

I am Masashi Komurasaki, the mayor of the city of Ikoma.

Congratulations to all of you today.

The Nara Institute of Science and Technology (NAIST) is a source of proud for Ikoma City, Nara Prefecture, and Japan, as it is at the top of both research and education in Japan, and has many achievements worldwide.

Last year marked the 30-year anniversary of the establishment of NAIST and the 50-year anniversary of the city of Ikoma.

We took this special opportunity to conclude a comprehensive partnership agreement in October, deciding to work more closely with each other to develop the university and our city.

My sincere congratulations to you as you enter NAIST in such a milestone period.

Today, I have two messages to share with you.

The first one is about being both global and local.

I spent three years working at the Japanese embassy in the US, and now, I am working on local community issues as the mayor of Ikoma.

I hope the research you do here will be from a global viewpoint and, at the same time, provide practical solutions to the challenges of local communities.

In Ikoma City, based on the agreement signed, we will introduce actual local community issue sites and the staff, citizens, business operators, etc. who are active there.

Let's work together to tackle local community issues.

The second is a request for a heightened sense of awareness to history, culture, and traditions when engaging in cutting-edge research.

When you take a step out of the NAIST facilities, you will find yourself in the middle of nature's abundance with rolling hills providing home to close-knit village communities and discover a culture that dates back to more than 500 years of making tea whisks used in traditional Japanese tea ceremonies.

I sincerely hope that as you pursue your research, you will also take the time to learn about the traditions and cultural resources available to you on and off campus, to enrich your research pursuits.

Finally, at Ikoma City Hall, we offer services related to measures against covid-19, healthcare, child-rearing, education and local interaction, and other aspects of everyday life to help you and your families in a variety of ways to have a happy and fulfilling life.

We have multilingual staff in our offices, but you can also have the NAIST staff contact us on your behalf.

If there are any issues in your daily life, please feel free to contact the Ikoma City Hall.

I wish you all the best for a fulfilling research career.

Congratulations from the bottom of my heart.

Apr. 5th, 2022

Masashi Komurasaki
Mayor, Ikoma City,