

2023 Southern Taiwan University of Science and Technology Graduation Ceremony Speech

Chairman Chang, Chairman Huang of the Alumni Association, distinguished guests, graduating students, and dear families, good day to you all.

Congratulations to the class of 2023! For all the international students, I'm afraid I will be speaking in Chinese. You will be able to find the transcript of my speech on the university web site later on.

First of all, congratulations to all the graduating students of 2023. You have completed your studies and are now ready to leave our school and start your own journeys through life. Looking back at the past four years, I can see that you have all experienced an extraordinary university education. For much of this time, you have bravely confronted the challenges posed by COVID-19, protected yourselves from being infected, and continually strived to progress with your studies. Through this unusual test, I believe you have developed indomitable willpower which will enable you to face various future challenges with composure. I am certain that you also appreciated the dedication of the teachers and staff members who stuck to their posts during this time and overcame countless difficulties to assist you in your academic achievements. With the joint efforts of teachers and students, I believe every graduate will make valuable contributions to our society and make our school proud.

However, in order for you to become graduates the school would be proud of, I must remind you all of two conditions you need to pay attention to.

Firstly, completing your studies does not mean the end of learning. You must commit to lifelong learning and never become complacent. During your time at school, you have personally experienced events such as the US-China trade war, geopolitical conflicts, industrial transformations, supply chain changes, environmental degradation, and energy shortages amongst others. These challenges serve as a forewarning of what you will face in the future. Relying solely on the knowledge you acquired in school will not be sufficient. You must

continue learning as you establish your life goals. Learning and contributing to your life goals is a joyful process as it will bring you tremendous rewards and a sense of achievement. However, a failure to sustain learning will lead to you being replaced, you will miss out on many opportunities, and you will never get a sense of fulfillment. This will undoubtedly result in unhappiness. Therefore, you must commit to lifelong learning and never become complacent.

For instance, it is widely recognized that the rapid advancement of AI is already significantly impacting various industries. If you have concerns about AI potentially replacing the industry or career you are preparing to enter, opting for a job that is less likely to be replaced by AI is not a wise decision. The reasons for this are that the apprehensions we have today regarding job security were not even on our radar five years ago. In the same way that you need to possess computer skills to engage in most technical jobs, in the future, it will be essential to learn how to work with AI and utilize it as a problem-solving tool or an efficient assistant for completing your work. Consequently, the optimal strategy after graduating is to stay up to date with the latest AI tools, just as you would continually learn to use new computer software.

Indeed, developing AI skills is not as challenging as obtaining new knowledge and skills, particularly in interdisciplinary areas. For instance, the overconsumption of Earth's resources by humans has led to environmental degradation and global warming. Achieving net-zero carbon emissions has become a crucial goal, driving the development of electric vehicles and green energy. This shift will bring about significant transformations in various industries. For example, consider the field of vehicle maintenance: the knowledge and skills deemed necessary for maintaining gasoline-powered vehicles differ substantially from those required for electric vehicles. Until the entire technological and vocational education system adapts to these changes, it is imperative for you to firmly commit yourself to continually learning the relevant knowledge and skills for electric vehicles after graduation, as these skills will be needed in the near future.

Given the diversification of society and the rapid development of new technologies,

the era where professionals stick to a single job throughout their lives has come to an end. The future you will face is completely different from the past, and it is difficult to predict what lies ahead based solely on the life experiences given to you by your teachers and mentors. You must have the ability to tackle interdisciplinary problems and challenges. Therefore, you need to constantly absorb new knowledge to stand firm and move forward through the waves of challenges brought in by this new era. From the university's perspective, we should devote ourselves to the integration of interdisciplinary knowledge and skills. Only in this way can we cultivate the talented individuals who are needed to meet the demands of future social and industrial developments.

Finally, you need to keep our motto, "[Trust, justice, sincerity, and honesty](#)" in mind at all times. Always be vigilant and constantly place respect for others at the forefront of your mind. Ask yourself, would you associate with someone who lacks trustworthiness, righteousness, sincerity, and honesty? Would you do business with them? Would you respect them? For 54 years, Southern Taiwan University of Science and Technology has nurtured numerous outstanding professionals and has gained recognition from various industries. All our successful alumni have demonstrated the qualities of "[Trust, justice, sincerity, and honesty](#)" in their character and attitudes. I hope all our graduates will remember this, contribute to the betterment of society, and become a source of pride for our school along the way.

I hope that Southern Taiwan University of Science and Technology can be proud of all of you in the future!