

Congratulatory remarks

Chairperson of the NAIST Alumni Association

I would like to express my congratulations to all of the graduates here today and to your parents, relatives and those who supported you through your studies.

As of today, NAIST has conferred roughly 9,000 degrees. Many of the graduates before you are active in universities, research institutes, and large corporations both domestically and abroad, assuring the value of the NAIST brand. I expect that this value will be raised even higher with your entering into the workforce.

The NAIST Alumni Association is developing various programs to support both graduates and current students. After graduation, I feel that there will be many instances when you will have a sense of pride towards your studies at NAIST and many opportunities where you realize your connections with NAIST. Gratitude for this will grow over time. I hope all of you will join the Alumni Association and make full use of these ties.

I myself completed the doctoral course here in 1998 as part of the second class of students accepted to NAIST. When I entered NAIST, there were almost no graduates and NAIST's reputation was nowhere near what it is today. The appeal of NAIST was not its reputation or its history. Globally active professors and passionate students had come together with the boldness to challenge the unknown, and this was the most appealing part of NAIST. Even today, with more than twenty years having past, this appeal is stronger than ever.

The current novel coronavirus outbreak is an unprecedented opportunity to truly understand how much each of us is closely tied together on a global scale and how delicate and weak the modern society we believed to be strong actually is. In response to the mountain of issues we face, such as global warming and an aging population with a declining birthrate, AI and other advanced science and technology are changing society as we know it from its foundations. It can be said that the ability to approach things on a global scale, to choose to investigate without fearing change, and to revel in difficulty and see it as an opportunity instead of a setback is more important today than ever before.

You have all chosen to leave your original universities and institutions to challenge yourself in a new environment by entering the gates of NAIST, and I feel that you have the outlook and abilities to respond to the demands of this new era. Making use of what you have learned through your studies at NAIST, I am confident that you will enter into society and achieve great successes. The work of each of you as you enter into the workforce will change the future of humanity. I hope that each of you will make the world a better place in your own way.

Finally, I would like to once again congratulate you on your graduation.

KIYOKAWA Kiyoshi

Chairperson of the NAIST Alumni Association