



Graduation Speech by: Mr. Anshul Agarwal, WEM/SET- Representative of Doctoral graduating students, Afternoon Session, 121st AIT Graduation Ceremony, 23 May 2014

Honorable chief guest, Excellencies, AIT President, Faculties, families, friends and fellow graduates:

A very good afternoon to all.

I would like to thank you for providing me this opportunity to deliver the speech on behalf of all PhD graduates.

I received a congratulatory message from a friend “Your midnight hard work has finally paid off! Heartiest congratulations to you for earning your PhD degree”. Yes indeed, few years back we all dreamt of this precious moment and felt many times that this is not going to come. During this journey there were various challenges, struggles each day, many sleepless nights. Before we started our PhD we were dreamers but now with proud hearts we can be called achievers.

However, graduation is not the end, our true learning starts now.

We thank AIT for providing us with the opportunities and motivation which will certainly contribute to our growth in future. The challenges that we were put in gave us the confidence to face adversity. The successes and failures as we moved along this journey helped in shaping our personalities. Failure taught me things about myself that I could have learned no other way. I discovered that I had a stronger will and more discipline than I had imagined; I found out that I had friends whose value is truly above all worldly riches. I have emerged wiser and stronger from setbacks.

As a wise man once said, “You will never truly know yourself, or the strength of your relationships, until both have been tested by adversity”.

Our achievement today would not have been possible without the great support and motivation from our teachers, families and friends. I am truly appreciative of AIT’s environment which brings people from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and religions together as one family, and becomes our home away from home. AIT is the perfect example of, how to grow in a multi-national, multi-cultural environment by mutually helping each other irrespective of nationality, color or religion. The AIT magic, brings us together to share a very powerful bond which we will cherish throughout our lives.

In conclusion I would like us to recall this wonderful piece of advice by Mark Twain: “Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn’t do, than by the ones you did do; so throw off the bowlines, sail away from safe harbour, catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore, dream, discover!