

Speech by Ambassador Takata  
at the Commencement Ceremony of  
Institute of the Pacific United (IPU NZ)  
Monday, 1 May 2017

Mr. Hiroshi Ohashi, CEO/Chairman of the Board of Trustees, IPU New Zealand

Professor Wayne Edwards, President of IPU New Zealand and other executive members of IPU

Mr. Ian McKelvie, Mr Iain Lees-Galloway and Mr. Darroch Ball, Members of Parliament

Distinguished guests

Teachers, parents and students

Kia ora Koutou.

Good afternoon. It is a great pleasure for me to be with you all today to say a few words on this Commencement Ceremony of IPU New Zealand.

As I can see many international students are here today, I believe that IPU is an excellent educational institution for higher studies as it offers excellent faculty and staff, and a favourable learning environment on this beautiful campus. Thus, it provides an ideal place designed for receiving quality education and forging international cooperation and life-long friendships. This type of people-to-people and inter-cultural exchanges in the field of education, is a crucial step to understanding each other and to working towards a common future for a much better world to live in.

Talking about myself, I have been working more than 40 years now as a diplomat who was assigned in several countries across the globe. Each time I am being posted to a country, there are so many things to learn about their people and history, and their domestic and international affairs, to name a few. But in order to succeed in our work, making solid personal relationships are the key to forging friendly ties and mutual understanding with the governments and peoples of our host countries.

Since you are now with IPU, I would like to encourage you all to study hard to go beyond your limits and work diligently toward your goals. At the same time, you are being encouraged to make as many friends as possible while you are here because they will be valuable assets for your future career. There is a saying in Japan, “多くを学び 多くの友を得られるように” which means “Learn a lot and make lots of friends”. As human beings, the ability to continue to grow and learn is our unique trait. It is therefore something we should cherish and continue to be doing throughout our lives.

Thank you very much for your kind attention and I wish you all the best.

Tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa.