

To Graduates of the School of Science

On behalf of the faculty members and staff of the School of Science, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to students who are about to graduate and receive their degrees in science. I also wish to convey my congratulations and gratitude to the families who have devoted themselves to their studies for so long.

This year, degrees will be conferred on a total of 734 students, including 32 from overseas, comprising: Undergraduate degree: 293 students; Master's degree: 327 students; PhD: 114 students.

It is truly regrettable that the graduation ceremony to mark your graduation was greatly affected by the spread of the novel coronavirus. However, I believe that we can learn many lessons if we consider major natural disasters such as the novel coronavirus pandemic and the Great East Japan Earthquake as a warning to human society.

“Nature” is a kind of abyss that can be frightening and sometimes give us severe warnings against our self-conceit and arrogance. As you are about to take the next step in your lives, I would like you all to remember that, as compared with nature, “humankind is small” and “our wisdom is still limited,” as I am sure you have all felt during your studies of the natural sciences here. Whether you are engaged in research or working in companies, I hope that you will listen sincerely to “nature” and face “challenging phenomena” of the society with humility. Having this feeling, I hope that you, as a graduate of the School of Science, will tackle challenging phenomena with resolve and determination. But, when you come up against difficulties, please remember that we are always here for you and will welcome you back. So, our doors are always open to you all.

To this end, we wish to improve our alumni network. Please let us have your contact information for future reference and a mail address that is unlikely to change. In the future, I would like to provide you with the latest information on the activities of the School of Science through mail or other means. From April, you will become OBs and OGs, in other words, alumni of the School of Science. As you pursue your activities in diverse social scenarios, I hope that you will sometimes remember the School of Science, The University of Tokyo, your alma mater, and that you will all continue to be supporters of “natural science.”

Finally, I hope that you will all be blessed with a bright future. Congratulations!

Hiroyuki Takeda

Dean,

School of Science, The University of Tokyo

March 23, 24, 2020