

**MOHAMMAD MUSA, Ph. D.**

VICE CHANCELLOR (ACTING)  
EAST WEST UNIVERSITY



Honorable President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Chancellor of East West University, His Excellency Professor Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed, Dr. M. Osman Farruk, Honorable Minister of Education, the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Dr. Mohammed Farashuddin, Founder Vice Chancellor & President, Board of Directors, Distinguished members of the Board, distinguished guests, Registrar, respected teachers, administrative officials, members of the media, graduating students and parents, Good morning and As-salamu Alaikum.

It's indeed an honor and a privilege to be here with you. I'm just thrilled to see you all here. At the very outset, let me congratulate the stars of this ceremony, the graduating class of 2006. I congratulate you for the hard work that has brought you here today. Those sleepless nights of continuous studying and those serious times of examinations, assignments, presentations, quiz...well, they are all over now. Congratulations, you've made it, well done!

EWU is in its 10th year and this is its 5th convocation. It started its journey in the Fall Semester of 1996 with six faculty members and 20 students. It is much bigger now with a student population in excess of 4,300 being taught by 165 faculty members. The demand for the degrees EWU offers is increasing at a very high rate. It is my pleasure to report to you that EWU is now regarded as one of the best private universities in this country. Undoubtedly, the sincere effort and commitment of the visionaries – the 'founding fathers' - the extraordinary efficiency and dedication of our faculty members and administrative officials, the trust placed on us by parents of the students, and, most importantly, the willingness of our students to work hard, have contributed to materialize this outstanding achievement. I sincerely thank them all.

Dear graduates, you are privileged to be among a select group who are soon going to get a university degree. But, for thousands in our country, it is just a dream to get admitted to a university. Since you have got this opportunity, I am sure, you will make the best use of the knowledge and skills you have gathered here not only for yourself but also for the country as a whole.

I am confident that your educational advantage will translate into the best employment and income prospects in this society. Some of you may already be working for renowned local and multinational organizations. Others are soon going to follow suit. We take pride in the fact that our graduates have already proved themselves in various organizations in the corporate world. In fact, the high employment rate of our university graduates has surely been a vital factor influencing the competition for enrollment in EWU.

Dear graduates, you have every reason to be confident but you cannot take the future for granted. The challenges ahead of you are enormous. But you are well trained to face the inevitable challenges. I am confident that as graduates of EWU you will definitely be able to confront the new challenges.



Dear graduates, remember that your success is our success. You will represent us wherever you work. Your good performance will bring fame not only for you but also for us. Therefore, wherever is your future workplace, be sincere and creative, work hard, remain honest, be kind to others, give the best you have and, above all, be the winner. Make us proud.

It is no doubt true that your degrees are very much your own individual achievements. However, who you have become today owes much to your family and friends, much to faculty and staff at EWU and much to those philanthropists who were instrumental in setting up this university. I am sure that you are aware of that.

Dear graduates, our society is in dire need for help. Most of us appear to have forgotten that we have to perform certain responsibilities to our society. Remember, what we give to the society, the society gives that back to us. Unfortunately, many of us do not hesitate to sacrifice social interest at the altar of our personal gains. There is always a conflict between our self interest and the interest of the society. Let me make this clear by giving an example. I am a teacher of a university. As a teacher, I am expected to be efficient in classes. I am expected to conduct research to create new knowledge in my own field. I am expected to disseminate the created knowledge through publication. If I can deliver what I am expected to deliver, the society benefits through the supply of quality human resources coming out my classes and through enhanced productivity from the use of the new knowledge created out of my research. But these do not come free. Countless hours of hard work are needed to be efficient in classes. Considerable amount of efforts must be devoted in research to create new knowledge. I can easily use some of these hours taking extra classes or doing other works to enhance my income. I can easily use some of these hours to spend some quality time with my family. I can easily use some of these hours to enjoy good movies. Obviously, if I choose to maximize my own interest, the society will be deprived of the benefits that I could render. Look around you. How many of us are doing what we are expected of doing. Not many; no wonder, we are in a big mess.

You are our future. Please do not forget that, like us as teachers, all of you - whether you become professional managers, scientists, entrepreneurs or politicians - have defined roles to play for the society. If you also fail to perform the responsibilities the society has entrusted on you, we would not be able come out of the mess. Therefore, I request you to do your part.

I wish you truly happy and fulfilling lives ahead.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much for giving me a patient hearing.