

LETTER

GraSPP
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO

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Departure ... to a New World

On the afternoon of September 16, 26 new graduates from 17 different countries dressed up in suits, dresses, hakama, and gowns to attend the GraSPP fall graduation ceremony at the Daiwa House Nobuo Ishibashi Memorial Hall. After an address by Dean Toshiaki Iizuka, who wore an academic gown, the degree certificates were presented to the attendees one by one, the radiant-faced new graduates shaking hands with the Dean as they received their certificates. This scene was watched over from behind by smiling parents and siblings. Some of the students' families came to Japan for the first time to attend this once-in-a-lifetime event. During the ceremony, there was a hearty round of applause for the families who had sent their sons or



daughters to GraSPP and supported them in their academic endeavors.



On the afternoon of September 21, a guidance presentation was held in Faculty of Law and Letters Building 1 for the new Fall intake students. The presentation was attended by 50 new students enrolled in master's degree program and six on the newly established doctoral program. The new entrants were seated in designated seating, where they waited nervously, chatted to those around them, or found familiar faces and renewed past friendships. It was a heartwarming scene with a sense of optimistic expectation for their new environment. The presentation started with a greeting from the Dean and self-introductions by the teaching staff present. These were followed by presentations on programs and things like how to go about course registration. After a break, the newcomers were taken on a campus tour by current students. Another guidance was held the day before for overseas students.

At each of these events, when looking at the students, it would have been easy to forget for the moment that you were in Japan. The proportion of overseas students at GraSPP

is already more than 40%. We need to make the most of these endowments in the new worlds into which each of these graduates who have completed their time at GraSPP will now enter, and at GraSPP, which is itself a new world for our new entrants.

(text by the Editor)

