



MORNING SESSION

Graduation Address

By AIT President, Professor Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai

121st Graduation Ceremony, 23 May 2014

- H.E. Dr. Subin Pinkayan, Chairman of the AIT Board of Trustees
- Graduation Speaker Professor Norihito Tambo, President of Hokkaido Research Organization.
- Prominent Alumnus Speaker Sumate Tanthuanich, CEO of the Ngow Hock Group of Companies which included Regional Container Lines (RCL), TIPS Co. Ltd., Thai Prosperity Terminal Co. Ltd. and Sintanachote Co. Ltd.
- 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 morning to all of you, and a very warm welcome to AIT's 121st Graduation Ceremony.

At the outset, I would like to extend my heartiest 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 support and 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, as our guest speaker, Professor Norihito Tambo, Former President and Professor Emeritus of Hokkaido University, Former President of the Open University of Japan, Former President of International Water Association, and President of Hokkaido Research Organization. AIT has and continues to enjoy a longstanding partnership with the Government of Japan and institutions in Japan, starting way back in 1969, and Japan has provided generous scholarship support for close to 1,000 Asian nationals, around 140 faculty secondment, infrastructure development support including this AIT Conference Center and the AIT Library. In addition, Japan also supported the Japan-AIT Human Resources Development Endowment Fund. We very much look forward to listening to Professor Tambo's address. His presence here with us is also an acknowledgment of the strong and continued collaboration between Hokkaido University and AIT, as well as with the Government of Japan.

I would also like to acknowledge our prominent alumnus speaker Mr. Sumate Tanthuanich. Although an engineer by background, Mr. Sumate is a true visionary and entrepreneur who envisioned some 30 years ago the opportunity of international shipping industry, and grabbed it, leading it become one of Asia's leading feeder lines. Mr. Sumate today controls a group of international companies that provide wharf, container freight station and bonded warehouse facilities. He has been recognized globally for his business acumen and featured among the prominent business-personalities in Thailand by the Forbes Business Magazine. We look forward to listening to Mr. Sumate and I am sure he will inspire our graduating students.

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 carried out 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.

AIT strongly believes that higher education and the development of human capital is critical to the development of the region, and growing future leaders in business, government and civil society. AIT has been trusted by many donors and partner institutions for delivering quality 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, Mr. Sumate Tanthuanich 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.

While the times are challenging, they remain filled with opportunities. Through the hard work of its faculty and staff, and support from its partners, alumni and friends, AIT remains confident that it can move forward and uphold the noble tradition of AIT.

Thank you and congratulations once again!
