Presidential Address Delivered at the Entrance Ceremony
Kyoto Junior College of Foreign Languages, April 1, 2013

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

On behalf of the faculty and staff of Kyoto Junior College of Foreign Languages, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and congratulate you freshmen on your success in gaining admission to Kyoto Junior College of Foreign Languages. And I sincerely thank you for choosing this junior college as the setting for your higher education.

Kyoto Junior College of Foreign Languages was originally founded under the name of Kyoto School of Foreign Languages in May 1947, shortly after the tragic loss of life and the utter devastation of the Second World War. In the midst of confusion and uncertainty about the future, this college stepped forward and unfurled the banner of the global mission described by our motto, "***PAX MUNDI PER LINGUAS***, which means World Peace through Languages.

Our college's brave motto embraces the firm resolve and the genuine wish of the founders that war must be eliminated once and for all. With better communication, mutual international understanding will be achieved if the essential pathways that link the peoples of our world in brotherhood are ceaselessly maintained.

The great passion of the founder of our college was the belief that this junior college would set out to teach not only foreign languages, but also the spirit and the values of the cultures treasured by the world's peoples.

Kyoto Junior College of Foreign Languages has put its whole heart into cultivating internationally-minded people with effective foreign language skills, a genuine respect for the diversity of humanity, and a determination to build and sustain peace in the world.

In this connection, I am pleased to report that this junior college proudly celebrated the 65th anniversary of its founding last year. Chancellor Morita's vision of the college's future is reflected in his unwavering commitment to advancing scholarship at this college and to playing a creative role in the development of international mutual understanding on the global stage.

As students, you are expected to acquire both an all-around command of foreign

languages and a broad knowledge of the history and cultures of the peoples who speak those languages. Today these skills and this knowledge are considered necessary not only for finding a satisfying job, but also essential for becoming a productive global citizen.

With this in mind, I am announcing today the initiation of a project to improve the educational environment on our college campus. I pledge to do my best to create the kind of campus community where students can put to practical use the strong language capabilities that are acquired through your classes and your daily campus life here at Kyoto Junior College of Foreign Languages.

Therefore, I strongly urge you to take every opportunity to experience a foreign atmosphere here on our campus before you leave to study abroad, or without leaving Japan at all. I want you to experience a foreign atmosphere in your classrooms, during our National Weeks, at our special lectures, and in the activities of your clubs and circles.

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

Finally, 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 our lives, as global citizens, become more meaningful.

As President, I chose to deliver my speech in English at today's entrance ceremony with the genuine hope that I will encourage you to find in your own heart the confidence to believe that you will make an important contribution to the betterment of the world in which we live.

Today I sincerely wish everyone the best of luck in your studies throughout the coming two years. I thank you very much for your kind attention.

Takeshi Matsuda
President