

As introduced, I am Masashi Komurasaki, the mayor of the Ikoma city. I would like to congratulate all of you today.

Since its foundation, the Nara Institute of Science and Technology (NAIST) has attracted outstanding researchers from all over Japan and abroad to pursue world-class science and technology research. Through their research achievements, NAIST has developed into one of the leading graduate universities in the country.

I hope that all enrolled students will enjoy a fulfilling life in an environment that attracts talented people from diverse countries and regions, where they can devote themselves to research and achieve remarkable results.

Today, I would like to talk about three types of “Co-Creation” that I hope you will value in your studies at NAIST.

The first co-creation is co-creation across borders. Various challenges still exist in the world, such as infectious diseases, food issues and climate change, which cannot be solved by one company or one country. Universities are precisely the kind of organizations that can bring together people and knowledge from all over the world and produce the seeds for solving such challenges. I encourage you to make the most of this environment to engage in research that will lead to solutions to global issues, and focus on co-creation to find new knowledge together with people from diverse backgrounds with different experiences and values.

The second co-creation is co-creation across disciplines. According to your interests and desires, you can choose your curriculum from five Education Programs including three advanced programs and two Data Science and Digital Green Innovation interdisciplinary programs. In addition, NAIST has various interdisciplinary projects such as the NAIST Green Economy Consortium which was founded last year with the aim of co-creating innovation in cooperation with NAIST researchers from the three divisions, business enterprises and local government, bringing their own strengths to the projects. At NAIST, there are opportunities for interdisciplinary

learning, so please challenge yourself outside your own area of expertise.

The third “Co-Creation” is achieved by regional partnership. Ikoma City and NAIST concluded a comprehensive partnership agreement two years ago. Based on this agreement, we promote cooperation to develop local communities, develop human resources and improve the lives of citizens, as well as to achieve SDGs. Ikoma City, where NAIST is located, is a city open to everyone. If you are interested in practicing your research to find and contribute to the resolution of issues in the community, please feel free to contact Ikoma city hall. I will introduce you to local issue sites and the staff, citizens and businesses that work there. I hope you will actively expand your activities into the community.

Finally, at Ikoma city hall we offer services related all aspects of everyday life to help you and your family in various ways to have a happy and fulfilling life. If you have any problems in your daily life, we have multilingual staff in our offices, but you can also have NAIST staff contact us on your behalf. We also welcome you to join and plan events with us.

Finally let me close my greetings by wishing you all the best as you start your life at NAIST. Congratulations from the bottom of my heart.

Apr. 5th, 2023

Masashi Komurasaki  
Mayor, Ikoma City,