



AIT

Asian Institute of Technology

Graduation Address
Professor Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai, AIT President,
122nd Graduation Ceremony
17 December 2014

- H.E. Dr. Subin Pinkayan, Chairman of AIT's Board of Trustees
 - H.E. Dr. Sohail Khan, Vice Chairman of AIT's Board of Trustees and Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Thailand
 - Graduation Speaker, Mr. Hiroyuki Konuma, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia-Pacific
 - Prominent Alumnus Speaker, Mr. Ananda Dias, Regional Coordinator for Asia and the Pacific Region of UNEP.
 - Members of AIT's Board of Trustees and Executive Committee
 - Excellencies, Honored Guests and Partners
 - Members of the AIT Alumni, Faculty, Staff
 - Dear Graduands, and Family Members
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Good morning and a very warm welcome to AIT's 122nd Graduation Ceremony.

At the outset, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the graduands. It is a very proud moment for all of you on the recognition of your accomplishments, hard work and efforts. Today also presents to you a good occasion to pay tribute and respect to all your professors who have mentored you throughout the course of your studies at AIT. For most of you, your graduation today may not be possible without the generous support of donors. So, it is a fitting occasion to express our grateful appreciation to AIT's partners and friends, for their continued support of AIT and its mission. Last but not the least, equally important has been the support of your family and loved ones. Many of them are here with you, and many more are watching today's proceedings live at home. It is indeed a proud moment as well for them.

We are honored to have with us our Graduation Speaker Mr. Hiroyuki Konuma, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for the Asia-Pacific. Mr. Konuma is a close friend and supporter of AIT. He has visited our Institute on several occasions. We are very proud to be an active partner for FAO on many important regional projects.

I also would like to acknowledge the presence of our prominent alumnus speaker, Mr. Ananda Dias, Regional Coordinator for Asia and the Pacific Region of UNEP on its Program on Environmental Assessment & Early-Warning. Mr. Dias has served UNEP over the past 23 years, in different capacities, both at the technical and the program management levels. We look forward to listening to Mr. Dias and I am sure he will inspire our graduating students.

Since 1959, AIT has strived to promote technological change and sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region through the dissemination of higher education, cutting-edge research, and outreach activities. While the times today are extremely challenging, they remain filled with opportunities. As outlined by our Chairman of the Board, Dr. Subin Pinkayan, in his document on the “Vision for AIT”, quote: “AIT faces several challenges today; however, those challenges are accompanied by the opportunity for AIT to create an identity and function that can serve regional and global needs for future generations”. AIT is now gearing its educational offerings to produce graduates who possess the attributes to become “Asia’s next generation of leaders.”

In the present age, knowledge has become available almost freely. The competitive edge today is not won by how much knowledge one knows, but how much knowledge one can turn into sellable technological products. Your AIT education has given you the fundamentals, the learning techniques and the tools, which together form a solid foundation for your life-long learning.

During your time at AIT, you may also notice the many changes that have been going on around the campus. Ultimately, AIT strives to become a “Living Laboratory on Sustainability”. This will be reflected not only in the renovation of our physical environment, but also in managing our sustainable use of resources, in order to enrich our campus life under a global ambiance.

As a residential campus, AIT provides a “Global Village for Future Leaders” for our international students to study, to live and to bond together. By learning about each other’s culture on a day-to-day basis, AIT students gradually learn to appreciate diversity. With these experiences, not only AIT alumni are very competitive in their professions, but also very constructive in their interactions with other human beings.

MY DEAR GRADUANDS, Life is a journey, and all accomplishments you have achieved during your precious period at AIT should be taken as a starting point for further achievements. Graduation is not an end in itself; it is a part of the larger journey of your life. You will soon join other AIT alumni before you, who are success stories in both the public and private sectors in more than 90 countries around the world. When you actually leave AIT, you will always treasure the fond memories of your quality time, especially of your hard work, and your associations with your professors and fellow students. One day, you will also find that

giving back to AIT not only is great but makes you feel great. It helps this great institution continue to serve the future generations of world-class citizens.

Thank you and congratulations once again!