

Chairperson's speech on Wednesday, 14th July

I decided to deliver this speech to give every staffs member information about the basic policy in order to be able to work with a common way of thinking. This is important because our office working staff have the most important role in this institution.

Last year, we had some big events like the symposium in August, the establishment of Tokiwa Institute for Teacher Education (T.I.T.E.) in September, the lecture in October and the ceremony in November. These 100th anniversary events will continue for the next three years. In the symposium and the ceremony, our staff's eagerness for working was evaluated very highly, especially in the term of hospitality. Their evaluations for the students who attended as volunteers were also good as well. I felt privileged and also the importance of the institution's traditional aspects at the same time. We have started to work with a global perspective with this 100th anniversary, therefore I would like all of you to consider what this institution should be like and work together with a common policy. The university is an institution which has both research and education, and leads the whole institution, including the kindergarten to the graduate school. We need to work on research and education with the intention of creating "Tokiwa University of the world," or at least, "Tokiwa University of Asia." Of course it is important to be respected regionally, however, we need to have the aim of maintaining high-level research and education, all the time with the global perspective.

As you know, some companies, like *Nissan*, *Uniqlo*, and *Rakuten*, have decided to have English as an official language in their office. Mr. Mikitani, the president of *Rakuten*, declared that he would fire his employees if they weren't able to use English within three years. In this global society, which doesn't have borders between each countries, everything, such as politics, economy, culture and society, is running globally. In the educational field, where we nurture young people who are going to perform in those fields, why are educational institutions not global? Educational institutions, which lead the world, should take prompt action. I think Japan, in 5 to 10 years, will be as I mentioned here today, and most universities and educational institutions will take action to aim for this goal at once. As you know, Japanese are a people who takes action with great pace once they have made up their minds. Therefore, at the moment each field had recognized the need, their moving pace will become rapid. We are going at a pace which is preceding them a little bit.

In Europe, especially among EU countries, borderless universities have began and have been developing. Major universities cooperate with each other, using the Internet, with each university offering lectures at associate universities in different countries at the same time. There are more

than 20 languages in Europe, therefore various languages are used at first. However, as time passes, English may well become a global language. Some European professors I know are moving between countries and having lectures at associate universities. As you may well imagine, the lectures are done in English, and degrees received are compatible. These trials have already started also in Asia. Some experts say that only Japan might get left behind. It could happen that every Asian country may move on with such associations and only Japan can't follow it. I mentioned previously in this speech that our aim is to become "Tokiwa University of the world," or at least, "Tokiwa University of Asia". If so, English should be an official language in this institution. Certainly, both Japanese and English should be used fluently as an official language within several years.

Sad to say, some of our foreign staffs say they are in trouble with their Japanese skill. However, it should be that we are in trouble with our English skill. Specifically, here is Professor Chockalingam speaking in very fluent English, however, his mother tongue is not English. Professor Kirchoff is from Germany and his mother tongue is German, of course, but he uses English in Japan. Therefore it is natural for us to use English to communicate with him. Recently, I have some opportunities to attend the meetings of United Nations and so on. Even though the official language is Chinese or Russian, nobody use those languages except for the people who couldn't acquire English because of their old age. When we have a conversation between Japanese and Chinese, we could conventionally think to use Japanese or Chinese. Of course, it is good for us to acquire Chinese language, if you are interested in it. I would very much like to. However, at least, I would like you all to communicate in English. In my experiences, I always use English as a communication tool, not Japanese or Chinese. English education around Asian countries is going on with rapid pace. If the generation is younger, it is more eager. As you know, the Ministry of Education made a big mistake in Japan. They vastly reduced English classes in primary and secondary education. Some of our staff, who entered in the last few years, also received that education, where English was considered not so important. At last educators noticed the importance of English recently and started to have English classes in the elementary school. It is strange of them to change their minds so suddenly.

There are some foreign students in our graduate school, especially in the doctoral program of victimology and human science. They studied here in English, wrote theses in English as well, and proceeded to obtain degrees. Muhammad Ali, from India, has graduated last spring semester after writing an excellent thesis under the tutelage of Professor Chocklingam and Professor Kirchoff. I attended his oral examination as a referee. These graduates return to their countries after they performed world-level research, and will perform well someday. They will work as a

person with the title of Tokiwa University's MA or Dr. Such distinguished education is going on in a part of this institution.

The other day, Mr. Kan, Japanese Prime Minister, joined a summit and his image there made me, though I think not only for me, extremely disappointed. Recently we had former Prime Ministers, such as Mr. Aso or Mr. Hatoyama, who can have at least daily conversation in English, and it reassured me a little. However, the present Prime Minister was completely isolated in the summit. It is normal to have a translator and speak correctly in official negotiations; however, it is a too miserable situation where only one person can't join the pleasant talks. I felt extremely sad with the truth that Mr. Kan is the representative of Japan.

By the way, I am planning for everyone to use English more and more in this institution. Though the aim to set English as an official language is still a few years off, I would like to make this place to use English as a matter of course. As you know, Kevin, who is from U.S. and his mother tongue is English, came and worked in the third floor of the administration building for the occasion of last year's symposium. Even though I expected that the English skills of the staffs of third floor would improve over his three years, in actuality it was Kevin's Japanese that improved very much. I was very surprised when I noticed that these days. Had the staff communicated only in Japanese? Why hadn't they talked in English! This year's employment program has already started, and we are very positive to employ foreigners. We require the new staff to have the ability of English. Eventually, one-third of our office staff should be made up of foreigners. Please enhance your English skills. It is needless to say, but the important thing is daily continual efforts, even a little bit. I am also watching TV English programs in the morning. I could enjoy it gradually if I watch it every day even though the program was only for 10 to 15 minutes. Please consider your own circumstance, and find something connected to English and which fits your lifestyle.

Chigakukan was designed to have a high level English program when it was established, providing English skills such as students need in order to enter foreign universities as soon as they graduate. During the preparation, one staff member asked to have the English lessons for the office workers because there are many good English teachers. When I heard it, I got angry and said, "Don't take advantage of them, you should do it by yourself." Actually, Mrs. Morosawa has taught in her English lesson as a volunteer since last spring. I heard some said they are eager and the class interesting, and I would like her to continue this. Although the lesson was overlapped for 30 minutes with office working time, I allowed it because it could be hard for staff to attend class after working. Hereafter, your result depends on your effort; however, there should be some support for those trying to enhance their English skills.

Since this year, the English training program abroad has started. Considering the budget, we are planning to send two of our staffs to the short period language training. As it is going to last for the time being, there will be a chance for the person who is doing effort constantly. The training period will be one to three months and provides chances to join classes in an English speaking country. The level might be beginner at first, however we are preparing the program to include working experience in a U.S. university after the English level has reached higher than intermediate. Mrs. Morosawa went to California State University last spring to negotiate this possibility, and found that there is the possibility. They are very eager to have this program. However, sad to say, we don't have staff members to meet the required level of English skill this year, and therefore they will wait for us. So we would like to set the program as a chance for someone who acquires a certain level of communicative English. Furthermore, a staff member with a sufficient level of English can experience work/study abroad longer, from 6 months to a year. I hope some staff members will take advantage of it in this university. I hope to develop this program as I mentioned, however, we need the agreement of everyone in the conference.

Hereafter, it could be said that English ability is the minimum condition for the staff of Tokiwa University. I declare, I would like people who don't want to study English to resign. Staff who are not good at English, but nevertheless are making an effort are welcome to work here longer. I mean to say there are only two choices: to make an effort or to quit the job. We won't discard the people who are trying to do their best, even though it is hard. Please think about it by yourself. I mentioned this abruptly, however the society is like this. Once there was a time of change when computer skills became the necessity to get a job. Nowadays computer skill is the minimum requirement for work. Without it, we can't get any job. It is inevitable. To acquire English is the same thing. There are not so many people who have acquired English skill so far, but it could be natural to have English ability in 5 to 10 years. Especially, the College of Applied International Studies is focusing on strong English skills. We are intent on turning out students with such skills. We are anticipating the situation where our student's English skill is so good that every company will want to hire them. In order to make it possible, I stress the need for English education. Looking at the world, the institutions which survive are those that have overcome the low level of Japanese English skills. Educational institutions are such places. Because now is the time that the academic world is going to change on a grand scale, I would like all of you to recognize this situation. It is important to keep studying constantly, whatever suits you, and you can notice your skill has improved someday. I know some people are keep studying by themselves, and I have noted them. Please consider carefully what I mentioned today.