

## **On the Occasion of the Opening of the Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University Sakura Sky Garden**

The APU2030 Vision espouses the cultivation of “global citizens,” individuals who acknowledge each other's existence and can coexist with each other beyond differences in race, ethnicity, and religion. This spirit of humanity is precisely what forms the basis of this vision. This spirit is cultivated through daily exposure to other cultures in the incredibly diverse melting pot that is the pride of APU. One can only begin to develop this spirit by acknowledging others as individual human beings. In his novel *1984*, George Orwell painted a picture of an inhumane society ruled by the censorship of human consciousness, and this is something we must never allow to occur. The slogans of the authoritarian state in *1984* were:

WAR IS PEACE	戦争は平和なり
FREEDOM IS SLAVERY	自由は隷従なり
IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH.	無知は力なり

These slogans aim to deny humanity, trample imagination, and make human beings bow to authority. But it is inhumanity such as this that we all must refute.

Our future depends on us letting our creativity soar and discovering new value in human coexistence. For the sake of our future and the sake of humanity, I hereby present the following motto for the Sakura Sky Garden:

CHERRY BLOSSOMS ARE DREAMS	桜は夢なり
WINGS ARE FREEDOM	自由は翼なり
KNOWLEDGE IS POWER.	知は力なり。

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