



聖若瑟大學
UNIVERSITY OF
SAINT JOSEPH

Message of Appreciation by Student Representative (Doctoral Degree)
Muhammad Bashir Saidu

9 December 2023

(...)

With great pleasure and humility, I stand before you today as a newly minted PhD. My name is Muhammad Bashir Saidu, a doctoral graduate from the Institute of Science and Environment (ISE) at the University of Saint Joseph (USJ), in a cotutelle scheme with the Universidade Católica Portuguesa (UCP).

This is a momentous occasion, not just for me but for all of us who have worked tirelessly to reach this point. First, I want to congratulate all the graduates; we have made it!

As we reflect on our academic journey, we can't help but feel a sense of pride and accomplishment. We have spent countless hours in the lab, library, and classroom, pushing ourselves to the limits of our intellectual capacity. We have overcome obstacles, faced challenges, and emerged stronger and more resilient than ever before.

But we didn't do this alone. We owe a huge gratitude to our mentors, advisors, and professors who have guided us with wisdom, patience, and expertise. We owe a debt of gratitude to our families, friends, and loved ones who have supported us every step of the way. We should be thankful to ourselves that we have made the right decision to attend one of the best universities in Macau.

As we move forward into the next phase of our lives, we must remember that our education is not just a means to an end but a lifelong pursuit of knowledge, discovery, and innovation. We must use our skills and talents to make a positive impact in Macau and the world, solve the most pressing problems of our time, and to inspire the next generation of scholars and scientists.

Personally, I believe that knowledge is power, and it is imperative to give back to our society with my expertise, especially after so many years of training. During my doctoral studies with a background in Biotechnology, specialising in environmental science and engineering, we isolated Bacteria from the local environment in Macau that can degrade plastic PET components and simultaneously synthesise bioplastics. I hope that our research output will continue to improve and bring positive impacts to the overall development of Macau, as Macau is now my second home. For instance, if given an opportunity, I can apply my teaching and research skills



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to teach university students and young researchers in Macau. I would also like to apply my knowledge and skills to benefit the local community through collaboration with the relevant department and local businesses to work and conduct research on projects related to biopolymer production and waste transformation and valorisation. My doctoral degree wouldn't have been a success without the guidance of Professor David Goncalves (ISE.), Professor Paula Castro and Professor Irina Moreira (UCP.) Portugal.

At this juncture, on behalf of the graduating class of 2023, I would like to express our gratitude to the University of Saint Joseph, which offers us high-quality education in various disciplines and massive support from the government of Macau S.A.R. in tertiary education.

We would like to thank our Rector, Reverend Professor Stephen Morgan, who is leading the university in new directions and has outstanding achievements in teaching and research expertise, as well as providing pathways for graduates and current students to achieve very bright futures.

We would also like to thank all of our professors and academic and administrative staff in the USJ, for providing us with enormous support during our education journey, as well as our parents, family members, and close friends who have helped and supported us throughout our personal development.

Lastly, let us celebrate this moment and look to the future with hope, optimism, and a sense of purpose. Let us continue to learn, grow, and make a difference in the world. And let us never forget the lessons we have learned, the friendships we have made, and the memories we have shared during our time here.

I wish all the graduates a bright future and, to all participants, good health, good wealth and happiness. Thank you.

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二零二三年度聖若瑟大學高等學位頒授典禮

博士畢業生代表致辭 - Muhammad Bashir Saidu

2023 年 12 月 9 日

(...)

今天，作為一名應屆博士畢業生，我懷着喜悅和謙遜的心情站在這裡。我叫 Muhammad Bashir Saidu，就讀於聖若瑟大學科學與環境研究所，是聖若瑟大學與葡萄牙天主教大學合作指導計劃的博士畢業生。

不僅對我，還有對我們所有不懈努力走到這一步的人來說，這是一個重要的時刻。首先，我要祝賀所有畢業生：我們成功了！

每當回顧自己的學業歷程時，總不由得感到自豪和有成就感。我們在實驗室、圖書館和課室度過了無數個小時，將自己的能力推向極限，我們克服困難，面對挑戰，變得比以往更強大和堅韌。

然而我們也並不是獨自在戰鬥，在此非常感謝我們的導師、顧問和教授們，他們用智慧、耐心和專業知識指導了我們。同時也感謝我們的家人、朋友和所有愛護及支持我們前進每一步的人。我們亦應該感謝自己，因為我們做出了正確的決定，選擇了就讀澳門最好的大學之一。

當我們邁入人生的下一個階段時，我們必須牢記，我們所接受的教育不僅僅是為達到或實現目的，更是對知識、探索和創新的終生追求。我們必須利用我們的技能和才智對澳門和世界產生積極影響，解決我們時代最緊迫的問題，並激勵下一代的學者和科學家。

就個人而言，在經過這麼多年的學習之後，我相信知識就是力量，並有必要利用自身的專業知識回饋社會。在攻讀博士學位期間，我專攻環境科學與工程，同時擁有生物技術的學術背景，我們從澳門本地環境中分離出可降解 PET (聚對苯二甲酸乙二醇酯) 塑料成分的細菌，並合成為生物塑料。澳門現在是我的第二故鄉，我希望我們的研究成果能不斷改進，為澳門的整體發展帶來積極影響。如果有機會，我希望可以運用我的教學和研究技能，為澳門的大學生和年輕研究人員授課。我也希望與相關部門和本地企業合作，開展與



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生物聚合物生產、廢棄物轉化和資源化相關的工作和研究項目，以知識和技能造福本地社會。我還需要感謝聖若瑟大學科學與環境研究所的 David Goncalves 教授、葡萄牙天主教大學的 Paula Castro 教授和 Irina Moreira 教授對我的博士學位的指導。

在此，我謹代表 2023 屆畢業生，感謝聖若瑟大學為我們提供各學科的優質教育，以及澳門特別行政區政府對高等教育的大力支持。

感謝我們的校長麥侍文教授，他引領大學朝着新的方向發展，在教學和研究專業領域取得了杰出成就，並為畢業生和在校生提供了實現美好未來的途徑。

我們還要感謝聖若瑟大學所有的教授、學術和行政人員，感謝他們在我們的求學路上給予的大力支持，同時感謝我們的父母、家人和好友，感謝他們在我們的個人成長過程中給予的幫助和支持。

最後，讓我們一同慶祝這個時刻，帶着希望、樂觀和使命感展望未來；讓我們繼續學習、成長，為世界作出貢獻；讓我們永遠不要忘記在這裡學到的知識、結下的友誼和一同共度的時光。

祝願所有畢業生前程似錦，祝願所有出席嘉賓身體健康、財源廣進、闔家幸福。謝謝大家。

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