



Vice Chancellor's Speech at Fifth Graduation Ceremony, November 4, 2009

H.E. Shaikh Ahmad Muhammad Al-Isai
Chairman of the Shura Council
Patron of the ceremony

H.E. Shaikh Mustaheel bin Ahmad al—Mashani
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Excellencies, Shaikhs
Dr. Hassan Diab, Vice President of AUB for Regional External Programs
Families of Graduates
Colleagues- Faculty and Staff
Graduates:
Salamu Alaykum

This is an evening of joy in which we celebrate the culmination of efforts of an elite group of students with university degrees. Congratulations to this fifth batch of graduates and to their families and to us.

Dear graduates:

This is a special event for you since you represent the first cohort of DU graduates with bachelor degrees; you joined the foundation program when the University was opened in 2004. This bestows you with special recognition coupled with additional responsibility.

Your graduation year has been full of historical events that will have a profound impact on the features of the twenty-first century. I thank God that the wise policies of the government under the leadership of HM Sultan Qaboos have protected Oman from the adverse consequences of the global economic crisis. This year was also marked by another historical event namely the A H1N1 pandemic that the world, including us, is fighting with success.

History teaches us that crises and difficulties are not permanent. They come in defined epochs followed by periods of rapid growth and prosperity. The Quran affirms this meaning in a number of verses.

Dear Graduates:

In the light of these global changes, your success in work after graduation depends on your readiness to seize the opportunity when it knocks on your door. HM called the Omani youth to seize "all available opportunities, proving that they are responsible in undertaking all tasks assigned to them" (HM, 2005). But readiness to seize an

opportunity requires persistent hard work aimed at continuous learning, knowledge development, refinement of skills learned in college, and the upholding of DU's core values notably excellence and quality.

In this information age, it is easy to obtain information on various subjects from many sources at a speed that keeps increasing every day. This information is instrumental in helping you maintain your academic standard and quality of work, which are the qualities HM urged us to acquire by asking us to "stay abreast of changes and innovations in science and knowledge particularly in information technology" (HM, 2008). Here lies the individual responsibility which was nurtured in you by your university, family and country as we are today experiencing a continuous revolution in technology manifested in different aspects of daily life.

I also urge you to be self-independent because this is the route to achieving "great ambitions of nations and peoples" (HM, 1990). Let us learn from the Omani experience in confronting the cyclone in 2007 where all citizens and residents cooperated with one another using their own resources under the direction of their wise leadership.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This young university continues to grow steadily and with determination. We watch the rise of the impressive structure of our new campus, depending on God and on the generous royal grant in order to establish a beacon of knowledge that will impact the Sultanate and beyond.

Our deepest gratitude goes to HM for all his work towards development of higher education in the Sultanate and for development of Oman into a prosperous and strong nation. Thanks to the founders of this institution, members of the Board of Trustees, who continue to provide all possible support so that DU would occupy a recognized position among higher education institutions.

We thank everyone who contributed either financially or by providing moral support to DU. Special gratitude is due to AUB for continuing to offer us technical support.

Many thanks and appreciation to HE Shaikh Ahmad Issai for honoring us with his patronship.

I would like to thank the senior officers at the Ministry of Higher Education for their cooperation and support.

Finally, my thanks go to all those who contributed to the success of this function notably the organizing committee and the volunteer students.

We all look forward to having the next graduation ceremony on the grounds of the new campus of your university.

May God help us all serve this generous nation.

Assalamu Alaikum

Muhammad A. Faour