

***Graduation Speech by: Mr. Arshad Mahmood, Energy/SERD- Representative of Doctoral graduating students, Morning Session, 121<sup>st</sup> AIT Graduation Ceremony, 23 May 2014***

Excellences, honored guests, Mr. President, distinguished faculty, our parents, family members and fellow graduands: good morning!

I'm deeply honored and grateful today that I have been selected to represent my fellow doctoral students on this very auspicious moment in our lives.

I remember like it just happened yesterday when I took a taxi from Suvarnabhumi Airport to reach first time to AIT. Yah, but very long six years have been passed. For me, it was very difficult to completely comprehend the enormity of this whole long journey, especially after I was enrolled in Ph.D., for the very obvious reasons: candidacy, progress exams, models, data, calibration, etc. But definitely, this time was very hard for those I left behind, especially my parents, in pursuance of my dream of acquiring higher academic intellect.

I'm not alone, all those who are at the front, are here today after going through enormous pressure and extreme work for years and years.

I would not be unjustified to feel proud to say that we did it despite the horrible flooding of 2011, despite the loss of proper accommodation inside AIT, library, lab facilities and so on. All that we went through at that time can still be felt even after more than two years when we walk around the campus.

For all those sacrifices, however, we are being paid off today. We can feel a strong sense of accomplishment for which we struggled for so long. Today is the time for us to celebrate our great success, our degrees; and to listen and feel the loud and joyous beats of our thumping hearts.

I would like to add that — since we are just one step away from our practical lives, and to make a positive and tangible difference in our own lives and the lives of others — we must not forget to focus on, as the economists call, a triple dividend: The first dividend is our own personal growth; the second dividend is the success and growth of our organization; and the

third, and perhaps most important dividend, is betterment of our communities, societies and — as a result — the world at large.

In closing, I congratulate all my graduating friends with all my heart and wish you a very happy and successful life ahead.

Many thanks too to all our advisors and other faculty members for their dedicated efforts and very supportive attitude, without which it would not have been possible for us to reach to this very successful end.

Please let me quote here from a famous speech at Barnard College: “You know you don't have to be famous. You just have to make your mother and father proud of you and you already have”.

Thank you all once again!