Let me begin with a note of congratulations and best wishes for a bright future that each of you dreamed of. This ESP graduating class 2013 is special as it is by far the largest group (58 graduates altogether) and it will remain so for many years to come as the subsequent batches are smaller. Many of you in this class have won honors, bringing back trophies, prizes and award certificates from competitions held abroad and in Singapore as well as the Faculty and University Awards. About 16 of you will graduate with a minor in either Computer Science, or Mathematics, or Systems Engineering, or Technopreneurship, or Management, and or even Philosophy. From what I gather, more than a dozen of you will be pursuing PhDs in top class universities such as Cambridge, MIT, CalTech, GeorgiaTech and NUS. About 20 of you have already found jobs in diverse companies, such as Micron, ABB, ST Kinetics, Schlumberger, Pheonix Solar, NUSSNI, and working as electronics engineers, manufacturing engineers, software engineers, research assistants, etc. It reinforces the fact that ESP graduates can work in virtually any field. I am sure the others will secure jobs in due course. Also, I wish to applaud a few risk takers among you who will be setting up their own companies. I learn that Fitzkhoon and Almeric has a start-up company – After You to produce a dish washing system for our Hawker Centres and Food Court. Hollywood actor Denzel Washington once said, “I've found that nothing in life is worthwhile unless you take risks. Every failed experiment is one step closer to success. You've got to take risks. You will fail at some point in your life. Accept it. You will lose. You
will embarrass yourself. You will suck at something. There is no doubt about it. Never be discouraged. Never look back. Give everything you've got. And when you fall throughout life, fall forward."

Look at all you - so smartly attired this evening! ESP Associates and Staff are all so proud to witness the growth and maturity in each of you. The special skills and attributes of creativity, innovativeness, global outlook, multidisciplinary knowhow, independent learner and never say die attitude (that you have acquired from ESP) are in your arsenal. These skills and attributes will be valuable to you in gaining global competitiveness in the forever changing world.

For my farewell advice to you, I shall quote the wise and inspiring advice found in the famous Indian movie – the 3 Idiots – **Chase Excellence and Success will Follow**. As Bon Jovi said, “The world doesn't need any more grey. On the other hand, we can't get enough color.” Yes, we need colourful extraordinary people. Recall the story on the types of employees that was read earlier to you. Aspire to be type “O” employee – one who is proactive, out-of-the box thinker and passionate.

Now, when you become successful, remember that “One’s personal success (whatever measure you use) depends not only on you, but also on people around you (i.e., your
friends, parents, and teachers) and a little bit of luck (i.e., being at the right place at the right time). So remain humble and be thankful to those who have helped you”.

Know the power of commitment and importance of family in life. Create time to celebrate your graduation with parents, grandparents, uncles and aunties who have encouraged, supported, and provided guidance, and the friends who made your university days so enjoyable.

Appreciate and enjoy the little things, such as your cup of coffee. Be curious about everything. Do not be afraid to try new things as we have taught you in the engineering science design projects. Acquire a new hobby that makes you feel good and learn a new skill. This will keep your brain young.

Once again, congratulations on your brilliant achievement and may you go to great and wonderful places. I end with the Vulcan salute “Live long and prosper”.

ESP Graduating Class 2013 party was held at the Orchard Hotel on 15 May 2013. A total of 98 persons (comprising the graduating students, ESP sub-club committee members, University of Toronto students who are interned in ESP labs, ESP Associates and Staff) attended the party.