

Dear Graduating Students of the Class of 2020,

Congratulations, members of the Class of 2020!

Over 70 students, including approximately 45 international students are graduating from TMU this fall. Knowing the importance of the moment for our graduating students, I regret to announce that TMU has made the difficult decision not to hold the fall 2020 formal in-person commencement ceremony due to ongoing restrictions on large gatherings put in place by local and national authorities, as well as TMU's own efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Although we are apart, we are together in spirit. I am writing today to celebrate your great accomplishments and your new life chapter.

As you prepare to leave TMU, I encourage you to continue to learn throughout life. You have completed your undergraduate or graduate programs, but learning does not end as you graduate. I am sure that TMU's quality research and education have sharpened your abilities to think critically over the course of your programs. Society is changing rapidly in every aspect: today's novel concept will soon become tomorrow's old fashioned commonsense. Lifelong learning is vital to future success and genuine leadership.

Vital to genuine leadership is compassion. We need leaders who are affectionate, considerate and thoughtful of others unconditionally - regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, age, sexual orientation, social status and more. We all have different beliefs, values, and cultural backgrounds. Yet, these differences sometimes make up the basis for historical biases, irrational disparities, prejudice and discrimination that torment many people. Japan, which may appear to enjoy affluence at first glance, also has many people suffering from prejudice, poverty and mental/physical difficulties. To make the world more wholesome and spiritually peaceful, we need leaders who are not only noble and informed but compassionate. I strongly hope that you will become such leaders.

Last, but not least, you are now a member of the TMU Alumni Association. I very much hope that you stay connected with the TMU community and consider TMU as your second home where you can come back and visit.

Once again, on behalf of TMU, I extend my very best wishes and warmest congratulations. Until we can be together again in person, stay safe, be well, and enjoy your remarkable achievement!

Jun Ueno

President

Tokyo Metropolitan University

Sep.24,2020