



NAGOYA UNIVERSITY

Graduate School of

International Development (GSID)

## Dean's Message to the Graduates of GSID

Dear graduates, ladies, and gentlemen,

I am glad to celebrate this wonderful occasion. First of all, I congratulate all of you on your success. You should be very proud of yourselves for accomplishing your goal to get a Master's degree or a Doctoral degree. Now, you have got your diploma showing what you have achieved here at GSID.

It is a great pity that we cannot hold the graduation ceremony for you. The outbreak of the novel coronavirus stops almost all social activities. You wanted to invite your families and your friends to the service to exhibit your achievements. However, your wish was in vain. Indeed, it is a negative side of the globalization process of the world. We are living in a globalized society, where one small event in a country has tremendous effects on the whole globe. A piece of false information that toilet rolls will be sold out and difficult to purchase made people run to the shop, which has accelerated the shortage of the rolls. It is a ridiculous irony, but it is a fact. As a social science scholar, I believe that you have acquired the ability to discern whether the information given is correct or false, and to act reasonably and decently.

Some years ago, you came to GSID as a new student to adventure a new journey to the academic world. Although you may have known something about academia, almost everything was new to you. You did not know what you should do to get the degree and how you should write a thesis. But you read lots of books, articles, and documents. You studied them very attentively and carefully. You discussed various issues with your friends, your instructors, and your supervisors. You wrote so many words, sentences, paragraphs, and chapters for your dissertation that you cannot count their number. You made numerous presentations in your classes, in your seminars, and at academic conferences. Many of your paper was denied and rejected by your friends, your professors, and the journal referees. You were instructed to revise your thesis repeatedly day after day. It seemed to be an inescapable maze. You spent a tough time to survive your student life. Sometimes you were at a loss what you should do. You may have felt as if you had got yourself into somewhere that is impossible to get out. But you have endured the trial of the academic life and overcome many difficulties and challenges. You became physically, mentally, and spiritually strong enough to get out of there. Fortunately, you have good families, good friends, and excellent advisers to support you fully. Now you have just been awarded the

degree. Well done. From the bottom of my heart, I want to celebrate you on what you have done.

It is the end of your student life at GSID. But the end of something is the start of something. You may go back to your country. You may go back to your family. You may go back to your job. And you will start your new life. New challenges are waiting for you. But you are now a master in the field of international development, or you are a doctor in international development. You have been acquainted with sufficient knowledge, skills, and sprits to overcome the new challenges. The degree in international development was a goal for your whole life in GSID. It is true, but it was only valid before today. The degree is not a treasure you should protect carefully. Your power of knowledge, skills, and sprits you have obtained at GSID, just as demonstrated by the degree, are certainly weapons and armors which will protect you. Be confident of yourself. Believe yourself. And trust yourself.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we are living in an international society, which is being faced with global threats and challenges. The spread of the COVID-19 is one of such global issues. Furthermore, environmental issues, natural disasters, and an explosion of the world population may cause a shortage of food, water, medicines, and eventually a world crisis. You are supposed to act as a leader of your country. However, you should behave as a leader of the region, and as a leader of the world. Do not forget the community interests of international society.

I would like to remind you that the purpose of Nagoya University is to educate brave intellectuals. In GSID, you must have grown up to become a courageous intellectual. You have to provide the scientifically evidenced facts and theories. As an international researcher with courage, you must be responsible for what you advance and how you behave. International development is not a goal, but just a tool toward the happiness of the people. I expect that all of you will make a significant contribution to the happiness of the people around the globe. Act for the benefit of the world, not for yourself.

Once again, I congratulate all of you on your achievements. Thank you.

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Dean

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