

JIU Celebrates 2018 Fall Graduation Ceremony



Speech by President **Kenji Sugibayashi**



Speech by Chancellor **Akira Uehara**



The reply speech delivered by **Terutada Tsunoda**



The new graduates sing the JIU school song together

On August 31, JIU celebrated the 2018 Fall Graduation Ceremony at Mizuta Memorial Hall on its Togane Campus in Chiba Prefecture.

Graduation diplomas were conferred to 36 Japanese students and 356 international students representing 15 countries—Canada, China, Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Jordan, Mongolia, Nepal, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan and the U.S.

Following is a translated summary of President **Kenji Sugibayashi**'s speech originally given in Japanese:

I believe the world today is experiencing three big trends. The first trend is the emergence of AI, IoT and Big Data at the advent of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. This implies that we constantly need to learn and relearn new things related to technological advancement. The second trend is the global spreading of an authentic value of human coexistence and co-prosperity, which is taking place for

the first time in history. We are materializing this value through international endeavors, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to deal with environmental and population issues that could be seriously affecting the future of mankind. The third trend is prolonged life span. We tend to stop working at the age of 60 and enjoy spending some 20 more years. Now, we are shifting towards working until the age of 80 and continue living for some 20 years afterwards. This implies that you are likely to be engaged in the job market for some 60 years and therefore you will need to hone your skills required in your career fields.

JIU will continue growing as an academic institution in such a way that you will be very proud of us. I sincerely hope that you will support us through our alumni association and by joining our future events and activities.

Following Sugibayashi, Chancellor **Akira Uehara** delivered a congratulatory speech. Below is a translated summary of his address originally given in Japanese:

I would like to tell you about some of my thoughts as I believe they could be of use for you.

When I make important decisions, I think over the trends of the time and think about the actions I may take. For instance, today's world is experiencing the arrival of new industries. We are experiencing the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Life Sciences 4.0 or Society 5.0, and with the advent of new industries, society as a whole will experience major changes. In order to respond to the changing environment, I believe, first we ought to be determined to learn new things in our whole life. We also need to ask questions and raise awareness about our surroundings and the events and activities we are involved in. It is of vital importance to learn from our pioneers, listen to opinions different from ours, try to materialize ideas into practice, and learn from the experience. I believe all of this will lead us to expand our horizons.

What you think and how you act today will build who you will be tomorrow. I sincerely wish you to help create new values in society and contribute to the world we live in.

On behalf of the new graduates, **Terutada Tsunoda** from the Department of International Exchange Studies delivered a speech in reply. Following is an extracted text of his speech given in English:

Four years ago from today, I stepped onto this wonderful campus in the hopes of making my parents very proud and testing myself to see how much I could achieve in these four years. After my return from Australia, where I lived for 18 years, the first year in Japan was very difficult. It was then I came across this wonderful university, the university that gives chance, courage, hope, friendship and more importantly a dream to each student, as it gave me the opportunity to become someone much greater than before. . . .

I remember as if it just happened yesterday, the memories from the Disney College Program that I went in 2015. . . . The Disney College Program meant a big step to my life; It changed my views on the world and gave me a sense of responsibility. . . . Upon my return from the six month internship, JIU, once again, gave me the wonderful opportunity to participate in the Japan-Canada Academic Consortium where I represented JIU to discuss certain topics with other students from Canada and Japan. . . .

If I were to compare my years here at JIU to something, I would say my time here has been just like a tree. First, there are the seeds representing freshman years. Second, the slowly growing roots representing the growth of our traits, with water and the sun representing education and JIU's legacy. The tree will then start to grow with leaves growing; this is when we, as students, start to see the world in a much greater view. By the time we reach today, graduation day, flowers will start to bloom, representing our achievements. But one day leaves and flowers will fall; However, this will only mean one thing and one thing only: new life and new goals. These never-ending cyclical motions represent the phases in our lives. Now that the flowers have bloomed, all we wait for is a chance where we could once again grow in this wonderful universe. . . .

Given this chance to speak at this lovely graduation, I will like to take some time to express my gratitude to all of the members of JIU that supported me throughout these years. . . . Thank you, thank you very much. . . .

I pray and hope that JIU will always stand strong, and will continue to give the same experience we once received from this wonderful university.