

## USJ CONGREGATION 2019 – 13 JULY 2019

### SPEECH BY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE – DR. ALAN YUNG

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We are honoured representing the graduates of Class 2019 to deliver the message of appreciation.

I am Alan Yung who graduates with a Doctorate Degree in Global Studies from the Faculty of Creative Industries.

I usually speak from my mind and seldom prepare written notes, not in any conference presentation, nor my thesis defence, but only for today's ceremony. I try not to quote any famous or infamous people's word, which can be found easily.

Graduation not only means one can master a subject or two, but that one should have acquired a critical mind to understand society along with subject matters as a whole. We cannot be an expert of everything, but we should be sure we can think and analyse most subjects matters. We may have no knowledge of rocket science in details, but we should have our own perspective on rocket science as a whole, which brings great impact and contributes to mankind. Education may teach you some skills to earn a living and survive in this society, but it is more important to socialise those educated to be part of the society with a wider vision if not a world vision. Science, technology, engineering, and maths are essential to the technical advancement of humankind, and social science, history, art, politics and economics are fundamental and inextricably linked to mankind's advancement in all times. When we consider an issue, whatever issue, these elements are always around for us to contemplate, and these elements are always interlinked and affecting one and each other.

Personally, I have spent years at USJ for self-actualisation, and the result did not really mean what I have learned, nor the grade that I got, but affirmed the level of ability to push knowledge ahead. Knowledge has no boundary and I have just come to the edge where I can see how little I know. When I was in high school, I thought one day I should reach the highest level in education, and I make it today. I would like to make myself a role model for my kids that learning is a lifelong exercise. I want to affirm to myself that there should be no key opinion leader whose opinion may affect a small percentage of people, rather, alternative opinion leaders who can foster argument and open our vision for advancement, help the innocent and reduce the ignorant.

Last but not least, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the following people who were crucial in my last 6 years of studies: my supervisor, Prof. Francisco Leandro, Prof. Dominique Tyl, Prof. Neena Thota, and others who are or were with USJ at a certain point. Other people include Dr. Carmen Tong, Prof. Ralph Cousin, Prof. Lily Siu, Prof. Chi-Yin Pang; my wife, Emily, who is always considerate; my daughter, Audrey, who always raises questions about my school life and stimulates my further thoughts about life; my parents and sister, who are always there to encourage and support. Thanks to the Roman Catholic Church, which has contributed to education around the world and provides an open environment to nurture people - in particular, 23 years for myself. Thanks to the Central Government,

who allows the SAR government to create a comparatively liveable city and an affordable education environment, and the preservation of the West meets East heritage of Macao, which is essential to nurture students of all ages in this city.

Today is a mere a milestone which confirms that our effort. The world may seem to move on without you, but remember that your efforts can make the world better and brighter.

Thank you.