

## **RIM fourteenth Convocation**

**15<sup>th</sup> July 2010**

### **Address by Honourable Minister of Health Lyonpo Zangley Dukpa**

Associated with all levels of education for a long time of my career, I always feel exhilarated to be part of any educational activity. For giving me this sort of nostalgia, I would like to firstly express my humble gratitude to Honourable Lyonpo Dorji Wangdi, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Institute, Board Directors and the Management of the Institute. While I congratulate the new members of the Board, I, on behalf of the Royal Government of Bhutan, would like to offer my humble gratitude and deep appreciation to the former Chairman and Directors of the Board for their role in shaping and nurturing the Institute. Under the stewardship of the new, young and dynamic chairmanship in the person of Lyonpo Dorji Wangdi and new Board Directors, who were selected on the basis of their personal merit, the Royal Government of Bhutan exudes confidence that the Institute will attain a new height.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We all know that since its establishment in 1986, RIM has traveled an arduous but rewarding journey to make its mark in the higher education landscape. It has been contributing to the capacity building of human resource or human capital in our country. While we take pride in the achievement of the institute, we all admit that much more is required to be done if we were to translate its dream into reality of becoming a premier centre of excellence in management development and policy research in the region. Good news is that we have the right environment. We have the qualified and competent staff and intelligent and bright students. We have the support of the Government as well as the people. There is no reason why our only institute of management cannot become a Havard School of Management or All India Institute of Management at Ahmedabad, India.

Now, let me share some of my thoughts, purely my personal perspectives.

Higher education institutes across the world are continuously encountering the problem of developing and providing courses or academic programmes that are balanced. There is a visible tension between quality and quantity, tension between relevance and academic excellence, tension between theories and practice and tension between approaches to teaching and learning processes.

These days we hear that our university graduates cannot communicate clearly, cannot write project proposals, lack proficiency and competence in English, lack capability to adopt and adapt changes, lack initiatives and innovations, lack right attitude and mindset, and so on and so forth. I do not intend to generalize and offend those graduates who do not fall into this category. Truth is bitter, anyway.

You will recall that our King, in his address to the Graduates during the Graduate Orientation Programme a few years ago, highlighted that the Bhutanese youth were no different from those of other countries in the world in terms of intelligence and capability, but what the Bhutanese youth lacked were creativity, innovation and enterprising. All these require hard work both on the part of teachers and students. These are the challenges our higher education institutes, especially RIM, must face and overcome them.

Some years ago, I compared the course contents of B.Com Honours of Sherubtse and those of the Charles Stuart University in Australia. They were identical or similar, 22 papers in all. But the difference was in the mode of delivery of the contents. There is an urgent need in Bhutan to shift the paradigm in the pedagogical approaches and strategies. I am happy to learn that things are changing in our higher education institutes in the area of pedagogy. It is demanding on the part of faculty members to ascertain whether or not assignments submitted by students are original or copied or plagiarized. We are quick to pick up the bad habits or culture of universities in our neighboring countries but not from good ones.

A few years ago, I read an article in India Today magazine on how students were coping with their study at the AIIM, Ahmedabad. A student was quoted saying that in the first few weeks of his study at the Institute, he had to do a lot of reading, write analytical essays, assignments and carry out case studies. He was so engrossed in his work and he did not realize how days had passed. After three or four months he gained confidence through his sheer hard work and overcame the apprehension he had initially. (Quote Nalanda)

Let me also share with you some of my experience at the University of Bristol, England where I pursued Master in Educational Management. It may sound self trumpeting. But, I am now a politician. In 13 months, we had to do 9 weighted essays of 5000 words each; research and write thesis, write exams and participate in classroom discussions and discourses. We were taught how to study and plan our work for the whole year. Some of our friends had to discontinue studies while some including myself nearly ended in a Psychiatric clinic. There was no time for me as well as others to work in the cotton fields or restaurants or hotels. It was not my purpose either. I had the similar experience in the National Institute of Education in Singapore in 1970s

I hope and I believe RIM must intellectually challenge the PG students, the toppers, should I say, in the highly competitive RCSC Examinations. Every year, about one hundred students, the RCSC Selected, pursue the PG courses in Public Administration, National Law, and Financial Management. For me, they are future leaders. They form the critical mass in the Civil Service. They must be trained as responsible, proactive managers and leaders, which is the vision of the institute.

Having shared some of my thoughts on the challenges facing the Institute, may I now offer my heart-felt commendations and Tashi Delek to all the proud Graduates, both PG and Diploma. As I mentioned, PG graduates are toppers of the RCSC Examinations. Your success is the fruit of many years of determination, commitment and hard work. Today, you bring joy and pride to your parents, to your teachers and to your country. You have proved the worthy of the investment made by our good government. It is now your turn to pay back to your parents, teachers and country. You are crossing an important milestone in your life. With

the right attitude, right mindset, humility and honesty (some GNH qualities), and also willing to listen and learn, you will do well in your life.

I would also like to commend the diploma Graduates for the successful completion your respective courses. You have also proved the worthy of the opportunities made available to you often in difficult circumstances. You will also have opportunities to pursue degree programmes in the future. Some of you may join the Civil Service, some corporations, some private businesses and some may even decide to self employ. So long as you are good human beings ready to serve either in public or private organizations with humility, ingenuity and integrity, you should not worry about getting a job. It is good to be good.

In conclusion, I wish to say that you, the graduates have come a long way. You have a longer way to go. It is my wish that you will be able to find fulfillment in your personal and professional lives and bring joy to all around you. You carry the hopes of our Beloved King, the dreams of your parents and your aspirations. May Konchhog-Sum bless you all.

I thank you all for your patience.