

## 平成 31 年度 開智国際大学入学式 学長式辞 (English)

It is my pleasure to welcome you all here today. Congratulations on taking this new step in your education.

The student here at Kaichi International University is highly diverse with many individuals from a wide variety of international backgrounds. This year, 2019, is no exception, as we welcome students from Indonesia, China, France, Korea, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, and of course from Japan. There are 18 different nationalities including of all students, faculty and staff on this campus.

International students study Japanese language, culture, and history and become active members here in the local community. Japanese students make friends with international students and together they share their language and culture. In this way, both our international students and our Japanese students study and grow together, learning from one another.

We find ourselves in an ‘information society’ now where a wealth of information is right at our fingertips. Being bombarded with so much information, how do we discern what is accurate and what is not? Written media, books, magazines, online articles; the amount of information available to us is almost limitless.

I am sure most of you have smartphones and they can certainly be a treasure box of information, but a garbage dump of information, as well. You might not think about your phone in this way, but you are walking around with your own “pocket library”!

With so much information available, we need to be very selective. As information consumers we must always check the authenticity of information and disregard information from questionable sources. The ability to identify

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reliable information allows us to make better and more-informed decisions.

How do people decide which information is of value to them and which is not? Throughout our lives we build up a “sense of smell”, an instinctive sense that we employ when sorting through various information. How do we train this “sense of smell” to allow us to better sniff out accurate information? I believe a grounding in liberal arts is the answer.

Kaichi International University was established with a strong focus on liberal arts education. We offer a variety of study areas and subjects to address a wide spectrum of student interest. Our academic curriculum here will definitely help you become a more discerning information consumer and a more critical thinker.

I hope you will make the most of your four years here at this university: be productive, cultivate yourself, engage in research, join club activities, make lifelong friends, and enjoy yourselves. Remember to be pro-active and always ready to take initiative. I wish you all the very best with your studies!

Thank you and welcome to Kaichi International University!

2019.04.02

President

Hideko KITAGAKI