

Congratulatory Address

On behalf of the Graduate School of Urban Innovation, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations and warmest welcome to each and every one of you on your admission and advancement to graduate study.

Today, we are delighted to welcome 28 new members to the Graduate School of Urban Innovation: 16 students entering the Master's Program and 12 students advancing to the Doctoral Program.

The Graduate School of Urban Innovation conducts education and research with the aim of exploring the diverse challenges facing society through the theme of the city and proposing the creation of new values for society.

Our Graduate School brings together a broad range of academic fields, including urban culture, the humanities and social sciences, architecture, and civil engineering. I am sure that each of you will pursue advanced knowledge and expertise in your respective major and course.

At the same time, the Graduate School of Urban Innovation is a unique academic community in which students and researchers from different fields in the humanities and sciences work together from diverse perspectives to create new ideas and knowledge. This spirit of collaboration and co-creation across disciplinary boundaries is one of the distinctive strengths of our Graduate School.

Today, the world is facing the risk of increasing nationalism. In many parts of the world, we are witnessing movements that place national interests above the pursuit of mutual development through global cooperation. In considering such complex challenges, approaches based on a single perspective or a single field of expertise are not sufficient. Rather, I believe that approaches that bring together knowledge and perspectives from a wide range of disciplines are both necessary and effective.

As I mentioned earlier, the Graduate School of Urban Innovation is a community founded on collaboration and co-creation across the humanities and sciences. Here, in addition to developing deep expertise in your own field, you will have opportunities to learn from and engage with neighboring disciplines.

As we look toward the future of our increasingly complex and interconnected world, I believe that your studies and experiences at the Graduate School of Urban Innovation will be of great importance.

I hope that all of you will develop a broad perspective and acquire not only profound expertise in your chosen fields, but also a broad and rich education that enables you to understand issues from multiple viewpoints and to contribute creatively to society.

I sincerely hope that, two or three years from now, each of you will have achieved the goals you have set for yourselves and successfully earned your degree.

If you have any questions or concerns during your time here, please do not hesitate to consult with any of the faculty or staff around you. In particular, I understand that international students may feel some anxiety as they begin a new life far from their home countries. Please be assured that the University will do its utmost to support you throughout your studies.

Finally, I sincerely hope that your time at the Graduate School of Urban Innovation will

be intellectually rewarding, personally fulfilling, and filled with many meaningful experiences.

Once again, I warmly congratulate you all and wish you every success in your studies and in the future.

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Hiroshi Katsuchi

Dean

Graduate School of Urban Innovation

Yokohama National University