

令和 8 年（2026）年度 10 月期入学式 学長式辞

Congratulations on your admission to Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology. I would like to welcome all the new students here today. And I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to Mr. Matsumoto Kazuaki, Chairman of Rakusui-kai, and Mr. Sekine Hiroshi, Chairman of Kaiyo-kai, for taking time to attend today despite their busy schedules.

I am sure you are all eager to begin your studies and research in this new environment. At TUMSAT, you will meet inspiring professors and take an important new step in your academic journey. I encourage you to build a strong relationship with your supervisor through open and honest scholarly discussions.

Let me also offer one more piece of advice. As you know, the progress of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been truly remarkable. I strongly recommend making effective use of AI in your learning and research.

The Japanese Ministry of Education promotes AI-driven research, referred to as “*AI for Science*,” and expects to accelerate research cycles, broaden the scope of research, and foster innovation in scientific research. They started a research promotion program called SPReAD1000. The name is an abbreviation for “Supporting Pioneering Research through AI for 1,000 Discovery challenges.” This program aims to promote and accelerate scientific research in all fields, including your own research topics. It supports ambitious researchers with novel ideas and promotes innovative scientific research that establishes a unique competitive advantage for Japan.

The maximum grant amount is 5 million Japanese yen, and applications are open to both undergraduate and graduate students. Applications for this year have already closed, but the program is planned to be held again next year, so if you want to make significant progress on your research topics, please apply.

TUMSAT also offers a "*Graduate Program in Marine AI and Data Science*" in collaboration with relevant private companies. This program is open to all graduate students, regardless of their major. Professors with expertise in AI will serve as mentors, helping you incorporate AI and data science methods into your research projects. If you are uncertain about joining, you can begin with the *Marine AI Core Course* to get an idea of your own potential. Once you have mastered AI as a tool, you can transfer into the full program. I encourage you to discuss this option with your supervisor.

Finally, as you begin your university life today, please feel free to consult with our faculty and staff at any time. You also have powerful supporters, including Rakusui-kai on the Shinagawa campus and Kaiyo-kai on the Etchujima campus, our university's alumni association. I encourage you to join the global alumni network, and I sincerely hope you enjoy your fruitful student life.

October 5, 2026
President, TUMSAT
Iseki Toshio