

**Presidential Address Delivered at the Entrance Ceremony  
Kyoto University of Foreign Studies, April 1, 2012**

Students, Parents, Chancellor Yoshikazu Morita, Distinguished Guests, and Ladies and Gentlemen assembled here today, on this most auspicious occasion.

First of all, let me congratulate you freshmen on your success in gaining admission to Kyoto University of Foreign Studies.

On behalf of the faculty and staff of this university, it is also my distinct joy and privilege to welcome you all to Kyoto University of Foreign Studies. And I sincerely thank you for choosing this university as the setting for your higher education.

Kyoto University of Foreign Studies was originally founded under the name Kyoto School of Foreign Languages in May 1947, shortly after the great loss of life and devastation of the Second World War.

The great passion of the founder of our university was the belief that Kyoto University of Foreign Studies would set out to teach not only foreign languages, but also the spirit and values treasured by all nations.

In line with our motto, "*Pax Mundi per Linguas*, which means World Peace through Language," Kyoto University of Foreign Studies has made every effort to cultivate internationally-minded people with good foreign language skills, and a genuine respect for peace and humanity.

In addition, this university emphasizes the importance of an indomitable spirit. This spirit, an unconquerable, unyielding, fighting spirit, is valued highly as a primary basis for education and research, because that is what our founders believed to be an essential quality for students of foreign languages to possess. While you study here, please always keep in mind that you are a vital participant in the founders' great project.

In this connection, it is a great pleasure for me to say that you have joined

us here at this university in our common pursuit of truth and world peace through the studies of foreign languages and cultures.

As students, you are expected to acquire both an all-around command of foreign languages and a broad knowledge of history and cultures. These skills and this knowledge are today not only necessary for finding a decent job, but also essential for becoming an active and valued global citizen.

The best universities of foreign studies are places where you can study other languages and cultures and, by doing so, become able to experience foreign countries and their cultures through your daily campus life, and then continue to study wherever you choose to go, or wherever life may take you.

With this in mind, I am now in the process of promoting an environmental improvement project on our university campus. I want you to feel at ease and to feel free to speak the foreign languages that you are learning here on campus. I want you to take the opportunity to experience a foreign atmosphere without actually leaving Japan. I would like to create the kind of campus community where you students can put to practical use the strong language capabilities acquired through your classes and daily life here at Kyoto University of Foreign Studies.

I believe that you will be able to deepen your understanding of, and feel familiar with, foreign countries through campus life at our university. That, in turn, will make stronger each student's motivation to learn and grow as a civilized person.

I am pleased to inform you, in this regard, that Kyoto University of Foreign Studies devotes much of its time and energy to the education and research of foreign languages and cultures with the hope that after graduation, you will understand, you will be understood, and you will also have something of value to say.

Today we are confronted with a global crisis of the highest magnitude, such as environmental destruction and global warming. We have assumed that productivity and efficiency would bring us boundless happiness in life,

and too many of us have ceaselessly pursued these twin goals without a single moment of doubt. We seldom stopped to think of the far-reaching and dire consequences of what we do in our everyday life. These man-made problems are primarily caused by the excessive emission of greenhouse gasses. They are threatening the very existence of mankind today.

In this connection, it is important not only to learn about other nations, their languages and their people, but also to take action in order, first, to make meaningful connections with people in nations around the globe, and secondly, to make our world more peaceful and hospitable for everyone on earth.

In the age of globalization, it is getting more and more necessary for us to work together with people who live in other parts of the world, people who speak a variety of different languages.

You and I know that our lives here in Japan depend on good communication with foreign peoples. Globalization requires us to work calmly and collaboratively with others. To communicate accurately and logically in a foreign language are vital virtues and the very qualities that we hope all our students can strive to achieve. Clear communication is what strengthens our systems of international peace and security.

So, freshmen, study well and you will be ready to start playing an active part in the international community. And remember this: the root of all learning is curiosity, and when curiosity is combined with focused attention and the effort to understand, our minds grow rich. And in that way, our lives also become more meaningful. I repeat, curiosity and attentiveness, and efforts to understand.

The faculty and staff of our schools are prepared and eager to help you enrich your minds so that you can become full-fledged participants in the international community.

For my part, I am firmly determined to make Kyoto University of Foreign Studies a valuable and even beloved place for you, and to make your student life worthwhile here in the city of Kyoto. And it is my sincere hope that you

will say, "I am very happy and pleased to be admitted to this university, and I am proud to be a student of Kyoto University of Foreign Studies."

As one of the leaders of this university, I chose to deliver my speech in English at today's entrance ceremony. I have spoken in English with the genuine hope of encouraging you.

I want to help you find in your own heart the confidence to believe that you will, after studying here, make an important contribution to the betterment of the world in which we live. This is why I thank you very much for listening so well. And that is why we at Kyoto University of Foreign Studies will do our best not to disappoint you.

Today I sincerely wish every one of you the best of luck in your studies, your life, and your future career. I thank you very much for your kind attention.

**Takeshi Matsuda**  
**President**