

ADDRESS

PRO VICE CHANCELLOR



DR. SYED FERHAT ANWAR

PRO VICE CHANCELLOR
EAST WEST UNIVERSITY

His Excellency Professor Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed, Hon'ble President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Chancellor of East West University, Dr. M Osman Farruk, M. P., Hon'ble Minister of Education, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Dr. Wahiduddin Mahmud the Convocation Speaker, Esteemed President and the Member of the Board of Directors, Members of the Academic Council, and the Faculty, Dean of Faculties, the Convocation Marshal and Graduating Class of 2003 and their parents and guardians, Distinguished guest and ladies and gentlemen:

Assalamu Alaikum

What a privilege to be with you all. Since I've arrived here in the Bangladesh China Friendship Hall, many people have greeted me by saying, "It's a beautiful day in this neighborhood." Well, indeed it is a beautiful day to celebrate such an auspicious occasion.

We feel profoundly honored by the graceful presence of the Hon'ble President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Chancellor of East West University at this solemn ceremony. We are also grateful to the Hon'ble Minister of Education and the eminent Convocation Speaker for kindly having agreed to be present with us today. On behalf of East West University, I extend my warm felicitation to the Second Batch of Graduates of East West University and Congratulate their parents as well for their commendable achievement.

Commencement speeches typically address the graduating class, either offering helpful advice about how to enter the real world or exhorting the graduates to improve this world. But this speech will be a little different, because East West University is, in the best sense, no ordinary institution for higher education.

Let me begin by reminiscing my student life. I once sat where you are sitting today. I had a professor over there who did his best to scare everyone in his class and he gave me the lowest grade that I ever had in any school anywhere. But I also had another professor, who looked for and found what was best in each of his students. When I look at the night sky, I still think of that extra-special, kind man. On this very special day, I would like to use my favorite anecdote retrieved from the Seattle Special Olympics? Well, for the 100-yard dash there were nine contestants, all of them so-called physically or mentally disabled. A ninth of them assembled at the starting line and at the sound of the shot, they took off. But not long afterward one little boy stumbled and fell and hurt his knee and began to cry. The other eight children heard him crying; they slowed down, turned around and ran back to him. Every one of them ran back to him. One little girl bent down and kissed the boy on the knee and said, "This'll make you feel better." And the little boy got up and he with the rest of the



runners linked their arms together and joyfully walked to the finish line. They all finished the race at the same time. And when they did, everyone in that stadium stood up and clapped and whistled and cheered for a long, long, time. People who were there are still telling the story with great delight. And you know why. Because deep down our heart, we know that what matters in this life is more than winning for ourselves. What really matters is helping others win too. Even if it means slowing down and changing our course now and then.

I grew up at a time when we all huddled around our Black and White TV sets and watched "The Fugitive"; there was only one channel. I am sure you consider this to be during the Stone Age. We could never imagine that there would be days when people will be watching the entire world in their living room. Internet, Cable TV, Mobile phone is with in reach. A lot has happened during these last fifteen years. When you think about it, we come from completely different world. When I graduated, state of the art technology, modern facilities that you are privileged with today were wonders.

In spite of our different experience, I think there is some common ground between us. Both of us have had to go through the pain staking process of seeking knowledge, which is a precious gift that will never leave you. Take it from me, your education is yours to keep forever.

I believe that today's occasion evolves around the concept of success. That's what this celebration is about—success! And that's what I want each of you to recall for the rest of your lives. In the year 1978, I achieved a great success—I received my degree. I still remember that sense I felt on that moment of being a part of the institution which made me a full man.

So that's my challenge today—to burn into you that today is a celebration of success – your successes as well as the successes of your alma mater. Now I want you to turn to the persons around you and congratulate them for their success at providing the motivation, the moral support, the financial support or whatever it was that helped you to make this success significant.

Student success resulted from their eagerness to learn and for the rigorous training they have undergone to be a fighter. In midst of stiff competition, world is harsh and not the womb of your University which will always protect you. Remember that more than success, it is the struggle that gives meaning to life. Parents deserve acknowledgement for their perseverance and the financial sacrifice they have made in favor of their descendants. Teachers and faculty deserve credence for their effort in transmitting the knowledge to their trainee and helping them transcend to the frontiers of knowledge and beyond. University administration deserves the credit for their support and for ensuring good academic environment. Thanks to the Board of Directors for their vision and for their continued support in meeting our academic and nonacademic demands. Special appreciation goes to the Government for the development of the private sector in our tertiary level education. Thanks to the society at large for their recognition, spiritual support and acknowledging the role of East West University.

The dramatic growth of East West University in its enrollment from a meager number to more than two thousand with 70 full time faculty members in just a span of 6 years is a testimony of public confidence on us. A serious effort has been made combined with the available faculty to uphold our motto "excellence in education". As for the future, the university will leave no stone unturned to keep up the high standards of existing discipline and add new programs in response to the demand of a rapidly changing global economy.

A D D R E S S

P R O V I C E C H A N C E L L O R

Today as graduates of East West University, your biggest liability is your need to succeed. You will always try to find yourself on the sweet side of the bell curve because success is like a bright, colorful dress. You feel terrific when you wear it, but then you're desperately afraid of getting it dirty, of spoiling it in any way. You all will hear many times today that this is not the end of something but rather the beginning. Even the name of the event –Convocation–gives credence to that fact. Well, of course today is a beginning; it's true. But I recommend that you take today to appreciate your success– take today to flounder in your success. You've earned it! Tomorrow you can focus on the rest of your life.

I wish you all the best and success through an impeccable career.

Allah Hafez, Bangladesh Zindabad.

