

## Acceptance Speech of the Honoree

Osamu Nakayama  
President  
Reitaku  
University

Ladies and gentlemen, President and colleagues of the University of Perpetual Help System DALTA, my Reitaku University colleagues, and everyone else gathered here today to participate in this Rite of Conferment. Thank you all very much. You are most kind. No one could be more surprised and touched than I to be standing here, nor less sure about how to respond appropriately to the conferment of the title of Visiting Professor Emeritus, which I know to be a great privilege and an undeserved honor. If I may refer to the themes of today's conference, I am overwhelmed by an amalgam of emotional gratitude and emotional indebtedness.

You have kindly drawn attention to the importance of the program of moral education that we offer in accordance with the tradition and legacy of Chikuro Hiroike. He himself dreamt of fostering academic collaboration in the field of moral education in the tertiary sector all over the world, but illness sadly prevented him from realizing that objective. Today, however, thanks to you, my distinguished UPH colleagues, I am able to take a significant step forward to realizing that cherished dream of his. I am also very happy that we share your deep belief that "character building is nation building" and that as "helpers of God" we should together, as Shakespeare said, "strive to do better".

I am deeply indebted to many people in this room and in the wider UPH community. I value you all as very good friends. I have worked with and for you in the past, and I look forward to widening and deepening our relationship in the future. You have made me wonderfully happy today. I thank you again for this great mark of distinction and for your patient attention to these remarks of mine.