



## **129<sup>th</sup> Graduation**

### **Graduation Speech by Mr. Haoran Zhang**

Mr. President, Honorable chief guest, Excellencies, Faculty members, families, friends and fellow graduates:

A very good morning to all !

I would like to thank you for providing me this opportunity to deliver a speech on behalf of all Ph.D. graduates.

Before coming to AIT, we all knew little about this country and this school: what does it look like? What would we become? How's the life and people there? Will I make new friends? Now, we can confidently tell the world: We get the gift to be treasured and remember that we have graduated!

Today is not only the day for us graduates, but also the day for saying thank you to all the people that we met and who journeyed with us. Without their encouragement, help and love, we wouldn't achieve this extraordinary moment. So let's say thank you! Thank you professors for sharing your lifelong knowledge to us without reservation; thank you beloved family for supporting and respecting all our decisions and dreams; thank you friends for being as crazy as you can as shared your company with us, for listening to our meaningless nagging and nonsense talking; thank you staffs for being so professional and efficient - you are definitely an important part in this achievement for providing much effort. We must thank AIT for providing this multicultural environment and for educating us to become global citizens, no matter who we will be in the future.

Our past is the beginning of our future. When we look back to this road, most of the things that we remember now, are the happy moments we had with our teachers, families and friends. However, we also need to cherish the challenging times that remain in our memories, because they remind us of the courage and motivation that we had when we overcame them. There is no doubt that we are all well prepared to embrace the world that seems somewhat uncertain, and be sure and confident that: We are not afraid anymore!

J.K. Rowling once said, "As is a tale, so is life; not how long it is, but how good it is, is what matters", so as our life. AIT is a panorama in our life tale, that provides the most diversified surrounding, to accept all the things happening. We are now probably thinking of adventures that await us, since AIT dares us to dream big and to aspire to change the world.



So, on this beautiful day, before I close my speech, I'd like to share with you some of my personal reflections. There are four Happy Moments in One's Life that I truly believe in and enjoy: first, have a welcome rain after a long drought; second, meet your close friends in an alien land; third, find your beloved one; and last but not the least - pass the exam, finish your studies and achieve your goal. Luckily, we are now experiencing two or more of these moments. So, enjoy!

Dreaming is recognizing and embracing the potential for greatness and seeking it in all areas of your life. Someone said that "everybody should have a dream, and what if dreams do come true?" So, keep your dreams in front of you, believe in your dreams and your ability to accomplish them.

We may be leaving AIT soon, but I am sure that while we will be in different parts of the world, our hearts will always be with AIT.

Congratulations to the graduates of 2018! Time is flying away and may your future be as bright as the smiles on your faces today!