



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

GEOHERMAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

Orkustofnun, Grensásvegur, 9  
IS – 108 Reykjavík, Iceland

Graduation  
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## GRADUATION SPEECH ON THE 36<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CLOSING CEREMONY ON BEHALF OF UNU-GTP 2014 FELLOWS

*By Daniel Villarroel*

Good afternoon our honourable guests;

- Representative of Ministry Foreign Affairs,
- Representative of Ministry of Industries and Innovation,
- Director of Icelandic Development Agency,
- Director of Orkustofnun,
- Director of ISOR,
- Representative of the UNU programs in Iceland,
- Director and the amazing staff of the Geothermal Training Programme of the UNU,
- Dear fellows of the generation 2014,
- Distinguished guests,

First of all, it is a great pleasure and honour to stand before you to speak sincerely on behalf of us 29 students of UNU-GTP class of 2014.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the United Nations University and the Government of Iceland for grating us the opportunity to be part of this annual session. It is necessary to express our complete gratitude to our course coordinators, our supervisors, our instructors and others resource persons, thanks for your time, your patience and for sharing with us your knowledge and experiences. Last, but not least, to the amazing UNU-GTP staff, which was as a family for us: Ludvik, thank you for the organization, for all the histories about Iceland and for the unforgettable trip to the north. Thank you and your lovely wife for opening the doors of your home and organize that wonderful party which we never forget it. Ingimar, you always has the correct answer for our doubts, thank you today are representatives of five new countries, in my case, thanks to considerer Bolivia. Maria, thank you for all the support and specially congratulations for the new family member, he was with us during the open ceremony and also in Blue Lagoon, he is also part of this group. Thori, if had not been for your impressive effectiveness, many of us would still be trying to find the way to Iceland, and those who would have already have found it, would surely be still undocumented, thank you for that. Thank you Márkus for the courses organization, for provide us all the necessary information in order to survive in this country and for upload all the essential information in the famous “P:drive”. Thank you little precious Málfríður for giving always your smile and your friendship, thank for being the best swimming teacher in the world. And thank you Rosa, you can open your own school of detectives or hackers, thank you for all the information provide.

..... and of course thanks to all the 29<sup>th</sup> fellows present here. Actually we are 30 fellows, a girl is not physically here but she always supports us from Kenya. So, we are 30<sup>th</sup> crazy guys for whom since long time ago the nationality is the least important. Currently, we are a group of

friends whom can speak (at least a little bit): English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Swahili, Amharic, Persian, Arabic, Chinese, Pidgin, due to everybody learned a little part of everybody. And of course we tried to learn the crazy Icelandic tongue (Godan daginn, takk fyrir, Bardarbunga, Eyjafjallajökull, Hallgrímskirkjatur), but for that we would need another intensive course of six months (or maybe longer). But, the tongue was the only difference between this group. The national borders have been forgotten a long time ago....if the world leaders would act as well....

And now we will return home and continue the life as was until April, in the same house, the same work, the same desk, the same people, the same trees, the same streets.... Apparently everything will be the same thing, but in essence and in shape nothing will ever be the same thing... not after Iceland.

As of now, things will have different flavours and colours, because we learned lot things about geothermal science, about the life and especially and probably the most important thing, we know how to do things by ourselves. If the future of the geothermal science is in hands of the people who is listening this speech now, I am sure that will be a good future.

Dear fellows, Today is our graduation six months after we had met and it seems as if we already met a life. Today, we have to celebrate! because this is the last day.

As of now, we are return to our countries, many of us will continue in contact, Emails, Facebook, Whatsapp, Skype and others are powerful tools for that, and many of us probably will meet in the future. But, these 29<sup>th</sup> crazy guys, all together, at the same room in Iceland! never happen again. So, guys, have to start to celebrate, because today is our day.....

Thank you.

*“No matter where you’re from, your dreams are valid”*- Lupita Nyong’o’s in acceptance speech at 2014 Oscars.