



## **AFTERNOON SESSION**

### **Graduation Address**

**By AIT President, Professor Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai**

**121<sup>st</sup> Graduation Ceremony, 23 May 2014**

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- H.E. Professor Emeritus Dr. Sahas Bunditkul, Former Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand and Chairman of the AIT Executive Committee
- Graduation Speaker, Mr. Attila Nyitrai, Deputy Head of Delegation of the European Union to Thailand and Laos.
- Prominent Alumnus Speaker Dr. Yuan Derun, Education and Training Program Manager, Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific
- Members of the AIT Board of Trustees and Executive Committee
- Excellencies, Honored Guests and Partners
- Members of the AIT Alumni, Faculty, Staff
- Our dear Graduates, Family Members

Good afternoon to all of you, and a very warm welcome to AIT's 121<sup>st</sup> 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 taught, guided and 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 and partners. So, it is also a fitting occasion to express our grateful appreciation and thanks to AIT's partners and friends, for their continued belief in 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 today and many more are watching today's proceedings live from back home. It is indeed a proud moment for all of them as well.

We are proud and honored to have with us our graduation speaker, H.E. Mr. Attila Nyitrai, Deputy Head of European Union to Thailand and Laos, who represents H.E. Mr. Jesús Miguel Sanz, Ambassador and Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Thailand and Laos, who has an urgent meeting in town today. AIT has and continues to enjoy a longstanding partnership with the EU which has included over the years the Postgraduate Technological Studies (PTS) program; the EC-ASEAN-COGEN program on clean and efficient biomass, coal, gas cogeneration; the Asia-Link, Asia-IT&C, Asia Pro ECO, and a variety of collaborations under the Erasmus Mundus (อิราสมุส มัณฑล) umbrella. Such EU-financed programs for students, researchers and academic staff have helped promote and fostered mutual enrichment and development between participating Institutions in Europe and Asia, with AIT serving as a neutral platform and facilitator.

I would also like to acknowledge our Prominent Alumnus Speaker Dr. Yuan Derun, Education and Training Program Manager, Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific. Dr Yuan is another success story of many AIT alumni in international arena. Dr. Yuan is a national from the People's Republic of China, who obtained his master's and Ph.D. from the aquaculture program, He is currently working at the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific, which is an intergovernmental organization with 19 member states, promoting rural development through sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. We have more than 700 alumni from China, and alumni such as Dr. Yuan have helped us in further strengthening our institutional links with China.

All of you are graduating during a period when higher education is undergoing major transformations, with the growth in the

internationalization of tertiary education, reflecting the globalization of economies and societies, and also the expansion of tertiary systems and institutions throughout the world. This has led to the growth of cross-border flow of students, cross-border educational cooperation, increased competition among educational institutions, development of regional collaborations, and emphasis on quality and employability. Indeed, AIT has been playing exactly that role since 1959, or 55 years ago.

As AIT's graduates, you have been exposed to a cross-cultural working environment at AIT. And as you graduate, you are equipped with all the tools necessary to be a world citizen in the globalization age. AIT graduates have always been highly sought for, and been playing a key leading role in the international arena. This is because AIT graduates hold a balance between the technical competence and the positive human dimension of working as a team in the highly diversified environments.

From its founding, AIT has always fostered an international, multicultural environment that reaches beyond political boundaries, and remains committed and promises to continue its mission as supported by the international community in the past. Host country Thailand on its part has reaffirmed its support for AIT as an independent international institute and wishes to see AIT grow in strength, which is also in line with the aspirations of Thailand, to become a regional educational hub for higher education.

As you graduate from AIT, please do continue to keep in touch with your alma mater, and as you succeed in life, I would encourage you to try and find ways in which you can contribute, so that qualified but financially needy students from Asia will continue to get an opportunity to study at AIT. You will join the alumni family, continuing the proud heritage of AIT. Like the Alumni Speaker, Dr. Yuan Derun today, many AIT graduates are who's who of success stories in both the public and private sectors in more than half the world's countries. I am confident that each of you will continue in this tradition and succeed in your respective fields.

Thank you and congratulations once again!

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