

## President's Speech

New students, congratulations on your admission to our university! It is with great pleasure that I extend my heartfelt welcome to you all as new Eikei Friends, who are about to take a new step in life here in Hiroshima.

Amid the outlook of the COVID-19 pandemic remaining uncertain, the international situation appears to be increasingly more chaotic, as seen in events such as the Russian invasion of Ukraine. What is now required is the ability to see what society should be from a bird's eye view and weave one's own dreams or threads into tangible form out of chaos.

I am pleased to note that our inaugural students are steadily gaining more knowledge and continuing to grow academically, despite various restrictions imposed to control the ongoing pandemic. They are not only active in schoolwork but also in taking up the challenge of off-campus events, such as a national youth speech contest (The Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Award), where Ms. Kagiya won an outstanding performance award, and the International Issue Presentation Contest hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where Ms. Fukutaka was short-listed for an award. In addition, two of the inaugural students established a General Incorporated Association. We truly feel reassured by their solid growth.

I wonder if you are familiar with the work of a carpenter and a master carpenter. A carpenter is a craftsman who processes and assembles pieces of wood to build a Japanese house, while a master carpenter is their boss, who gives directions to carpenters on their work and ensures that the house is built as designed. Wood processing skills are important. However, the house cannot be completed without a concept being established on the house that should be built or things being properly arranged. Improving carpentry skills corresponds to mastering your individual fields of study and abilities. And, it is the master carpenter's job to integrate carpenters' various skills and ensure the completion of the house according to the concept. Likewise, in order to bind individual academic knowledge together, thereby creating new value, someone assuming the role of master carpenter is indispensable.

It is our hope that as you study at Eikei University of Hiroshima, you will become a master carpenter rather than a carpenter.

This means a person who has acquired the ability to see society from a higher perspective through learning individual fields of study, envisions an ideal society, and has mastered the

skill and ability required for weaving his or her dreams to make them tangible, thereby creating new value and leading an organization or society. Eikei University of Hiroshima brings Eikei Friends together from different regions and countries. This will enable you, while being in Hiroshima, to look at things from a viewpoint beyond national, gender, and other various boundaries. I encourage you to take up the challenge of designing a new society while appreciating diverse perspectives of people with different backgrounds from yours and working with these people according to the circumstances.

I, joined by all faculty and staff members, will make an all-out effort to help you along worthwhile paths in student life as you gain new learning and encounter and interact with other Eikei Friends. Thank you.