



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

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

Graduation Speech
07/10/2016

GRADUATION SPEECH ON THE 38th ANNUAL CLOSING CEREMONY ON BEHALF OF UNU-GTP 2016 FELLOWS

By Esther Mtimbaru Range (Tanzania)

Godan daginn!

I am humbled and honoured to stand on behalf of the graduating 2016 UNU class, to express our pleasant immense appreciation.

Our honourable guests,
Ladies and gentlemen.

Today marks a most presumed moment, graduation! 34 fellows from 15 countries, proudly to have completed the six months' course.

Today is a big day.

Different cultures, different backgrounds, with one common language: geothermal. This place breath geothermal: the books, souvenirs, posters, journals, even the glass-walls say "geothermal" in a tons of languages. We thank Orkustofnun for adopting the UNU-GTP – us here and providing this unique environment. A lot of us are new in the geothermal industry. It is not only a green alternative energy source but a solution to energy poverty. The knowledge we have acquired have added a great value to our professional skills. A great milestone has been achieved in our lives.

I remember when we arrived to the airport, Thori was waiting for us and she handed over a file with lot of paper having information regarding everything. She said, our first challenge was to find our way to here, Orkustofnun on the next day on time. Well, looking back it has been a long journey. Tests A and B during the introductory lectures, assignments and more tests during the specialized training and of course, the project to crown it. **Was it easy?** No. **Was it worth it?** Yes, definitely. These challenges got us out from our comfort zone which first doesn't sound too pleasant, but at the end of the day (or should I say, at the end of the 6 months..?), this made it possible to meet and get to know each other, discover a new country, this beautiful land of Iceland, and even learn new things about ourselves. We are going home as different people now. And eventually, that was the main point of the whole thing, right? ☺ As Gandhi said once "Be the change you want to see in the world". I really hope that this 6 months, Iceland and everyone here helped us to be this change we all want to see. The world has changed.

We would like to express sincerely gratitude to the government of ICELAND through UNU-GTP for awarding 34 scholarships opportunity to us. To our lecturers, you have greatly contributed to our professional skills. The vising lecturer, James Koenig who gave a series of

fascinating lectures on geothermal energy. Well organized field trips, which imparted a great practical experience in geothermal industry.

In a special way, I would like to mention the staff of UNU-GTP who were extra-dedicated in easing our academic deeds in Iceland,

Ludvik – your classic quote “okay folks!”, the exciting stories of not just geothermal but also the historical, cultural and of course the football side of Iceland.

Ingimar – who is always there to help with anything.

Thorhildur – thank you for the travelling arrangements, welcoming us at the airport and organizing our accommodation and financial life here in Iceland.

Markus – thank you for your humility, we shall miss your countless emails, placing everything to the legendary “p-drive” and of course your well-known line: “Fellows, the lecture is starting!”

Frida - always smiling, swimming teacher, photographer, editor, and helping us to explore the hiking/camping side of Iceland.

You all created a home away from home atmosphere for us. Thank you very much, we are greatly beholden.

Some key persons also commendable today whom without, it would have been an uphill task to complete the training, our supervisors, Orkustofnun, ISOR, UNU fellows – master and PhD students 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.

Most of us English is just an optional language in our countries, our first class encounter was lodged with difficulty as we thought we would never accomplish our studies, but today we present to you a great successful story. We have expanded our scope and now speak confidently, thank you for patiently understanding and cherishing us. We hope to maintain the network and share more knowledge in future.

Memories of the country – the experiences which we will not forget.

Smell of H₂S the first time we took shower, having coldest summer ever in our lives, battling strong winds to come to the office and always failing to trust weather forecast. Screaming the first time we saw the northern lights or a rainbow over an enormous waterfall or touching and walking on the snow for the first time.

Get to know each other's cultures a little bit at least, but also each other's field: we cannot say we are professionals but at least we have an idea of the geothermal geology, geophysics, environmental science, geochemistry, drilling, reservoir engineering, utilization and project management/financing.

I would like to say that when we fly back to our home countries, that is not goodbye. The graduation is not a farewell to Iceland for Iceland will be with us in everyday we work in geothermal industry. Nor is the farewell to other fellows. This graduation may be the end of being classmates, but it is also the start of being colleagues in geothermal industry. We should look forward to the day we see each other again.

If the only prayer you ever said in your entire life is THANK YOU it will be enough.
So here we, saying to you all THANK YOU