

## Closing Address at the Inaugural Degree Project Public Presentation

Distinguished guests, President Arinobu, esteemed faculty members, dedicated staff, and most importantly, our pioneering first cohort of graduates,

It is with profound gratitude and great honor that I stand before you today to mark this historic occasion—the first-ever Degree Project Public Presentation at Eikei University of Hiroshima. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to all who have gathered here, bearing witness to the culmination of our students’ rigorous intellectual endeavors and unwavering commitment to learning through practice.

The realization of this ambitious project has been made possible through the tireless dedication of our faculty and staff, who have steadfastly supported our students in their pursuit of academic excellence and societal impact. In particular, I wish to express my deepest appreciation to our primary and secondary advisors, whose exceptional mentorship and unwavering guidance have empowered our students to refine their ideas, navigate complexities, and bring their visions to fruition. Moreover, the invaluable insights and discerning feedback from distinguished external evaluators and members of the Experiential and Practical Learning Platform have played an indispensable role in elevating the caliber of these projects. To each of you, I offer my profound gratitude.

And now, to our trailblazing first cohort — you have embodied the very essence of Eikei University of Hiroshima’s vision: “Creating Shared Future.” Throughout your journey, you have engaged in an unrelenting spiral of learning and practice, integrating systems thinking and design thinking, and mastering the methodologies of social system design. You have not merely acquired knowledge; you have harnessed it as a force for action, bringing to life your personal projects as tangible manifestations of innovation and social transformation.

What we have witnessed today is far more than an academic exercise. Your meticulous analyses in the poster presentations and compelling narratives in the oral presentations stand as beacons of intellectual courage and creative ingenuity. Each of you has demonstrated not

only an acute awareness of societal challenges but also the resolve to confront them with insight, vision, and purpose.

As you now stand on the threshold of society, poised to embark upon your respective paths, I urge you to carry forward the spirit of relentless inquiry and collaborative creation that has defined your time at this University. From diverse vantage points across the globe, you will continue to design and implement new social systems, reimagining the very fabric of our world to foster greater well-being for individuals, communities, and our planet. Yours is no ordinary endeavor — it is a bold and noble commitment to shaping a more just, sustainable, and interconnected world.

Today is not merely a conclusion; it is a moment of inception, a landmark first step toward an uncharted future. The legacy of your achievements will serve as an indelible guidepost —not only for your own journeys but for Eikei University students yet to come.

To our distinguished first cohort — you have inscribed your names upon the history of this University. I implore you to continue learning, to question with courage, to collaborate with conviction, and to act with unwavering resolve. May your knowledge and vision illuminate the path to a brighter and more harmonious future.

On behalf of the entire Eikei University of Hiroshima community, I extend my sincerest congratulations. May your journey ahead be guided by wisdom, purpose, and the boundless possibilities of the future.

Thank you for your attention.