

Dean's Welcome Message

Due to the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, we have decided not to hold the September 2021 Entrance Ceremony for the new WBS students, however, please commit this day, September 21, 2021, to your memory. Today, 48 students are enrolled in the International MBA program, and 25 students are enrolled in the Master of Science in Finance program. The 73 of you, from all over the globe, are now members of WBS. You have started your research life today.

WBS is internationally accredited by AACSB and EQUIS and we believe that it is one of the top business schools in Japan. I think that an excellent business school must have a clear and compelling mission statement. The WBS's mission statement is as follows.

Our MISSION:

WBS creates a dynamic learning community for all stakeholders as a catalyst for developing insightful and responsible global leaders with actionable management knowledge.

Three important keywords are included in the WBS mission statement. They are:

- Actionable Management Knowledge
- Insightful and Responsible Leaders
- Dynamic Learning Community

What is actionable management knowledge? What kind of leader is insightful and responsible? How can you be a part of the dynamic learning community? You will learn about all of them at WBS for the next two years. However, one thing is clear to us. It is a fact that online education alone cannot achieve our mission. I understand that some of you are already in Tokyo, while some of you have not so far been able to come to Japan.

For those students who are unable to come to Japan, some courses will be delivered online in this semester. Nevertheless, we can be absolutely sure to hold some face-to-face interactive classes during the next academic year.

“The night is long that never finds the day.” This is a passage from Shakespeare's tragedy *Macbeth*. If I had to translate, I would say, “After the hard days, there's a bright future.” Yes, a bright future is waiting for you. We believe that we will be able to meet at the Waseda campus in the very near future. You may enjoy discussing various issues with professors and your classmates. We are waiting for you.

Congratulations and welcome to WBS.