

Mr. President, distinguished guests, faculty, family, friends, and fellow graduates, good morning.

I am honored to address you this morning. On behalf of my fellow recipient of the outstanding student award, Mr. Lau, and the graduating masters students of AIT School of Management MBA Executive Program, I would like to thank all the parents, spouses, families, and friends who encouraged and supported us as we worked and pursued our graduate degrees.

I would especially like to thank my own family, 3 members of which are in the audience today. I would also like to thank Dr. David Ferguson, our program coordinator, and Reagan, Program Officer, who were always there when we needed help and advice. And finally I would like to thank Dr. Winai, my advisor, and the AIT School of Management faculty members who served as our instructors, mentors, and friends.

As I think back on the one-year and three-months spent at AIT School of Management, my mind is filled with memories, happy, sad, frustrating, and even humorous. Today I would like to share with you some of the memories that I take with me as I leave AIT.

I take with me the memory of floods that devastated our AIT campus and how AIT bounced back from such a disaster. Unfortunately, the floods also did not give us a chance to spend much time on campus.

I take with me the memory of the hospitality shown by our classmate, Gini, for volunteering her office as a classroom as AIT recovered from the flood. Some of the best lunches we had were at her office.

I take with me the memory of the residential week in Hua Hin that give the class a chance to get to know each other better while trying to balance class and assignment time with some recreation time.

I take with me the memory of the debates and sometimes heated discussions in our classes, especially the Cross-cultural Management class. It did serve the purpose of enhancing the learning experience and opening our minds to new cultures.

I take with me the memory of the international trips to South Korea and Vietnam. The trip to South Korea helped us understand how a nation developed so rapidly when it was behind Thailand only 3 decades ago.

The trip to Vietnam taught about how a nation full of young, capable, and knowledge hungry people is becoming a serious contender in ASEAN. Special thanks also goes out the EMBA coordinator, fellow AIT graduates and Alumni from our Ho Chi Minh campus for organizing and hosting the visit.

Last but not the least, Friday night beers at Cheap Charlie's. The class has ended but discussions continued...I really miss those sessions.

Most of all it was the exchange of views and experiences with instructors and between students that really gave life to knowledge gained in every class. I can honestly say that I was able to apply material learned from each class at work or in my personal life.

I am a firm believer that education can help to bring positive changes in society. AIT is well positioned to be leading educational institute enabling such positive developments as the formalization of ASEAN Economic Community takes place and also in the wider Asian community itself.

Finally, I would like to conclude, not with a memory, but with some advice. What would a graduation speech be without a little advice, right?

I would like to relate a piece of advise given me by my father, who is in the audience today, when I started looking for my first job.

He said that there are many ways one can be successful and make money. Some choose the honest but often slow and less financially rewarding path while others choose less than ethical; crafty ways that often land them in trouble. The choice was mine but I would have to live with the consequences. As a stand here in front of you today – you can guess which path I chose.

It is the respect that one has gains through our lifetime that truly leaves a mark on people and things around us that matter to us the most.

So in closing, I hope that as we all embark into a new chapter of our lives that choose that path makes our families, our advisors, our professors, and our Alma Mater, AIT, most proud; and that we choose to use the knowledge, experiences, and wisdom gained from attaining our degrees with integrity, dignity and gain the respect that will forever be with us through good and bad times. So go out there and do something that you are passionate about and make your mark!

Thank you.