



## Ceremonial Address for the March 2020 Degree Ceremony The United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences, Ehime University

I would like to sincerely congratulate the 19 people who are being awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy today. In 34 years history, today, UGAS has resulted to have conferred PhD totally on 1251 people. Of the 19 people who are being awarded PhD today, 8 are international students from 4 countries: Indonesia, Thailand, Nepal and Bangladesh. The other 10 are Japanese students including 4 from society and 1 is awarded PhD under the RONPAKU program.

I believe that all of you have studied hard and diligently to fulfil your research. Now you could have developed your abilities and insights as a professional researcher. As Dean of UGAS, I would like to give unstinted praise to your efforts. I would also like to express my respect to your supervisors and instructors, who have guided and encouraged you with enthusiasm, and to your family members, friends and others who have supported you.

During the PhD program, I believe that you could have enjoyed exchanging different cultures collaborated with Japanese and other country people in your academic and ordinary life. Some of you have already had a job and will restart your career by playing an active part in society, and some of you will begin your new life in earnest. The research results you have achieved for your dissertation, the specialized knowledge and skills you have gained and, above all, processes you have traced are irreplaceable treasures.

Due to the pandemic of COVID-19, I had to decide to cancel today's ceremony. I can imagine how you all wanted to attend the commemorative ceremony. These years, we have been experiencing various unexpected natural and artificial phenomena, hazards or disasters. I hope we could practice what we can do and what we must do to deal with those scientifically and philosophically to contribute in society.

Lastly, new PhDs, be creative more. I believe you could broaden your horizons and continue to investigate solutions for a sustainable world.

March 17, 2020

Hiroki Oue

Dean, UGAS, Ehime University