



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

GEOTHERMAL TRAINING PROGRAMME
Orkustofnun, Grensásvegur 9,
IS-108 Reykjavík, Iceland

Graduation
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GRADUATION SPEECH ON THE 32ND ANNUAL CLOSING CEREMONY ON BEHALF OF UNU-GTP 2010 FELLOWS.

By Thecla Mutia

Your Excellencies, distinguished dignitaries' and guests, all UNU 2010 fellows, Ladies and gentlemen.
With all Protocols observed Good afternoon.

Today marks a most awaited momentous day – graduation! 28 fellows from 15 countries that is China, Comoros, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Dominica, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kenya, Mongolia, Nevis, Nicaragua, Rwanda, and Yemen are proud to have successfully completed the six months UNU geothermal training programme, 2010. This is the first time that there has been a UNU Fellow from Comoros, Dominica and Nevis. On this special day, a great milestone has been achieved in our lives and professional ministries. Requisite expertise both theoretical and practical in Reservoir Engineering, Geothermal Utilization, Chemistry of Thermal Fluids, Geophysical Exploration, Borehole Geology, Environmental studies and Drilling Technology has added in our portfolio for application. Our countenance depicts emotional Joy amidst happy smiles. The definition; (height) a step up the ladder – a new knowledge garnered to take home, we have earned it. My task today is to make a declaration on behalf of the graduating 2010 UNU class of our pleasant immeasurable appreciation. I am totally humbled and honoured on this course.

To begin with, we express our most sincere gratitude to the Government of Iceland for granting us the opportunity to be part of the 32nd annual session of the UNU-GTP despite the tough economic hurdles, we really are indebted. Ladies and Gentlemen, renewable clean energy is indispensable to economic development with the current climate paradigm. Geothermal energy stands out and is gaining momentum on its wide application due to its reliable intrinsic stability and environmentally benign nature. There is an urgent prioritized need to train more professionals to drive projects successfully and integrate a specialized multidisciplinary approach during the exploration, exploitation and development stages. This describes the growing number of fellows graduating year by year. Since the UNU-GTP inception in 1975, we are proud to be part of the 452 alumni fellows trained on geothermal development and look forward to promulgation and application of the same towards global sustainable development. Iceland is a self proclaimed geothermal nation and among the worlds leading experts in state of the art geothermal development and utilization technologies. This commitment by the Icelandic government in support of global capacity building is truly priceless, we rate it an excellent example that has gone a long way in establishing resource oriented persons along growing numbers of geothermal projects. At present successful ongoing and envisaged geothermal projects are now under auspice of former UNU-GTP fellows. This noble cause by the Icelandic government is opportune to make the world a better place and we look forward towards its continuity in future.

The founding Director of the UNU-GTP and his extraordinary dedicated team; the deputy director Mr. Ludvik Georgsson, Thorhildur Isberg, Dorthé Holm, Ingimar Gudmundsson and Marcus Wilde has steered the successful implementation of the programme. The painstaking efforts you have put towards our comfortable stay, excellent study facilitation despite our big number was coupled with fun and exciting experiences that remains vivid in our minds. The field excursions are something we really looked forward to, they were uniquely well organized and to most of us the Icelandic spectacular realm of ice and fire, stone and sea remains a lifetime experience to remember. Ingvar's and Ludvik's lectures on Iceland geology intertwined with the Icelandic sagas, Ludvik's a must taste sweet scent hardfiskur or dried fish, in between our breaks, Icelandic chocolate and wafers, Dr. Ingvar's treat to the black bird are something we will keep in memory, it was really great to experience new culture and we enjoyed it. The tranquil magnificent waterfalls and outstanding scenery that we experienced in the trips remains etched in our minds. We have only heard from our predecessors but now we can prowess that we came, we saw, we gathered and we enjoyed. We salute the UNU-GTP Iceland.

Ladies and Gentlemen, some key persons are also commendable today whom without, it would have been an uphill task to complete the training; our lectures, supervisors, the entire Orkurstofnun, ISOR, our MSc and PhD fellows and all resource persons at all areas visited. Thank you for the hearty reception. You instilled in us a great wealth of knowledge which we can't wait to put in practice in our respective countries. Once again many thanks for accommodating us in the system. This has really added value to who we are today. To most of us, English is just but an optional language in our countries, our first class encounter was lodged with difficulty as we thought we never would accomplish our studies, but today we present to you a successful story. We have expanded our scope with tremendous improvement and can now speak confidently, thank you for patiently understanding and nurturing us. We hope to maintain the network and share more knowledge in future. To our supervisors, many thanks for your dedication and ever present hand, tolerance, fruitful ideas, encouragement and knowledge shared in developing our research ideas in fulfillment of the course, we truly owe you many thanks and most of all for believing in us. We believe that our success marked by this graduation is also your success, lets celebrate together as we hope to maintain the integral relationship established during the project period.

The final 12 weeks of our training were busy trying to wrap up as heads were clicking completion and home. The looming story around the fellows which would irritate most of us was the question 'Have you finished?'; this would rob us our beautiful smiles and many would pretend to smile outwardly, a challenging experience it was!. One fellow actually confessed his pretence to smile as it gave him confidence to trudge on. The change in fellow's programmes and sleeping habits was quite obvious as the offices filled with strong scents of unanimous strong coffee and instant noodles. One of the fellows told me that sleep was of no use at that moment as in his sleep his brain and head were all levelized and he needed to keep his head high to progress. From strangers to great friends, we have great tales we will live to tell. Six months ago – to-date, it has been an exciting experience triggered by mixed cultures and new revelations, the thrust to speak a common language: Geothermics. We coined the name family for ourselves and have learned to be there for each other. The rich cultural diversity has also added immensely to our knowledge. We have learned a lot from each other and consider this timely in the advent of globalization. To many of us the excitement is intense; having finished and urging to get home however it remains that we look forward to coming together again. One important lesson we experienced was embracing team spirit (**T**ogether **E**ach **A**chieving **M**ore), this has greatly taught us to be tolerant and appreciative of each other, the cornerstone of dynamic human relationships.

My dear colleagues, my dear family this day is the beginning of us sharing a good common cause; geothermal energy for development towards a sustained future. Having come from countries with rich geothermal resources, we are the vanguard of the new geothermal generation. It's our obligation now to power our nations. It's our turn to give back to our societies with dedication; Borrowing the words of

Martha from Kenya - we now have an eye to see into the reservoir, our business is to conquer it sustainably. I am sure our future efforts will contribute to affluent societies.

To our Icelandic family, we take this opportunity to invite you to our countries at any point in your lives, we truly enjoyed Iceland both academically and socially and we take back dear memories home to our families and friends. We wish you happiness and look forward to staying in contact. As I conclude share with me a quote from a famous author by the name of T.S. Elliot, "**Only those who risk going too far can possibly know how far one can go.**" So from today onwards, we are obliged to go out and blaze our own trails.

I take this opportunity to wish you all the best and I am confident that we will EXHALE!!

I kindly ask the graduands to join me in giving a big round of applause to all of you great people; you have inspired and mentored us.

Long live the United Nations University – Geothermal Training Programme.

Takk Fyrir the Icelandic way!

Marhaba the Comorian way!