives.

Starting this year, our university will serve as a designated national university corporation, one of only 10 universities so chosen nationwide. The designation is a distinguished honor that comes with a charge to compete with the world's leading universities at the highest levels of international competition, and to ensure that our concrete results actively contribute to the development of society and the economy. Our mission is to lead Japan's education and research toward the goal of "realizing" total health care "for the earth and humankind across generations."

In a video message I gave last year, under similar circumstances, to new graduate students entering the university, I said:

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I would certainly like to challenge all our graduate students to create new networks beyond the limits of their department or specialty. The reason is that there are numerous departments at TMDU with very high levels of specialization. We believe that through increased collaboration among these departments we can produce greater value as a university, thus facilitating even

more productive linkages to outside institutions in the future.

After a pandemic, as an organization and as individuals we can expect to experience significant change. Such change will not be limited to medical science and healthcare, but will encompass society as a whole. Undergirding the concept of being “connected” in Society 5.0 and the setting of globally shared goals through SDGs is the idea of cooperation throughout the whole of society. Collaboration is in this way a social demand.

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My keynote message at that time was about the importance of collaboration and it remains the same today and going forward.

However, as we look around us and see the ongoing challenges of the pandemic and the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, we realize the difficulty, as well as the necessity, of collaboration within societies and between nations. As it turns out, collaboration is not something that occurs naturally but rather is an achievement requiring strong will and constant effort to realize it.

Therefore, in order to support your research, the university will continue to develop an array of opportunities for young researchers to interact and make available scholarships to support collaboration. Even more importantly, we will make every effort to provide a learning and research environment that is science-based and adheres to the highest academic standards, which is the necessary foundation for all successful collaboration in our fields of study and research.

Furthermore, please know that one of our highest educational goals at TMDU is to train Clinician Scientists, that is, researchers with a medical perspective and Scientific Clinician medical professionals with a scientific perspective.

I pray that you will aim to become a Clinician Scientist and Scientific Clinician, expand your scientific perspective, achieve impressive results, and promote science-based collaboration not only during your studies here but also beyond in your professional life. Please accept my sincere congratulations on your entering TMDU today.