

## The Opening Speech

To all the students enrolled in October 2024, all our school staffs have been looking forward to your commencement day.

Recently, my staff and I have visited your countries and Japanese language schools there. In Myanmar, we stayed mainly in Yangon. At the Japanese language schools we visited, we were moved by the enthusiastic and simple study attitude . We were also overwhelmed by the size and beauty of the Shwedagon Pagoda, one of the best world-class Buddhist holy sites. The Republic of Myanmar is truly worthy of the expression "the country of prayer." We enjoyed local dishes such as mohinga and tamin-gyaw.

In Nepal, we stayed mainly in Kathmandu. At the Japanese language school in Bhaktapur, we were very moved by the welcome we received from students beautifully dressed in Japanese kimonos. At the Former Royal Palace Museum in Patan, we were able to see many valuable national treasures. The contrast between the majestic background of Everest and the way people were living was magnificent, and I realized that the Republic of Nepal is "the country of the gods." We were treated to dal-bhat, momos, and other foods.

Today I am fortunate enough to welcome you from both countries, and my joy becomes all the greater because of the experience of visiting you.

I myself had the opportunity to study abroad in London more than 30 years ago, and that experience gave me another opportunity to be involved in work that I would never have imagined while in Japan. In a student exchange program connecting Oceania countries with Japan, I was able to research "multicultural coexistence society" with the Malaysian Ministry of Education and local schools. I was also able to support the lives of approximately 700 international students at the Tokyo International Exchange Center. It all started with my experience studying abroad.

From the interview test with you, I could see you all have a vision that you would like to develop your career in Japan around a 10-year perspective. The "Japanese" you learn at Humanitas Japanese Language School will surely be your passport to the future dreams and hopes. Our staff will provide you with the utmost support. Let's help each other and cooperate to make your dreams come true.

October 9, 2024

Humanitas Japanese Language School

Principal IWATA MANABU