

**INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY**

9th Convocation Address

by

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July 12, 2009

Bangalore

Shri Narayana Murthy, Shri Ashok Soota, Prof Sadagopan, Members of the Governing Body, Members of the Senate, Esteemed Faculty Members, My dear graduates, ladies and gentlemen.

I consider it a great honour and a special privilege to have been invited to deliver the 9th convocation address of the International Institute of Information Technology. My dear graduates my heartiest congratulations to all of you. All of you are fortunate in receiving the degrees and certificates from this prestigious institute. My special appreciation for those of you who have distinguished yourselves by winning gold medals, scholarships and awards.

International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore is ideally located at the electronics city amidst campuses of software giants of our country. The ambience of this place and sprawling campus of the institute provides ideal setting for students to pursue studies in this advanced branch of engineering. International Institute of Information Technology, in a short span of less than a decade has created a niche position for itself in the arena of Information Technology education and research in our country. I am sure the institute has well carved out plans for the future too and will attain greater heights in the years to come.

My dear young graduates, today is a very important day in your lives. From the portals of the academic institution, you are entering a new and challenging phase of your life. From the protective umbrella of your parents and teachers you will be entering the competitive

professional field. Here, I would like to quote from Subhashita Manjari:

“A student gains a quarter portion of knowledge from his teacher, a quarter of it from one's own intelligence, a quarter from fellow students, and a quarter from time (Experience)”.

While the career that you choose offer you unlimited opportunities to show your talents and knowledge imparted to you during your stay in the university, you will also be competing with many others from different colleges and universities. To excel in your chosen careers it is essential that you update and equip yourselves with the latest in the field and constantly strive for acquiring more knowledge.

Even though the IT sector witnessed slow growth in other parts of the world it did not have a major effect in our country. This is partly due to the resilience of our economy and also the well planned strategy of our IT managers. India is on the threshold of witnessing an unprecedented growth in science, technology, economy and various other sectors of industry. It provides lot of opportunities for the young professionals to perform. Innovations and timely solutions are taking the Indian industries to leadership position. India with more than one third of its population below 25 years has tremendous potential to overcome any hurdle.

Bill Gates said: “Information technology and business are becoming inextricably interwoven. I don't think anybody can talk meaningfully about one without the talking about the other”.

The acquisition of technological capability by countries as a currency of power will change the economic and political order. In order to succeed in stiff global competition and make our presence felt in the global IT arena there is a need to revisit our policies and frame out proper responses. While globalisation makes newer products and materials accessible to common man at lower prices with assured quality, the local industries have to meet the challenge of competition and quality. We have to equip our selves with latest technology, better engineering and management practices. As young software professionals you have a major role to play. The training that you have obtained at this institute I am sure has equipped you with the capability and competence to meet these challenges.

The advances taking place in various fields of science, engineering and technology holds out tremendous promise for further progress of our country. The revolutionary growth in microelectronics is ushering in miniaturized gadgets with enhanced features. The advancements in electronics have a direct bearing on IT sector and poses great challenge for the software professionals. Software that forms part of these gadgets should provide user friendly environment and solutions on finger tips. We are also witnessing the benefits from the convergence of computers and communications resulting in vast improvement in services offered in various sectors. Communications is the backbone of IT industry and it is very essential that reliable communication is ensured. Connectivity and bandwidth will be on great demand while e-solutions will be part of common man`s life.

India with more than 600,000 villages is faced with daunting problems of illiteracy and burgeoning population. If all our villages are connected to the Information national network, it will not only help in tackling the problems of illiteracy and improving the quality of life but will also be an effective means of integrating the country. If education is viewed as the process of transforming the society then, certainly IT and software professionals can play a very important role in this.

India's leadership position in the global IT is mainly due to certain advantages that the country enjoys. India now accounts for 28 per cent of IT and BPO talent among 28 low-cost countries. Creation of urban infrastructure that has fostered several IT centres in the country. Operational excellence that has delivered cost and quality leadership. A conducive business environment including several favourable policy interventions such as telecom reforms. Continued growth in the domestic IT sector that provides enabling infrastructure and develops a broad-based skill base.

Over the last decade, India's offshore industries have proven to be significant economic growth engines. During this period the offshore IT and BPO industries also accounted for nearly 95 per cent of the absolute growth in foreign exchange inflows. Remittances from IT and BPO professionals in the US and Europe have also been major contributors to the large foreign exchange inflows coming to India. Today, these two industries directly employ more than a million people and provide indirect employment to another three million workers.

Some of the challenges facing IT sector where you as young professionals can play a major role is in ensuring the quality and security of the data and operations. Today, in spite of innovative techniques of protecting the data cyber crimes are threatening to destroy the basic fabric of our society. Cyber crimes have spread their tentacles jeopardising the security of the mankind.

My dear young graduates, my message to you is, you should take up challenges in your professional life and contribute towards the development of world class of technology, products and services in the country.

Here, I would like to share with you our own experience of mastering the complex technology of launch vehicles, satellites and operation of associated ground systems. The phenomenal success of Chandrayaan mission in sending a spacecraft to the Moon and placing Indian tri colour on the lunar surface is the crowning glory of the country's achievement in space technology. In reaching this position of pre-eminence, we had our own share of set backs and disappointments. Indian Space Research Organisation had to overcome technology denials, refusal to supply materials and components by many foreign countries. Not deterred by these threats embarked on the more challenging route of developing the required materials, components and technologies indigenously. We succeeded in all our efforts. The success of our space programme in the country has shown that given the right ambience and responsible leadership we are second to none.

My dear young graduates, I would like to quote Swami Vivekananda:

*“Take up one idea. Make that one idea your life
think of it, dream of it, live on idea.*

*Let the brain, muscles, nerves, every part of your body, be full of that
idea, and just leave every other idea alone.*

This is the way to success”.

The present generation of students is lucky, as they have access to vast amount of information at the click of a button. It is your responsibility to convert this information into knowledge. My dear students, I am specially impressed by the mission statement of the institute:

“ To build on the track record set by India in general and Bangalore in particular, to enable India to play a key role in the global IT scenario through a world class institute with a focus on education & research, entrepreneurship & innovation”.

This mission of the institute is backed by the matured wisdom of learned faculty here who has well planned strategy to transform this institute into a world class institution. I compliment and congratulate all the Members of the Governing Board, the Director and the faculty and wish all success in taking the institute to greater heights.

You have a great future ahead of you. You have both the Knowledge and the capabilities to create a better tomorrow for yourself, for your countrymen and for mankind at large. You need a positive mindset and willingness to use your capabilities for larger good of the people. I trust you have made the necessary preparation to excel in your profession and earn for yourself a pride position among the high profile engineering professionals at home and abroad.

I wish you all success in life.

Jai Hind