

Speech by Er. Dr Indrayogan Yogarajah

**Mr Soh Wai Wah, Principal & CEO of Singapore Polytechnic
Distinguished Guests and Faculty members
Proud Parents, Guardians and Family members of Graduates
Graduates of the School of Architecture & the Built Environment**

Ladies and gentlemen

A very good afternoon to you.

I can stand in front of you to day and say a few things with clarity because some 35 years ago, I was sitting in the same place you are sitting. My parents were seated in the same places as yours are sitting today.

I am not sure what my parents were thinking at that time, but when I was sitting in my seat, several things were running through my mind. In 1985 the construction industry was at a low swing. Work was slow and there was not much to hope for in terms of a career. So questions running around the head included

- a. do I further my education and wait for the industry to pick up

OR

- b. do I start working in a different sector and move on? ~~OR~~

I am sure many of you have the same thoughts running through your minds. Today marks a major landmark in your life. Today you will actually leave this room armed with a Tertiary education certificate which will be setting the direction of your career.

Thirty-Five years ago I decided to further my studies and stay with the industry. The decision was possibly one of the best that I have made.

Today's graduates are graduating at the most favourable time. The industries that you will soon be graduating to is at its high and still picking up. For the next 10 years with the commencement of the economy boom, you can most likely be assured of a job in your respective sectors. This year for the construction sector, there is a plan for projects worth more than 26 billion dollars in value to be awarded. This expenditure will include expansion in the construction sectors of both the Private and Public Sectors

The Singapore government is presently looking at infrastructure and facilities developments throughout the country. With the tight land space, the works seem to be getting more and more challenging. Soon you will see our roads and storage spaces going underground in attempts to make way for more usable space at the ground level. The Facilities being built may also be more complex with chances of the buildings to have multiple use. All this makes for your training from the Singapore Polytechnic to be in high demand.

Presently there is an extreme shortage of engineers and soon with the increased facilities available, all other related professionals such as Facilities Managers and Project Managers will also start to see a rise in demand. This demand is also a worldwide concern. . The fact remains that trained engineers, managers and professionals like you are welcome in many other sectors because of your analytical minds. My advice is to stay with what you have learnt and make a mark for your self in the industry. In no other profession will you be able to point to a building or a Facility and tell your children or grandchildren and say "I had a share in shaping that building".

In time to come, if you have the opportunity to advance your studies and arm yourselves with a Bachelors, Masters of higher degrees, I would definitely tell you that it is an investment of time and money which cannot go wrong. Don't get an education for education sake but get an education so that your horizons are widened. Widen your understanding of as many aspects of life and most important look forward to the next step in LIFE

Moving forward, make sure that you enjoy what you do. You will never excel in anything in life if you don't enjoy doing it. There is always a component of passion which needs to be included in your day to day life. Passion and happiness is always interlinked. Passion brings happiness and vice versa.

Work however is not everything in LIFE. In time to come, give back to society. Help a cause of your choice, spend time working with volunteer groups or with any one needing assistance. The joy that you can get from seeing someone flourish because of your help is indescribable.

If you look back now, you will find that the happiest moments you have had are times when you had a good laugh with your family or spent time with friends or seen someone you helped enjoy his/her day.

In closing, as you celebrate your achievements, you should not forget your loved ones, your proud parents and importantly your alma mater, for they are the ones that have given you a good head start in life.

I wish you all the best in your endeavours. Thank you.

