

“The Global Citizen”

**Dear Chancellor Toyoshi Satow  
President Takayasu Mitani  
Professors and students,**

I am happy to be here today to receive this “Honorary Doctorate” from the respected “J. F. Oberlin University” and from a great nation like “Japan.”

I am pleased to have this opportunity to talk about my experience, where I started from the bottom till I achieved international positions. In this concern, I always try to be practical in life and manage to make things work for myself, and for the communities surrounding me using the logic and experience I have obtained. I manage my daily activities in a simple way to take decisions and not to waste time in discussions.

When you leave your country you become a foreigner the rest of your life, even in your country of birth, because of changes in your way of thinking. However, I would like to confirm that such changes have not affected my way of living because I kept my traditions, beliefs and values.

When I traveled to Europe I respected all people the way they are and in return I gained their respect. It does not matter that immigrants or foreigners change their names and maybe their beliefs, they will never be as the native citizens of the country, but will always be considered as foreigners.

I slept on the roads and in the telephone cabins, I could not speak any foreign languages, and I have not been spoilt. I offered to work as a dishwasher in return for a meal a day.

I never had any ambition; my only wish was to get a meal a day and a bed to sleep on. I did not have a plan for more than one day. Today, I cannot have a plan for more than one week. I didn't graduate from a high school, however, I have always supported the higher education which I did not obtain.

Now, I have many internationally respected titles, but one of the most used titles is “The Dishwasher” and the United States official governmental website has named me as “the world’s most famous dishwasher.”

After I worked in my free time to achieve new posts step by step, I was the President of the largest hotel chain in Denmark, “The White House Hotels Chain,” when I was only 30 years old.

I was granted one of the highest titles in Denmark, “Knight of Dannebrog,” from her Majesty the Danish Queen, in addition to many other posts such as the Chairman of the Advisory Council of the International Association of University Presidents, the globally respected association of which Dr. Satow is President. Also, I am the Founder and President of the Scandinavian hotel chain, “Helnan International Hotels.”

Today youth have many opportunities, much more than ever before. I consider them as the Internet generation. IT supports your education, researches, analysis, studies, and you have access to unlimited knowledge more than any other generation before. All information is available at your fingertips, everything is provided through this global network. So, there is no excuse not to go further in your lives and gain experience for a better future for your selves, for your families, for your communities and for your country.

At the beginning of my life, when I traveled to Europe I fought discrimination without being educated in a country that only accepts and respects education. I have been discriminated against due to my lack of education and experience, as well as misunderstanding of the society’s way of living. So, I started to build my own experience to get respect, change my goals, and develop myself to be a developer for other people, hotels, societies, cities, and countries.

I have not changed my life style to live a luxurious life because I always appreciated the fact that I had a bed to sleep on and a meal a day. Moreover, I have never worked for money as money was not my targeted ambition.

We have to learn how to change our selves quickly according to the surrounding circumstances, to be like a chameleon to adapt a new way of living but not to change our principles, traditions or beliefs.

“Self Confidence as well as commitment” are important facts for the achievement of different life goals, otherwise how do you expect that others believe and trust you while you do not believe in yourself?

Even if I did not achieve a goal, I have gained a wonderful experience to go ahead instead of being depressed.

I am impressed with the camel that can live in the desert for many weeks without eating or drinking. I feel I should be like a camel, my shoulders should bear any loads, for the challenges I face during my life.

I have gained hundreds of millions and lost hundreds of millions. I never look behind but always look to move forward.

Egypt is my native country, the “cradle of different religions and civilizations.”

I left Egypt at the age of 20, with no education and with just 10 English pounds in one pocket, but in the other pocket I had the qualifications I gained from my country as well as the traditions and values I got from my family and society.

I have never forgotten my home land Egypt where I was a part of tourism development in different cities that were never presented as international destinations. One of them was Sharm El Sheikh, where my company submitted the first foreign investment in this area, in a governmental hotel with the capacity of 300 rooms, in a city with no water or electricity sources and unknown even by the Egyptians themselves. Today, Sharm El Sheikh can accommodate up to 250,000 visitors a day.

I also have great respect for Denmark, from which I obtained citizenship. This is a country that provides its citizens one of the highest living standards in the world achieved only by human resources development and without having any natural resources on its territory or under its ground. In this country, I found opportunities which I was badly in need of.

I was granted the title “Global Citizen” many times because I respect people regardless of their nationality, values, traditions, races, beliefs, color or opinions.

For decades, I lived most of my life on the roads and in aeroplanes.

The great Japanese people have faced many natural disasters as well as several wars. Such people are described as survivors. The Japanese people have earned a great reputation for respecting others.

I hope that Japan in the future will continue playing the role model for global development as they have for decades. The competition in the world has increased dramatically, but the Japanese people have the knowledge and the systems representing a great competitive advantage for this nation to go ahead.

The huge future opportunities related to the experiences this nation already has, can make the basics for a strong promising global wonderful future.

This experience of getting this Honorary Doctorate, especially from this great nation and this distinguished university, will be in my heart and thoughts the rest of my life.