

1 April 2011

## Message to GRIPS students from President Shiraishi

As I start my tenure as the President of GRIPS on this day, April 1, 2011, I would like to underscore the obvious that your health and well-being are very much on my mind and are the top priority of GRIPS. I fully understand your various concerns in view of the situation in the wake of the Tohoku-Pacific Earthquake and, therefore, I would like to make the following announcements.

As of March 30, over half our students remain in Japan and are waiting for the start of the new term. Of those students who have temporarily left Japan, many have informed us that they intend to return in time for the new term. In light of this situation, I have decided as follows:

- 1) We will go ahead with the original academic schedule and start classes and lectures on the week of April 4.
- 2) The registration period, however, will be extended to April 25 (Monday) and students can also register by e-mail. I would also like to remind you that, under the current regulations, you need to sign the register before the end of April to obtain your April scholarship.
- 3) I will ask all the professors, in consultation with the Dean and the Chairs of the Doctoral and Master's committees, to be flexible in dealing with students concerning such matters as grading and awarding of credits. I assure you that you will not be penalized for your initial absence.
- 4) I have asked the Academic and Student Affairs Division to be in close contact with all of our students regarding their whereabouts, their schedules, and whatever information would be pertinent in making decisions at GRIPS.
- 5) For the Winter Term, I have already asked all the instructors to be flexible and to give special consideration to students who were absent from classes. Please communicate with your professors regarding this matter.

I hope the above will address some of the concerns and worries you may have.

Despite the rolling blackouts and the situation with the nuclear power plant in Fukushima, daily life has mostly returned to normal for those living in and around Tokyo. Cherry blossoms have started to bloom and the new year for Japanese schools, universities, and businesses is about to

start. We will overcome the unprecedented disaster. The feeling of cooperation and commitment among us is strong.

We look forward to seeing you all back in Tokyo soon.

Takashi Shiraishi  
President