



AIT's 129th Graduation

Mr. Bhavin Pradhan

Mr. President, Honorable Chief Guest, Your Excellencies, esteemed faculty, respected guests, proud families and my fellow graduates- a very good afternoon to you all !

It is an immense honor for me to be speaking here in front of this distinguished audience at this venerable institution. I am truly humbled by this opportunity and hope I can represent this outstanding class of students graduating today. The past two years at AIT have been the best years of my life and I have had the distinct pleasure of meeting and working with outstanding, compassionate, driven and empathetic people from over 50 countries.

To recall, the initial days of my life at AIT were a bit challenging. I made so many new friends, I met so many new people. So, I needed to remember their names. Initially, it was easy. It took me a few days to remember the names of my friends from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Philippines, France, Spain and India. But then I met friends from Sri-Lanka, Cambodia and Vietnam. It started getting a bit confusing. They used to look at me with a weird expression when I called them by their names. However, it was not the end of my embarrassment- finally, I met friends from Thailand and Myanmar. So, after 2 years, I am confident I know their full names and not their nick names.

I believe this difficulty is at the very heart of why AIT is such a renowned international institution. We take for granted the words "international" and "multicultural". In retrospect, our time at AIT has changed how we identify ourselves - from 'citizens of this or that country' to 'citizens of the world'. We not only learned how to be meticulous engineers, successful managers, renowned scientists and effective leaders, but also learn to make informed decisions with an international perspective. Whether it be the rigorous academic discussions, inter-country sports, cultural events, tasting exquisite cuisines - what really made my time special at AIT, were the people. This is something that AIT has been very successful in maintaining in all these years. At a time when the world is questioning words like "international", "multi-cultural" and "diverse", AIT is a shining example of how diverse individuals can thrive in harmony.

My fellow graduates, we are a very privileged group. We are lucky to be alive in a world that is changing so rapidly. Never before has our world seen so much prosperity. Never before has our world seen so much advancement in technology. Never before has our world seen so many opportunities in every field we look at. And therefore, we have a profound obligation and responsibility to build a future that is not only prosperous but also compassionate.



AIT
Asian Institute of Technology

Today, I want to stress on the importance of having a purpose. I want to stress further that having a purpose for yourself is not enough. The challenge for our generation is to create a world where everyone has a sense of purpose. As the famous story goes, when John F Kennedy went to NASA space center and saw a janitor holding a broom and he asked him what he was doing- the janitor proudly said, "Sir, I am helping put a man on the moon". Purpose is that feeling that you are a part of something bigger than yourself.

The world today is not only looking for leaders in science, engineering, humanities and management, but it is in dire need of leaders who not only think of themselves, but also think of the entire world. Over the years, AIT has been producing these very successful global leaders. Our alumni have made extraordinary achievements. It now falls on shoulders to build a better world on the robust foundation laid by our alumni at AIT. It is now our responsibility to take the ideals of AIT to greater heights.

I want to proudly share that I am a second generation from my family at AIT. My father graduated 36 years ago from this very Auditorium. I hope that in the years to come, we will see many more second and third and fourth generations of proud AIT graduates. It is now our duty as ambassadors of AIT to represent this institution at the highest esteemed level it deserves. As we move to our professional careers, I hope that as alumni of this institute, we will give back more to AIT, than what AIT has given to us.

Finally, on behalf of the all the masters graduates, I would like to thank everyone who guided and helped us in our journey at AIT. Thank you to our distinguished faculty, the academic and administrative staff, dear families and friends - without your love, support and guidance, we would not be sitting here with our heads held high as graduates of the famous Asian Institute of Technology- Citizens of the World.

Congratulations to everyone! Thank you.