

Speech of the inauguration of the President at NVSU by Mizo (2023.3.23)

Thank you for the introduction. My name is Masaru Mizoguchi. I am currently a professor at the University of Tokyo. I am very honored and delighted to be here today.

I first met President Wilfred about 20 years ago in a laboratory in Japan. At that time, I was an associate professor at the Chisui laboratory. This laboratory is one of the agricultural engineering laboratories.

I have a question for you. Have you ever heard of Hachiko, a very famous dog?

The founder of agricultural engineering was Dr. Ueno, who was the owner of Hachiko.

In this laboratory, we conduct basic research on soil and water, which are the foundation of agriculture. The policy of the laboratory is to acquire data by ourselves and to obtain original data. And we value free discussion among everyone from professors to graduate students based on the acquired data. The Chisui lab has produced two presidents of Japanese national universities, both of whom were seven and five years my senior. President Wilfred came to Japan in order to obtain his Ph.D. He was very enthusiastic and repeated experiments to obtain his Ph.D.

Wilfred and I resemble. We are both born and bred in rural areas in the country. We both valued the basic science of soil and water, while always thinking about local agriculture.

After he returned to NVSU, I visited this university in December 2011 at Wilfred's request to install the first field monitoring system in the Philippines.

I then asked Wilfred to be responsible for the Philippines in the GRENE-CAAM project that I was leading. Every year in March, we held workshops in Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Japan.

In 2016, we held a workshop in Fukushima in Japan.

Wilfred approached me for a consultation. I still remember it vividly.

He said, "I'm being asked by the university to choose between a career in research or a career

as an administrator. I am wondering what I should do”.

I advised him to choose the path of an administrator.

Looking back, if I had not given that advice at that time, I am sure that the current president of NVSU would not have been born.

In that sense, I am honored to have been able to make a significant contribution to this university. To develop agriculture throughout the region while placing importance on basic sciences. This is the motto of the Chisui laboratory. I do not doubt that Wilfred, who earned his Ph.D. in the lab, will be an excellent president.

I congratulate you from the bottom of my heart.

Finally, to celebrate the inauguration of the President, we Chisui lab members present you with a plaque of “GO Chisui lab Spirit!” along with a figurine of "Dr. Ueno and Hachiko".

Congratulations! Thank you very much.

