

President's Address at the 2022 Graduation Ceremony

March 19, 2023

President, MIYAUCHI Takahisa

Kanda University of International Studies

Congratulations on your graduation.

Today is a day for you to express your heartfelt gratitude to all those who have taken care of you.

It is a day to reflect on the support you have received from your parents and guardians, and the kindness of the faculty and staff who have provided you with meticulous guidance.

卒業おめでとうございます。

本日は、皆さんがお世話になった全ての方々に対して、心から感謝の気持ちを表す一日です。支えていただいた保護者の方々の、また、きめ細かなご指導いただいた教員、職員の方々のご恩を思い返す日です。

I am sure that despite the inconvenience of COVID-19, you have had a fulfilling university experience, deepening your interest in language and culture, which you have continued to explore through your studies of foreign languages.

After completing the strict KUIS curriculum, that diploma you have in your hand now is proof of the hard work you put in during the precious years of your youth. You should be proud of your four years at KUIS.

COVID-19 という不自由な環境の中にも、皆さんは外国語学習を通じ、探究し続けた「言葉と文化」への興味関心を深め、充実した大学生活を送られたと思います。KUIS の厳しいカリキュラムを終了し、今手にした「学位記」は青春時代の貴重な4年間に励んだことの立派な証明書です。

KUIS の4年間に誇りを持ってください。

Now, as you graduate, I would like to encourage you to "worry correctly". My personal style is to make it a habit to think critically and "to pause briefly and take a realistic view of your options".

さて、卒業に当たり、私は皆さんに、「正しく悩む」ということを奨励したいと思います。私の流儀は“Critical Thinking”と“区切りをつけ、割り切ること”の習慣化です。

Life is a series of worries, and we are constantly exposed to trials and challenges. When you start to worry about something, you sometimes become agitated, and at times you find yourself going in circles. At such times, we need to take a step back and look at ourselves objectively.

人生は悩みの連続で、常に試練と難題に晒され続けます。皆さんは何かに悩み考え始めると、ある時は先鋭化し、また、ある時は堂々巡りに陥ります。そんな時に一歩離れて自分自身を相対化して観るのです。

Critical Thinking means not just accepting what people say. You must ask "Is it true?" "What is it based on?" "What is the evidence?" This is an attitude of trying to look at things objectively through reading and discussion with others. Artificial intelligence is evolving quickly; for example, ChatGPT, which has recently taken the world by storm, answers any question immediately, and because it is logical, we are in danger of being easily influenced and may lose our way of thinking.

Critical Thinking とは他人の言うことを鵜呑みにせずに、「本当かな」「根拠は何か」「Evidence はあるのか？」と常に批判的に疑って考え、もっともらしい理屈や説明をつけて分かった気にならないことです。読書や他者との対話を通じて客観的にモノゴトを見ようとする姿勢です。AI の進化は素早く、例えば最近世界を席卷している ChatGPT はどんな質問にも即答し、それが論理的だから我々は簡単に影響されてしまい、思索のプロセスを奪われてしまう危険にさらされています。

Through criticism and comparison, we can deepen our objective thinking, but if you are too concerned about how others see you or how they see things and the world, you can lose sight of yourselves. It is also very dangerous to assume that you are the only one who is right. The way to avoid this trap is to think critically while respecting diversity. That is exactly the kind of Critical Thinking which you have learned at KUIS.

批判や比較を通じて客観的思考は深まりますが「他人の目」「世間の流れ」を気にしすぎると自己を見失いかねません。また、自分だけが正義と思いつつも非常に危険です。その罠から逃れる方法が、多様性を尊重しながら批判的にモノゴトを考えること、即ち皆さんが KUIS で学んだ Critical Thinking なのです。これを教養と読み替えてもよいでしょう。

“To pause briefly and take a realistic view of your options” also means to be aware of the passing of time. Just as a year is divided into the seasons spring, summer, fall, and winter, and each day has nighttime and daytime, human life also has such stages. If you look back on your life from the time you were children to your graduation ceremony today, you can realize the milestones such as birthdays, Shichi-Go-San, and the coming-of-age ceremony.

「区切りをつけ、割り切る」とは、時間軸を意識することです。一年に春夏秋冬があるようにモノゴトには季節のような切れ目があり、一日には夜と昼があるように人生にも区切りがあります。皆さんが子供であった頃から今日の卒業式までを振り返ってみると誕生日や七五三、成人式などの区切りを実感できるでしょう。

We are born into this world by chance, and in the limited time we have, we live, meet people, and pass away. Unless we make compromises among our personal worries and our job worries and our worries about international affairs, we will continue to have the same problems and they will get out of control. Geniuses aside, it is important for us ordinary people to have the attitude to live our lives while coming to terms with various challenges within a certain time frame.

我々は偶然にもこの世に生を受け、限られた時間の中で、生活をして、人と出会い、人生を終えていきます。個人、仕事上、国と国の関係の悩みにもある程度区切りをつけ、割り切らないといつまで経っても同じ悩みを抱え続け收拾がつかなくなります。天才は別として、我々凡人は一定の時間内に様々な課題と折り合いをつけながら生きて行く姿勢が大切だと思います。

Graduation is a major milestone in your lives. While the future holds infinite possibilities, at the same time, you will always encounter challenges and

difficulties. You have so many worries that it feels almost as if you were born just to worry.

There is a famous saying, "The more you know, the more you realize you don't know anything." You know very little about the world, your lives, and yourselves. It is not easy to live resolutely without being controlled by AI, which is evolving at a frightening pace, and without being deceived by others. Make your lives worthwhile by "worrying correctly", thinking critically and making your own decisions.

卒業は人生の中の大きな「区切り」です。今後も無限に広がる可能性があると同時に常に難問と試練に出会います。我々は悩む為に生まれて来たかと思うほど悩みを沢山抱えています。“The more you know, the more you know you don't know”「知れば知るほど、何も知らないことを知る」と有名な言葉がありますが、我々が知っていることはほんの僅かで、世の中のこと、人生のこと、自分のことを殆ど知りません。恐ろしい勢いで進化する AI にコントロールされずに、他者に騙されず、逞しく生きるとは簡単ではありませんが「正しく悩み」自分で判断しながら面白おかしい人生を送ってください。

Congratulations on your commencement.

ご卒業誠におめでとうございます。

神田外語大学 学長 宮内 孝久