

2024 Autumn Matriculation Ceremony of Eikei University of Hiroshima  
Message from the President

Congratulations to all of you on your enrollment. COVID-19 restrictions now relaxed, we are very pleased to be able to welcome you in person, just like last year. This year, 23 international students will join us from Bangladesh, Botswana, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Tanzania, Vietnam, and Japan. Each of you has grown up and received your education in a different culture, history and natural environment. From now on, you will take a new step in a culture and history different from your past in Hiroshima, a land surrounded by mountains and sea.

There is a saying, "Cut the suits fit the body." It means cutting clothes to fit your body. It may seem obvious. However, we unconsciously wear the norms of habits and ways of thinking that have been cultivated by the environment and history in which we grew up. Rather than cutting clothes to fit your body, you are fitting your body to the clothes that are regulated. It is like "Cut the body fit the suit." Your future studies at Eikei University of Hiroshima will help you to learn the norms and regulations that bind you and cut clothes that fit your body. I want you to acquire the ability to see the social system in which you want to play an active role from a bird's-eye view, to draw an image that fits your future shape, and to become a leader and lead the new social system.

While there are no major changes in the situation surrounding Ukraine and Israel, many countries will hold leadership elections in 2024. The future of international politics is becoming increasingly uncertain. The economic system that is the basis of our lives is also changing. Cars and electrical appliances, for example, have directly enriched our lives, but now it is something different from these products that is the main factor enriching our lives. In what is called a knowledge-based society, Japan is aiming for a new society called Society 5.0, which follows the industrial society and information society. We are in an era where the social value of the new society creates economic value. You who have acquired the competencies to lead the future will become the social value of the new society itself.

Japan is a beautiful country. Hiroshima is especially blessed with beautiful nature, with mountains, rivers, and the sea nearby. I hope that you will meet new friends here, develop your dreams while competing with each other, and acquire the ability to realize the dreams, so that you will feel that choosing Eikei University was the right decision. We, the faculty and staff, will provide you with the utmost support. It is important to work hard at your studies, but it is also important to make new friends in a new place and have many new experiences. I hope that you will grow greatly in your student life.

September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
President of EIKEI University of Hiroshima  
Dr. Mutsuhiro Arinobu