

March 18th, 2011

On the Tohoku-Pacific Ocean Earthquake

By the Tohoku-Pacific Ocean Earthquake and the accompanied massive tsunami occurred on March 11th, 2011, a huge number of precious lives have been taken away. I would like to express my sincere sorrow over all the victims, and it is my sincere hope that all the sufferers and the severely damaged areas are rapidly recovered.

By the careful consideration of the situation, Waseda University has decided to cancel the conferment ceremony to be held in March, 2011. Accordingly, Graduate School of Global Information and Telecommunication Studies, GITS, has also decided to cancel its conferment ceremony in March, 2011. Although I understand that all the graduating students working and studying very hard for the last couple of years in their research areas must have looked forward to attending the ceremony and receiving their diplomas, I would like to ask for their kind understanding by considering the situation in the damaged areas and of the sufferers from their global perspectives, which is one of the GITS educational policies.

In addition, I understand that all the new students entering GITS in coming April must be worried about their new lives in GITS. Waseda University and GITS are now preparing the various kinds of supportive systems for them as much as possible. I would like to ask new students to challenge and tackle new and innovative research themes in GITS that contribute toward the new generation of our human society, by getting over this difficulty.

We are a week away from the tragic event, however, there is still an unpredictable situation. We, GITS, including all the faculty members and students, together, would like to contribute as much as possible for the rapid recovery and restoration of all the sufferers and the damaged areas.

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