

## Graduation Speech

It is a great honor for me to have a chance to give a speech in front of everyone here today. My name is Siwanon Thampibul, an international SDM graduates of the 2014 spring semester class.

After graduating from the mechanical engineering department from Chulalongkorn University in Thailand, I decided to join a Japanese company to answer my curiosity of how mechanical engineering knowledge could be applied to the real world. After working in the company for a several years, I decided to take a giant leap to pursue my master's degree at the department of System Design and Management in Keio University.

On my first day at the school, my brain was full of anxiety. I realized that I was one of the only 3 international students in my class. The first thing that came into my mind was that this was going to be 2 lonely years. Fortunately, I was wrong as I met many good Japanese and foreigner friends later on. Thanks to them, my master's student life was full of joy and new experiences.

Having a chance to study in SDM was one of the greatest things in my life. Apart from making new friends, studying here also gave me new experiences and new knowledge. Particularly, anger management and interpersonal skills which I acquired during the Design Project class. During Design Project, I had to work as a middleman and Japanese-English translator to ensure a good working atmosphere for both Japanese and international team members. The class was quite stressful, however, it was also full of fun and friendship.

In this 2 years, we shared our happiness, sadness, and tiredness together. Especially during the last two months before the thesis defense, I saw students helping each other and I believe this was when our friendship got even stronger. Impressively, the support was not only from us helping each other, but also from a graduated student who spends most of his time in the big room, he helped whoever was in need.

I would like to say thank you to dean Maeno, all professors and my friends in SDM for giving me such good and memorable experiences. Special thanks to my academic advisor, professor Nakano for his supervision and support. I would have had no chance to join the exchange program and stand here in front of you as a student representative, without his assistance.

I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to my beloved family for their continued support, and also to the staff in the student office who work behind the curtains to keep SDM running. Without the students office staff help I would not have had a chance to receive a scholarship.

Lastly, I would like to say this. "We made it!!! We have just taken a big leap in our lives and I wish all of us the best and a successful life!!!"

Thank you

Siwanon Thampibul

March 28, 2016