

## **Congratulatory Remarks**

**Conference of Foreign Studies University Consortium of Japan**

*Tokyo, Japan*

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President Hirotaka Tateishi of Tokyo University of Foreign Studies,  
Representatives of Consortium member universities,

It is my great pleasure to deliver congratulatory remarks in this prestigious conference of Foreign Studies University Consortium of Japan. I in particular would like to thank President Tateishi for inviting me to the conference, who kindly visited us to congratulate our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in April this year. As my university is currently working with numerous universities in Japan including Tokyo University of Foreign Studies to develop student exchange programs, I am more delighted to attend this meaningful conference.

I understand you are gathered here to discuss the undertaking of global education, which I believe would include future inter-university collaboration and education projects to connect local communities with the global community. As we are living in a truly global community, your concerns and efforts, I believe, have great implications in many ways. Today not only nations interact with each other, but also individuals freely move around beyond national boundaries to live as international citizens. Once monopolized by the national authority, information is now shared and produced by the general public.

These trends will get faster in the future global community where our descendants live. As an educator and the president of a university, looking ahead such a future, I believe nurturing our students to develop global mindset is of utmost importance. It means our students should be encouraged to develop mindsets and attitudes to empathize, participate, and cooperate with others to tackle major issues around the world. When equipped with such talents, they will contribute not only to their own future, but also to that of their society and nation, and ultimately to the promotion of peace in this planet of the Earth.

I firmly believe it is the university who should educate talents to develop such global mindsets. And the basis of the global mindsets is formed through language education. It

is only when you know the languages that you can learn thoughts, cultures, politics, economy, ways of living and customs in different regions, properly interacting with people there. Looking forward to such changes and demands of our time, my university, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, HUFS is doing its best to nurture global mindsets through teaching 45 foreign language courses based on which courses of politics, economy, philosophy, culture, literature, and customs to cover various regions around the world. In addition, as a multi-faculty university, HUFS fosters attitudes of convergence and integration in its education. As a consequence, HUFS offers interdisciplinary majors, strengthening links between different fields of study.

The globalized future - for which we should prepare our students - will demand our students to combine technologies on the basis of humanistic imagination and cultural and artistic sensitivity. Such eras of convergence and integration will be led by foreign language competency and humanistic qualities.

In order to realize and further expand such goals, we need inter-university exchange and collaboration more seriously than ever. Universities should more readily open their education and research resources and knowhow for further cooperation, thereby creating synergy effects. Only when this is done will we see our students and our descendants develop reciprocal relations, advance to a bigger world, and realize grand welfare to consequently bring about peace in the world.

To conclude my remarks, I would like to express my firm belief that the considerations and efforts made by you to teach youth, who are our future leaders, will bring about great results. I hope you will have a productive conference, and I personally hope we will have more opportunities to meet to share our thoughts and views. I once again thank President Tateishi for inviting me, and I wish you all good health and good luck.

Dr. InChul Kim

President, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies