

FY2025 Toyota Technical Skills Academy Graduation Ceremony Chairman Toyoda Speech

Congratulations to the graduates and their families.

I would also like to thank Mr. Sawada of the Aichi Labor Bureau and the many other distinguished guests for their attendance

I heard that this year's graduation ceremony, from the emcee to those assisting with the ceremony, is all organized by the current students. They wanted to personally see off the seniors who have supported them. I'm honored to be a part of such a meaningful graduation ceremony held in the spirit of the Academy.

I am seeing the graduates again, two weeks after meeting them at Akio Juku.

"Teach me when to be truthful and when to save face."

"Give Nanako some encouraging words."

"Arm-wrestle me so I can feel confident."

There were many fun questions and requests.

They shouted with joy during the rally car demo run.

And finally, you all said, "We want to show how we've matured at the graduation ceremony."

Looking at your faces now, you've truly matured.

The daily effort in morning meetings and training has added up to this.

The high school course students underwent long-distance swimming training in the ocean.

I heard that many of them had been unable to take swimming lessons for three years during junior high due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so some students couldn't swim at all.

Even so, they practiced on their own, and every student was able to swim five kilometers in under two hours.

That's equivalent to completing 200 laps in a 25-meter pool.

I think that's truly amazing.

The professional course students participated in training where they visited an unfamiliar region and took on the challenge of developing a project plan.

When you volunteered to pick up trash in front of Hakata Station, strangers passing by thanked you.

I can imagine how pleased you must have been.

I hope you all grow to be not only people who are thanked, but people who can thank others.

Every time I stand at this podium, I feel I'm touching the core of Toyota's history.

The Academy is part of Toyota's history, and you are its embodiment.

"We want to train skilled and reliable people to make good, affordable cars."

Those are Kiichiro Toyoda's words.

At a time when Japan had no money or technology, and people said Japanese couldn't make cars, Kiichiro insisted on training them.

He founded the Toyota Technical Youth School, the precursor to this Academy.

The first headmaster, Eiji Toyoda, told the students, "Grow into the future."

This phrase embodies the wish that you carry on the Toyota spirit and pass it into the future.

Honorary Chairman Shoichiro Toyoda gave a lecture at the Academy, telling students to grow as people and become leaders in their workplaces.

Everyone here is building on the history that Toyota has preserved.

What you learned in an age where AI is a given was not just to seek the right answers, but to never give up, to consider others and help one another with a kind spirit, no matter the difficulties or failures you face.

This is why you're so radiant now.

And this is why I truly believe Toyota is in good hands.

At work, your skills will grow, but some things can't be done if you get stuck in the organization.

If that happens, remember what you learned here.

That, I believe, is your true self, and the true spirit of Toyota.

Have confidence in the days spent here with your colleagues.

Now, to the instructors.

In an era when it's difficult to be strict with subordinates and juniors, you poured your heart and soul into teaching each student as a living human being. It's not something that can be done with half-hearted intention.

All of you are mentors that these young men and women will remember for the rest of their lives.

I hope you will continue to watch over their growth.

To the families.

These graduates have been able to grow so much thanks to the education they received at home before joining the Academy.

I'm sure this has been a great source of support for them.

Thank you for entrusting your precious children to our care.

I will give my full support to ensure that each graduate goes on to a life filled with smiles and joy, so please rest assured.

Once again, everyone, congratulations.

Akio Toyoda
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Toyota Motor Corporation
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