



Message to the 119th Graduates of AIT

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by

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1st Batch of AIT (1961)

It is a great pleasure and honor for me to be back at AIT Campus again on this special occasion for newly graduates.

It reminds me when I was attending the 1st AIT graduation in 1961 (52 years ago) which there were only 8 graduates compared to 500 graduates today.

I try to recall my memory when I was studying at AIT for my Master Degree in Hydraulic Engineering. The first year of operation, AIT had 19 students; 14 Thai, 3 Philippines, 1 Bangladesh, and 1 Chinese. We had professors, Dr. Carsten from Georgia Institute of Technology, Dr Corey from Colorado State University, Dr. Brooks from California Institute of Technology, Prof. Resnick from Arizona State University, Prof. Rose from U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Prof. Benham from UN (ESCAPE) and Prof Kari from Israel.

The reasons why I mention the names of the first group of professors is to tell you that AIT had the best starting point by having very distinguished professors and best practicing engineers from USA and expert from UN Organization to teach students.

After two years of hard works, we were very proud and very happy to receive the diploma.

From the first batch of 8 graduates, three got scholarship for further Ph.D. studies, three went back to work for governments and the last two went to work for private sector and International Organization. I was one of the first group who had scholarship to go to France and to USA and I got Ph.D. in Civil Engineering in Hydrology. I came back to Thailand to work for the Thai Government, taught at AIT, set up an Engineering Consulting firm and got into Thai Politics as a Member of



Parliament represent my home Chiangmai province. I had served four ministries as the Minister. Then I left politics in 1990 after 8 years at service.

From 1990 to now I become a developer, investor and businessman. Today I would like to share my life - experiences and my believe as a human being. We were born and make a living and die in a very short period of time with less than 100 years. Everyone may have different life cycle. Along the way we experience suffering and satisfactions, sadness and happiness but naturally the sun always rises in the East and sets in the West. Everything is changing and tomorrow will always come.

When I got my Ph.D at Colarado State University, my advisor, Dr. Yevjevich, said to me “ Subin, you go back to Thailand and get your hands wet first.” I took his advise literally and became an engineer at Royal Irrigation Department, Thailand and continue doing things which he advised me with some guidelines, which I still use to this day.

- If you have no dream, big thing will never happen.
- Only dream is useless. Action is needed
- Do not hesitate to be the pioneer.
- Think thoroughly before start doing something new.
- Problems give rise to opportunities. And any problems can be solved.
- Do everything the best you can.
- Never blame yourselves.
- Learn from the past, try to forget it, and look towards for the future.
- Do not work alone, seek help from your friends.
- Do not take all, use win-win approach.

I will be 80 years old next year. I owe a debt of gratitude to the people I had mentioned, especially, AIT. AIT gave me scholarship for Master Degree and gave me opportunity to go abroad for Ph.D. and gave me the teaching carrier for many years. Therefore I like to pay back to AIT whatever AIT wants from me I will try my best to do it.



Last but not least, I wish some of my experiences, believes and philosophy of making a living for almost 80 years will give you some advises when you leave AIT and return home and start working as an Engineer, Good luck to you, I wish you a successful carrier and a happy life.

Thank you.