



SIXTEENTH COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Valedictorian Speech– Mr. Mohammad Hossain Mohammadi May 12, 2012

In the Name of God, the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful.

Your Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Your Highnesses
Distinguished Guests
AUD Faculty and Staff
Family, Friends, and all Graduation Attendees

Good evening. I am honored to speak to you tonight on behalf of the graduating Class of 2013. We are gathered to celebrate our success before stepping into the next stage of our lives.

Before I continue, let me offer my warmest congratulations to the Class of 2013.

We would not be here tonight without the help of God Almighty and many people. First, I would like to thank His Highness, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum. You have not only offered scholarships to students like me, but you have been an inspiration. I aspire to walk in the path of your leadership.

AUD faculty, and staff, we will never forget your support and guidance. When we first came to AUD we were timid, fresh from high school, but AUD's diverse and vibrant community provided us with opportunities, nurtured our character and thinking, helped us develop friendships, and find mentors. While tonight we celebrate, we will miss the discipline of our classes and the fun times we have had.

I would also like to deeply thank my loving parents and family. Their unwavering support, through good times and bad, has made tonight possible. The Persian poet Sheikh Moslehedin Sa'adi, may have written in the Middle Ages, but his poem "Bani Adam", is inscribed on the entrance of the United Nations Building in New York and captures the relationships of all those involved in the AUD community today. His poem reads as follows:

*Human beings are members of a whole, In creation of one essence and soul.
If one member is afflicted with pain, Other members uneasy will remain.
If you have no sympathy for human pain, The name of human you cannot retain!*

Class of 2013, we are all connected through "essence and soul" in a global community. Our academic experiences were not limited to our individual efforts. Our friends and family felt our pain as we worked hard to finish projects and meet deadlines.

Saif and Sana, we were together like the "Three Musketeers" for most of our time at AUD. I will never forget the sleepless nights we spent working together not just on research projects for our engineering classes, but also bringing honor to AUD by winning the competitions we entered.

I must also thank my colleagues in the AUD IEEE Student Branch for their tremendous efforts in making an active engineering student organization at AUD a reality.

Class of 2013, tonight is a joyous occasion. Our dreams have finally seen light; we are obtaining our degrees! Let us keep the fire of determination that brought us to this point alive in all our endeavors. Our shoulders are burdened with great expectations and even though tonight our paths separate – some of us pursuing graduate studies as I will at McGill University, while others enter the workforce – we will forever be proud AUD graduates.

Fellow Class of 2013, I urge you to welcome our sun of enlightenment rising up higher than ever! Opportunities await us at every doorstep. Remember! We AUD graduates will build tomorrow's society overflowing with knowledge, humanity, and as Sa'adi says, "essence and soul".

Thank you.