

Chairman of AIT Board of Trustees, H.E. Dr. Subin Pinkayan

President of AIT, Professor Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai

Members of AIT Board of Trustees, AIT Alumni, Faculty Staff, Partners,
Excellencies, Honored Guests,

Dear Graduates, and Family Members

Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Morning,

Before I begin, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for having the privilege of standing before you today, to congratulate and to celebrate with you here, not as a "prominent alumnus" as your program may have outlined, but as a fellow AIT Graduate.

Today, we celebrate your accomplishments, the hard work and dedication that you, your professors and your mentors have put in.

Standing here reminds me when I was sitting in the audience just like you, back in 1991. 20 months of studying seems long, but looking back, it was way too short. I still recall that the very first few weeks were really a test of one's mental strength. There were no mobile phones then, only public pay-phones where you have to put coins in to make calls, no internet, no public transport. AIT was quite remote from Bangkok and civilization if you like. So, it was like we were working on an isolated island. To top it off, English as medium for studying in itself is a real hurdle. Most of us can read the text book and can write some short notes, but to listen and speak as well as writing essays was really a kind of torture, to say the least.

The first couple of semesters were as I mentioned before the toughest, but that is how one is polished. I have to say that I 'Mastered' myself through AIT. It has been the best 20 months in my life where I have proved to myself that I can survive and actually made me believe in myself. I was always afraid to commit, too afraid that result won't turn out the way I wished for. In AIT, hard work pays off. I spent tireless hours over the work, and I were eventually rewarded and that was a new me. I strongly believe that you all here share the same achievement. You all need to be proud of yourself that sitting here, you

have been thru one of the best educational system and been trained to cope with all kind of challenges.

We all come from different routes, different cultures, different languages, and we are sitting next to each other and trying to work as a group. Some are very good at literature, some are better at logic-thinking, some are very good in calculation Yes, we are diverse, we may speak different languages, have different customs and traditions, we are local, international, multicultural... but here, we are one and we are strong because of it. And this is AIT, "Learning without Boundaries"

For years and for generations, AIT has produced many prestigious alumni members, such as the likes of his excellency Dr Subin Pinkayan or Professor Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai and many other prominent civil servants and business-men alike. Not only are these alumni highly recognized, their roots in AIT also make this institution very reputable and respectable. AIT is never short of talented students and sending them out into the world. This year, it is you. On behalf of all alumni, we hope all of you here will continue to not only make AIT as proud and as glorious as it has been, but also to make yourselves proud by creating your own legacies.

Lastly, you may have heard Steve Job's famous graduation speech at Stanford: "stay foolish and stay selfish" and my take for you going forward into the real world would be that one can be a victim of his or her own success because of one's arrogance and over-pride. On the same token, you should never give up when you fail, and you will, because that is a good lesson learned and a crucial step for your future successes. In conclusion, to succeed, apart from working hard, you have to lose yourself.

Once again, congratulations to you all on this graduation and wish you all the best for years to come.