Closing Address at the Party for Overseas Students

Dec. 1, 2015

M. Shibata

Good evening, everyone.

I'm a vice president in charge of education and student affairs at this university.

My name is Masayoshi Shibata.

Tonight we had a very exciting and pleasant party.   Right ?

I hope you, our overseas students have got many precious experiences in your daily classes.

As you know, this year, Kanazawa has acquired so many new charming points, in addition to previously-existing traditional culture and arts, and historical events.

Among the new things that became part of Kanazawa, included are Shinkansen, Hokuriku Bullet Train, and Kanazawa Marathon, to mention only a few.

Do you remember that we had Kanazawa Marathon just about two weeks ago?

And is there anyone who joined it?   I didn't join it, sorry.

Don't you like running?   OK.

As my closing address, I will tell you a short story about your life and a marathon.

Life is often compared to a marathon.   The reason might be the origin of the marathon in Greek history.   It is said that a solder of Athens army with a good news of victory ran from the battle field in Marathon to Athens, but he died just upon his arrival because his power was completely exhausted by the hard running of 42 kilometers.

By the way, at which point do you think you are running in your life, or in your marathon?

One fifth?   Or one forth?   Or one third in your total life?

Any way you are young runners.　You are running in an early part of your life.

The biggest difference between the ancient marathon and the recent one is that in the latter case, people are discovering and enjoying various new experiences and encountering in their running.
I hope you will go the same way as the recent marathon in your student life at this university.

Just move around the intellectual world more actively.
Just get to know each other's culture more deeply to make one peaceful and brilliant world.

This is a message from an old runner running in the same world as you.
And this is the end of my closing address.
Thank you.