

JIU Celebrates 2019 Spring Matriculation Ceremony



Speech by President Kenji Sugibayashi



Speech by Chancellor Akira Uehara



Congratulatory speech by Dr. Kevin Vaughn, Dean of Extension, University of California Riverside



Kurumi Tsuchiya makes a pledge on behalf of the new students

Josai International University held a matriculation ceremony welcoming 1,689 new students, including roughly 200 non-Japanese from 18 countries and regions, at its Togane Campus in Chiba Prefecture, on April 2.

JIU, a comprehensive university with eight faculties and 10 departments, focuses on international education and is engaged in exchange programs with many universities and schools in Asia, Europe, particularly Eastern Europe, and the Americas.

In the ceremony at the Sports Culture Center, JIU President Kenji Sugibayashi greeted the

incoming students, as well as other students, teachers and special guests, including University of California Riverside Extension Dean Kevin Vaughn and Togane Mayor Rikuro Shikama. The Japan Times President Takeharu Tsutsumi was also a guest at the ceremony.

“The campus here has a very international atmosphere. I would like you all to get accustomed to a global environment at this campus,” Sugibayashi said during the ceremony. “We have many exchange programs and I would also like you to participate in them as soon as you can.” Sugibayashi also stressed that society is changing rapidly, but the fact that people need to continue learning remains unchanged.

Josai University Educational Corporation Chancellor Akira Uehara followed with a greeting of his own. Vaughn, Shikama and Kamogawa Mayor Ikuo Kameda followed Uehara in addressing the students.

Kurumi Tsuchiya, 18, representing new students, said, “Following JIU’s mission of ‘Character building through learning,’ we aim to become adults who thrive in an international society.”

The matriculation ceremony came a little over two weeks after JIU held its graduation ceremony at the same campus on March 15. About 1,200 people were conferred undergraduate and graduate diplomas from various JIU faculties. Non-Japanese, from 17 countries, accounted for about 20 percent of new graduates and represented a large percentage of those who received doctorate degrees.

In an address by the representative of graduating students, Yurika Komatsu of the Faculty of Nursing said, “People I met and experiences I had in my university time have become very big, valuable assets for my life.”