



**UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY**

GEOHERMAL TRAINING PROGRAMME
Orkustofnun, Grensasvegur 9,
IS-108 Reykjavik, Iceland

Graduation Speech
23/10/2015

Good afternoon, Godan daginn, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honour to stand before you and speak on behalf of my friends, 30 fellows of unu-gtp 2015 and I am delighted to welcome you to our graduation ceremony! :)

Firstly I'd like to express our sincere gratitude to the United Nations University and the government of ICELAND, for giving us this opportunity to learn from the Icelandic geothermal energy experts.

Thirty seven years ago, geothermal training program started to welcome students from all over the world and have dedicated their knowledge and energy to them. And this year was our time at UNU-GTP. I don't know about the 36 previous batches, but I am pretty sure that this is the best of all of them! (Maybe the best ever) 😊

We had a journey through all steps of geothermal energy development, where to look for it, how to find it, how to reach it, how to test it, how to utilize it, how to manage and preserve it and finally or maybe firstly how to finance it. You made us understand all the way starting from the bottom of the wells up to the warm water and light in our houses. I remember once our professor Paul Valdimarsson said geothermal energy will not save the world, that's right, however, it was the reason to bring us here together and now all of us are ardent and passionate for sharing gained knowledge in our professional fields or at least making a positive change in our country to make the world a better, greener and cleaner place to live. 😊

You chose us from 15 nations with different world views, cultures, religions and life styles, while during these 6 months from total strangers we became close buddies, even more we did crazy and adventurous things here together and made a borderless world of friendship. We came up with our own ground rules here, to respect each other, to be shareful, responsible and accountable, to lead by example and communicate effectively and I am happy to say that these rules were taken to heart and never broken. 😊

There is a saying that memories are like stones, time and distance erode them but I am sure our Icelandic memories won't weather with any kind of erosion or corrosion. Memories of feeling the pressure of deadlines, running for the buses and letting them control our life schedule, going for nightlife in summer day light, coping with diverse pronunciations and accents, trying rotten fish, pony stew, seabirds steak, and other international dishes.

Memories of smell of H₂S under the shower, having shortest and coldest summer ever in our lives, battling strong winds to come to school and always failing to trust weather forecasts,

We never forget seeing scary faces of fellows covered with silica in blue lagoon, joining the most interesting and well-organized excursion according "Icelandic time", and moments of screaming and crying the first time we saw aurora or rainbow over a huge waterfall, and when many of us touched and walked on snow for the first time. I am sure at least one of everyone's bucket list wishes came true in Iceland and that means a lot to us. 😊

All the episodes of our hectic time here, classes, group project, excursions, final project and so on are like snapshots putting together in a huge photo album. These are the things that changed us at the end of this course and I think we should be proud to have made it. Today is a milestone for each of us and of course our loved ones that we owe our deepest thanks. 😊

We warmly thank all our supervisors as well as all Orkostufnon and ISOR staff for their priceless support and guidance.

Thanks unu-gtp director, dear Ludvik with his heart-warming care and pleasing laugh after calling us folks, for taking pictures of us with geothermal smile. Thanks to him and his family for the fascinating party and their tolerance for our awkward singing and dancing. 😊

We are very grateful to Ingimar with his frozen face but warm heart, always being there for us to help and ensuring that our reports are flawless and world-class quality.

Thanks Thorhildur for enabling us to come here, welcoming us in airport and overloading us with tones of information on the way.

Thanks to multi-tasking Frida, our swimming teacher, our hair stylist, our photographer and our fun, cool friend. (While chewing a gum)

And Of course, Markus, our "amazing" Icelandic google and his famous quote "Fellows lecture is starting!"

And takk frir Maria for giving us a chance to try out other disciplines! Like be a geophysicist then design a well or an engineer doing geology or a financial manager be a chemist during group project. :D

The future of geothermal energy is promising and this program has equipped us with the power of knowledge, so when we take the path forward, we are all well-prepared to strive, to seek, to find, and not to give up. :)

So keep your passion burning hot like an up flow zone, keep your spirit in high enthalpy, never collapse or burst under pressure and let life lessons alter you to better new ones like what earth does with the rocks. :)

Now I want to ask all my friends to join me in giving a very big round of applause to all of you amazing people who inspired and mentored us. Thank you.