

Voyage toward the Future



HIRAYAMA Katsutoshi, Ph. D.

*Dean, the Graduate School of Maritime Sciences,
Kobe University*

Message from the Dean

The ocean is the last frontier on earth and is closely connected to our lives as a place that connects the global economy. There, a wide range of global industries and governments related to maritime affairs support our lives through their activities. In order for Japan to develop as a maritime and technology-based nation, and in order to achieve the ocean-related SDGs, it is essential to formulate international rules and promote international cooperation from a global perspective, and develop science and technology to realize them. Furthermore, amidst the trend of digital transformation driven by cutting-edge technologies such as AI, there is a need for a vision of how we will make maritime industry and society develop in the future. We hope that the students studying in our graduate school will cultivate the knowledge, skills, and interpersonal skills that will enable them to tackle such "big challenges" in their future paths.

The historic Fukae Campus, which has inherited Japan's merchant marine education from a long ago, has a port facing Osaka Bay and is equipped with some unique facilities, such as the high-performance training ship "Kaijin Maru", the Ship Navigation Simulator System, the Ship Model Basin Experimental Facilities, the Hyper-Cryogenic Laboratory, and the Accelerator and Particle Beam Experiment Facility. Our campus also has the library for maritime sciences, which is stocked with books related to the sea and ships, and the Maritime Museum, which has a large collection and display of historical materials related to Japan's ships. In addition to usual classroom lectures, we provide a learning environment where students can gain practical knowledge and skills by making effective use of these facilities.

Toward the aim of creating a sustainable future maritime society and marine technologies, the Graduate School of Maritime Sciences will actively and continuously carry out interdisciplinary co-creation activities that bring together science, engineering, and social sciences, and also will strive to educate, research, produce human resources, and contribute to society in this new interdisciplinary frontier of "maritime and ocean".