

Congratulatory Message to Our Newly Enrolled Students,

From the Members of the Tokai National Higher Education and Research System

Congratulations on your admission to the Tokai National Higher Education and Research System (THERS). We are extremely honored to have so many ambitious, aspiring students joining our campus, which is presently filled with blooming trees and flowers in this beautiful spring season. On behalf of all the members of THERS, we would like to extend a hearty welcome to you as you venture into this new chapter of your life. We would also like to take this opportunity to appreciate all the people, including your guardians and your supervisors, who have supported you so far throughout your years of learning.

It is very unfortunate that for the entire past year, the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly changed the lives of people in our community and also the lives of others around the world. We know how disappointing it has been for you to find out that your school was closed or that it was forced to cancel extracurricular activities. Our lives have not been fully restored to normality yet, which is taking an emotional toll on all of us every day. You may still be experiencing denial of the opportunity to meet your classmates or friends out of safety concerns. Even under such huge constraints, your determination to keep yourself motivated to pass our entrance examination is beyond imagination for us as educators, who have many years of experience in academic studies. Your strenuous efforts and resolve to succeed are truly deserving of the respect of every member of the THERS. Please take pride in yourself for the great achievements attained solely by your constant dedication to studying for many years.

The Tokai National Higher Education and Research System was launched on April 1, 2020, bringing together Nagoya University and Gifu University into a single framework. Its prime objective is to develop human resources that are capable of creating a new era. We were supposed to celebrate the launch of THERS with students from both universities, but the AY 2020 Entrance Ceremony, the first important milestone for THERS, was canceled altogether. This ceremony, along with most of the subsequent planned celebrations or events, was also deferred due to the continued spread of COVID-19 infections. In this regard, the AY2021 Entrance Ceremony today is a real starting point for our newly enrolled students, and a real restart for the members of THERS. Under our guiding principle, “Creating our future with strong commitment and courage,” we are committed to taking every step forward together with our students. By taking

full advantage of the combined academic and human resources of the two universities that have been created and utilized over the years, every member of THERS pledges to give their utmost to live up to your expectations.

We may not be able to see the end of the tunnel of this pandemic anytime soon. However, although we are going through extremely difficult times presently, we have been given abundant opportunities to make new discoveries, and to be more creative or ingenious in finding solutions. Please continue to take on challenges, no matter what they may be, and stay on top of the ever-changing socioeconomic situations around the globe. You have already overcome tremendous hardships. Therefore, we know that you can truly impress us by making a significant, quantum leap in your new life. The future of THERS depends on you. Let us learn together and open the way for a better future.