



The Chiba Institute of Technology (CIT) was established in 1942 under the old imperial university system. It is the engineering university with the second-longest history in Japan after the Tokyo Institute of Technology, a national university. Only a few private universities were able to create engineering faculties before the Second World War because the government was reluctant to permit engineering education to be taught at places other than national universities. Only three of these CIT, Keio University, and Waseda University were allowed to have three-year university preparatory and three-year regular courses of study at the time of our establishment.

At the time of CIT's establishment, the prominent Japanese philosopher Kitaro Nishida clarified the school's overall purpose, writing in our university prospectus that CIT would train personnel with the love of learning to seek expertise worldwide, support world culture and take on responsibilities not just in Japan but in Asia as well. The ideals he outlined have been passed down in the form of our school motto, "Contributing to world culture through technology."

Contemporary society is said to be in an age of globalization. Globalization" is not the same thing as "internationalization," which involves things moving goods and services among countries. Let me talk a bit about this in this address.

The word internationalization is said to have its origins in the phrase "be internationalized," which appeared in the Yalta agreements the heads of the U.S., Soviet Union and U.K. reached in 1945 toward the end of World War II. The phrase was used to describe multilateral access to the port of Dalian - once a Japanese leasehold - enabling multiple countries to use the port. In other words, internationalization indicates multiple countries strengthening their ties, acting together, and having economic and cultural effects on each other.

In contrast, "globalization" signifies the advent of a worldwide society that has eradicated barriers and borders, including national borders. American philosopher Oliver Leslie Reiser and Canadian writer Blodwen Davies apparently first cited this philosophy in their 1944 book Planetary Democracy, indicating that scientific humanism is rooted in globalism - the notion that the Earth is a single community.

The words internationalization and globalization appeared in the world at about the same time, but internationalization as a concept subsequently developed rapidly.

It is no exaggeration to say that whether it be politics, economics, academia, art, sports, industry, agriculture or business, nothing is free from the influence and involvement of multiple countries.

However, the world is now approaching a great turning point. As newly emerging nations in Africa and Asia compete in pursuit of growth, the foundations of the systems and order built around the developed nations that have been running the world have begun to shake.

Moreover, such issues as environmental destruction, global warming, infectious diseases, food, energy and the problems of social and economic disparity have grown quite serious, and cannot be solved by particular countries alone. We have reached the point at which the entire Earth must be united to build a sustainable world. For that purpose, we seek to create a global society that has eradicated various barriers and boundaries.

Advances in scientific technology have already made a global society a reality. We have achieved society in which people, goods and money move dynamically without regard to nations' borders. Huge networks that link all the Earth's people may be built, and people who are connected throughout the world will undertake various actions.

I would like to see the CIT's people all stand out in this kind of global society, and see them work using their singular talents, doing work that will make them, their surroundings and even the entire world shine.

If we connect all the people in the world with straight lines on a world map on which countries are denoted by different colors, the shapes on the map will all be covered by lines nearly infinite in number, and the map will become a piece of paper in a single color.

If white were used for the lines, the world map would likely become a piece of white paper.

There is nothing exciting about looking at white paper. Let a drop of black ink fall in the center of this white paper, however, and the surrounding white stands out, changing the white into something impressive. I would like to see the CIT's people all involved in work that has that effect.

CIT was a world leader in many research fields, including life sciences and acoustics etc this one year. In August of last year, CIT and six partners have set a new transmission capacity record of 118.5 Tbps over conventional thickness optical fiber. CIT's graduate student developed pluggable connectors based on existing MU-type or SC-type interfaces in this project. These connectors included rotational alignment features to ensure that the four cores are correctly positioned. In December, the Panasonic-CIT Industry-Academia Collaboration Center - CIT's first collaboration center with a company - opened its doors. As a result, CIT is always high in the national rankings of government subsidies allocated for scientific research, an indication of our university's high research standards. CIT will continue to contribute to society through research. CIT is ranked in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2016/17 and 2018.

CIT cannot talk about productive education and research if it leaves out passion. The considerable amount of time the CIT faculty devote to education and research is proof of that fact. As stated in the introductory text of CIT's educational goals, the spirit of students and teachers learning and growing together, when teachers use their own time unstintingly for students so they can excel together, has been part of CIT's academic culture since our establishment.

29th June, 2018

President Professor Kazuhito Komiya, PhD