

Congratulations to all those who have been admitted to NAIST this academic year. I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to you all.

The Nara Institute of Science and Technology (NAIST), where you are beginning your studies, is located in Kansai Science City, a new center for creative and international academic research, and, as an educational and research institution widely recognized worldwide, NAIST plays a central role in cutting-edge education and research and in the creation of new industries.

In 2018, NAIST merged its three graduate schools into the Graduate School of Science and Technology and, by bringing together diverse fields of expertise, NAIST has laid the foundation for innovation and creation of human resources to meet global challenges such as the SDGs, with the aim of being "a university that co-creates the future with advanced science and technology" toward 2030.

At the same time, in 2021, NAIST established the Regional Co-creation Office and is strengthening its collaboration with local governments and financial institutions. NAIST and Nara Prefecture signed a comprehensive cooperation agreement in June last year with the aim of contributing to the development of academia, culture, local communities, and human resource development.

Nara Prefecture has also received much guidance and advice from many professors, including President Shiozaki, about the Prefectural University of Technology, currently in its planning stages, which we will establish in the near future.

I hope NAIST's high research capabilities and Nara Prefecture's fields and information related to various regional issues will continue to be mutually utilized and we can work hand in hand for the development of the region.

With IoT and AI further entering our lives, the role you play by studying at NAIST will become increasingly important as we work towards the realization of a society in which unprecedented new value will be created. I sincerely hope that you will study the latest science and technology in a variety of fields and become the next generation of professionals with broad perspectives, flexible ideas, integrity, creativity, as well as expertise in diverse areas. It is also my hope that you will support and contribute to the future development of science and technology.

In order to live up to this mission, I would like you to make full use of your abilities in this wonderful environment and devote yourselves to research activities while engaging in friendly competition to mutually improve as you continue your studies.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate you once again on today's auspicious start and wish you all good health and continued success in your endeavors.

April 5, 2023

Governor of Nara Prefecture