

Good morning, everyone.

My name is Akira Iwabuchi, president of Iwate University. On behalf of the university staff, I would like to congratulate you on passing the Iwate University examination, and welcome to our university.

It is our great pleasure to hold the spring enrollment ceremony for 1,113 students. Thank you for choosing Iwate University from many universities. I am sure that you will be satisfied with the experience you will get during your tenure in our university.

You are probably very surprised, because I started the opening remarks in English. There is a clear reason for it. We are now making a glocal university. You can imagine the word *Glocal*, which is combination of Global and Local. We give you specific knowledge in your department and many various experiences, where you will find the local problems by visiting areas in Iwate Prefecture, and you will also understand global problems by communicating with people from abroad and by going abroad. Then, we expect you to become glocal persons who can seek out the solutions of the local problems by considering both global and local viewpoints. I think that English is the global language for communication, even if you visit China. So, I hope you will manage English well during your study period in the university, and will become a true Glocal person.

The competition has already started between universities to get the good students like you in Japan as the decrease in 18 year old candidates continues. Therefore, each university needs to create strong points in their education program and research work. Our university can give you a curriculum relating to regional development after the serious East Japan Tsunami Disaster in 2011. Perhaps some students who suffered from the disaster are here, so I would like to express my regret. We thought that we were responsible for dealing with the reconstruction from the disaster in the coastal area, like Kamaishi and Rikuzen-Takata, and we have conducted actions as the roll of a university in Iwate for last 8 years after the disaster. Of course, we should apply our experience with reconstruction activities to the education and research programs in the university. For example, the fishery department was founded in Faculty of Agriculture 3 years ago. Now, we are trying to expand this reconstruction activity carried out in the damaged areas to the whole of Iwate Prefecture because all local areas outside

of Tokyo face decrease in activity due to the decrease in population. Such new programs are one of the strong points of us.

In this situation the serious problem is the shortage of leaders for reconstruction. The main purpose of education in a national university is to cultivate leaders for society. You will study expert knowledge in each department for becoming professionals and becoming leaders. When I visited Kuji City in Iwate just after the disaster, a high school boy asked me what he should do then. I soon answered that he should study hard to enter a university to become a professional in the field he wanted and to return back to Kuji City to become a leader. It was absolutely more useful to contribute to the recovery of the damaged city on a long-time scale.

On March 21, Ichiro, a Major league baseball player, stated his retirement. He said he has kept his dream to become a professional baseball player since primary school. As a result, his dream came true and he became the most valuable player in the Major League. But his seeking process is very characteristic and, generally speaking, maybe difficult for you. So, do not hesitate to change the dream you have now. It is normal to do so growing up. It is important for you to study hard on your education programs, which give you not only basic knowledge but also the critical thinking to recognize the things happening to you and your surroundings. If you have that foundation, you may decide a new suitable ambition you will achieve in your future.

I also hope that you enjoy the university life. Extracurricular activities like circle activity and social study outside the university are very important in order to be a bigger person. It is necessary for you to have the experiences of these things like studying in class, circle activity, and social activity. We furthermore recommend you to go abroad even for a short period. You will understand the different social systems, culture, language and thinking from the Japanese one we have. This is, we say, the first step for global thinking. Please try.

Finally, I would like to mention the Society 5.0. This is the new smart society using AI and IoT. Nobody doubts the convenience of smart phone. You can examine what you want to know immediately through internet. But, I am worried about the situation in which you are interested only in what you like. The concern of yours

maybe very limited. I hope you try to watch something you are not interested in. There are many tools, not only the internet by smart phone but also newspapers and books, in order to learn what you do not know. New world is open to you. You should not be governed by your smart phone.

ここで今日ご参列の保護者の皆様にお願ひがあります。彼らは様々な局面で、自分で判断しなければいけない大人です。私たちは大人として扱いたいと思ひますので、ご理解とご支援をお願ひします。また悩み多き青年たちを時には励ましてください。一緒に成長を見守りましょう。

Well, I would conclude my enrollment remarks by saying “Work hard and enjoy your university life”. Thank you for your attention, and I hope you understood my English speech.

On April 5, 2019

Akira Iwabuchi

President of Iwate University

## 平成 31 年度 国立大学法人岩手大学入学式 学長告辞

新入生の皆さん、入学おめでとうございます。私たちは皆さんを歓迎します。皆さんはこれから的大学生活で様々な経験を重ね、きっと岩手大学に満足して頂けると思います。

岩手大学は「グローバル」な大学を目指しております。グローバルとはグローバルとローカルを組み合わせた造語です。勉学を通して、岩手の地域的な課題を見出すでしょうし、また国際的な交流でグローバルな課題を見出すこともあるでしょう。私たちは、皆さんがグローバルな視点からローカルな課題の答えを探す、つまりグローバルな人間になることを望んでいます。そのために、コミュニケーションツールとして英語を使うことは必須です。今、私が英語でスピーチしているのはそのためです。皆さんも英語を使えるようになってください。

18 歳人口の減少で大学は競争の時代に入りました。そこで大学は、強みを創っていく必要があります。私たちは 2011 年に発生した東日本大震災の後、全学を挙げて復興活動に取り組み、その経験を教育研究に活かすことを強みとしてきました。農学部の水産コースを新設したこともその一環です。また現在は、被災地だけではなく岩手県内各地の地域振興にも努めています。

地域の活力の創造にはリーダーが必要であり、国立大学に課せられたミッションの一つは、社会のリーダーを育成することです。皆さんが、それぞれの学部、コースで専門的知識を修得し、プロフェッショナルとして、リーダーに成長することを期待します。

先日引退したプロ野球のイチロー選手は、小学校時代から抱いていた夢を実現し、プロ野球選手になりましたが、彼のケースは特異なものであり、全員が必ずしも幼いころからの夢を叶えられるわけではないかもしれません。しかし、成長とともに夢を変えることは、決してネガティブなことではありません。むしろ、それが自然なのです。入学後は、まず、勉学に一生懸命取り組んでください。そうすると専門知識だけではなく、物事の考え方が身に付き、あなたの周りで起こる多くのことを、より深く理解できるようになります。基礎ができれば、新たな夢を持つことができるでしょう。

また、大学生活を楽しんでください。サークル活動や社会活動は、勉学と同様に重要です。多くの経験を積んでください。経験は皆さんの財産になります。また、短期でも海外に行くことも推奨します。日本と違う社会システム、文化、言葉、考え方を目の当たりにするでしょう。これがグローバルな人間に成長するための第一歩です。

最後に AI や IoT を活用したスマート社会である Society 5.0 について話します。誰しも

スマートフォンの便利さを疑わないでしょうし、知りたいことをインターネットですぐ調べることができます。しかし、私は、皆さんが好きなことだけに興味を持つことを危惧しています。何かに関心を持つことで、同時に、無意識の中で何かを捨ててしまうことがあります。新聞や本などで、知らないことを知る努力、今関心がないことも見続ける努力をしてください。そこには新しい世界があります。スマートフォンに支配されてはいけません。

最後に、「頑張って、そして楽しんで」というエールを送り、学長告辞といたします。

平成 31 年 4 月 5 日 岩手大学長 岩淵 明