



**AIT**  
**Asian Institute of Technology**

**118<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony**  
**Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

**Address by Mr. Nopadol Gunavibool**  
**Chairman of the AIT Board of Trustees and**  
**Deputy Permanent Secretary**  
**Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand**

**AIT Conference Center Auditorium**

Graduation speaker, Acting Mission Director, USAID Regional Development  
Mission for Asia,  
AIT President,  
Excellencies,  
Honored guests, Partners,  
Members of the AIT Alumni, Faculty, Staff,  
Graduates and Family Members

At the outset, I wish to convey my heartiest congratulations and best wishes to the 118th batch of students graduating today.

During the past one-year, in the aftermath of the floods, the AIT has been faced with a lot of hardship. I am sure it must have been a very challenging period, especially for students, faculty and staff. However, in spite of it all, you have persevered, and are gathered here, at this august event, to receive degrees and witness degree presentation.

Thailand is proud to have hosted AIT since its inception in 1959, and we believe it is a great asset not only for Thailand but also the entire region and beyond. The AIT has a very unique mandate that transcends national boundaries, and is well positioned to work on pressing regional as well as global issues, for the benefit of peoples and communities.

Personally, I feel privileged and honoured to have been invited to serve as Chairman of the AIT Board of Trustees in the transition period, and to take part in this AIT graduation ceremony. I am delighted that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been able to work with members of the Board and representatives of sovereign states that have already ratified the new AIT Charter, in charting a way forward in a pragmatic manner. While Thailand has yet to ratify the new AIT Charter, we were able to successfully resolve and clarify several pressing issues such as those related to the degrees and Royal Thai Government financial support to AIT, prior to today's graduation ceremony. Actually, we were able to resolve all of this on the 12 December, so the numbers 12.12.12, may indeed have a positive connotation to it.

I would like to thank all parties concerned for working in a pragmatic way to move AIT forward. Challenges remain but they have set an example of how people can put aside their differences and different ways of thinking and work together. We have moved in the right direction and I am optimistic that we shall succeed in achieving a solution that benefit all parties and stakeholders.

The spirit of leaving behind the past and moving forward in cooperation with each other will be essential to continue in the months and years ahead.

Dear Graduates,

The AIT has a very proud history and heritage, and I would implore upon all of you, the new graduates, to live up to the AIT's motto, and serve as noble ambassadors of this great institution, as you pursue your respective careers. My very best wishes and congratulations once again to all of you.

Thank you.