

Congratulations to the students entering the Nara Institute of Science and Technology (NAIST) in 2022. I congratulate you from the bottom of my heart.

You have chosen to pursue your studies at NAIST, situated in Kansai Science City, an area which aims to be an innovative and global center for pioneering academic research. As a world-renowned educational hub in the city, NAIST has assumed a central role in conducting cutting-edge educational research and creating new industries.

Last year, under the leadership of President, Shiozaki Kazuhiro, NAIST celebrated its 30th anniversary. In the future, as IoT and AI permeate our daily lives and we work towards the creation of a society that produces new value, I expect that the roles that you will assume will become increasingly important.

Meanwhile, more than two years after the spread of the novel coronavirus infection, it is still not contained. I am sure that some of you today are worried about the NAIST educational environment and research activities, but I am convinced that the experience of overcoming this coronavirus pandemic will provide you with an opportunity to think about the value of science and technology, the state of society and the economy, and to create innovations.

Now, needless to say, by integrating the entire NAIST into a single Graduate School of Science and Technology in 2018, NAIST has laid the foundation for bringing together different disciplines to create innovation and human resources to take on global challenges such as the SDGs. Furthermore, with a view to the year 2030, NAIST aims to be "a university that co-creates the future with cutting-edge science and technology".

I expect NAIST graduates to understand the latest science and technology in various fields, to have not only individual expertise but also broad perspectives, flexible ideas, integrity and creativity, and to support and contribute to the development of science and technology in the future.

To those entering NAIST today, in order to accomplish these missions, I ask you to take advantage of the excellent resources around you, fully engage yourself in your studies, and be diligent in the pursuit of your research activities.

April 5, 2022

ARAI Shogo

Governor of Nara Prefecture