

Graduation Address  
**Professor Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai, AIT President,**  
126<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony  
15<sup>th</sup> December 2016

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- **Chairman of AIT Board of Trustees**, H.E. Dr. Subin Pinkayan
  - **Graduation Speaker**, Professor David Carmichael,
  - **Prominent Alumnus Speaker**, Mr. Tiger Leong King-Ho,
  - Members of AIT Board of Trustees, AIT Alumni, Faculty Staff, Partners,
  - Excellencies, Honored Guests,
  - Dear Graduands, and Family Members
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Good morning and a very warm welcome to AIT's 126th 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 supports. 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, Professor David G Carmichael, former Head of the Department of Engineering Construction and Management at The University of New South Wales (UNSW), Australia, and our Prominent Alumnus Speaker, Mr. Tiger Leong King-Ho, President of Ellipse Enterprise Malaysia.

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.

Over the last two years or more, you have spent an important junction of your journey at our campus, wherein students from a multitude of countries, study, live and bond together. By learning about each other's culture on a day-to-day basis, you should now manage to appreciate cultural diversity and international perspectives, aside from holding to your own disciplinary expertise.

With this rare experience in you, each and every one of you should be in a good position to go out and serve a role model of a "globally responsible citizen", or in short "global citizen". That is one reason why many AIT alumni have become who's who of success stories in both the public and private sectors around the world.

A case in point happens to be with us today, our prominent alumnus speaker, Mr. Tiger Leong King-Ho.

After achieving his most successful professional career, Mr. Tiger, being a globally responsible citizen himself, sought my advice how he could contribute to produce a new breed of globally responsible citizens.

After our personal communications, Mr. Tiger offered to fund AIT's 1<sup>st</sup> International Innovation & Leadership Camp, to bring together selected bright undergraduate students from top universities in Asia. This 2-week camp will serve to inspire these young promising scholars to work together as a team, under diverse cultures and different global perspectives, with tools, technologies and attitudes fitting to address real challenges of the world.

Some of us may wonder why AIT needs to prepare our students to be globally responsible citizens, let me briefly touch upon it.

The world for which we are preparing our students for the challenge in the 21st century is qualitatively different from the world when AIT was created in 1959. Today, the globalization process, the digital revolution, the mass migration, and the prospect of environmental sustainability, are triggering new concerns and demanding a new breed of graduates.

The contemporary shifts in all aspects of life as parts of this globalization process require that AIT prepare our students not only for the need today of a country, but to meet the global demands of tomorrow. Thus, we must nurture our students with the so-called "Global Competence", so our graduates will have the capacity to understand and act on issues of global significance.

We have to make sure that before they leave AIT, all our graduates must be excellent in the so-called 5-I's Global Competence, namely, (1) International Perspective, (2) ICT Fluency; (3) Innovative Mindset; (4) Industrial Relevance; and (5) Interdisciplinary Competency.

Dear Graduands, graduation is not an end; it is a part of the larger journey of your life. The next station of your journey may not be only limited to a country domain, or a regional domain, but your future journey can cover all over the globe.

When you leave AIT regardless of whichever corner of the world you may be, I believe you will always treasure the fond memories of your quality time at AIT, 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 also makes you feel great. It helps this great institution continue to serve the future generations of world-class citizens.

Finally, I take this opportunity to wish you an excellent career ahead, and that you take up some important role to realize a truly sustainable future for mankind.

Thank you and congratulations once again!