

Education is Life Itself

Peter M. Chan
ISA Executive Director



Dear Third Year Learners of Iloilo Scholastic Academy,
Invited guests from other schools as well as from ISA,
Members of the Fine Dining Committee,
Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Education is not a preparation for life, education is life itself. If this statement is true, and I believe it is, then your fine dining tonight is not to prepare you to fit into some future social lifestyle. It is life itself. I had no doubt you would agree with me, at least in this respect. Your action spoke louder than words. You would not have spent several hours everyday in the past two weeks repeating mechanically your newly learned ballroom dance steps, if you do not attach importance to tonight's affair. The fine dining committee members and your parents would not have spent their time and resources to let you dress up and look good; and eat a meal in this cozy restaurant, if they find the whole exercise meaningless or even naïve. They did this because they want you to appreciate life.

Life certainly is not a bed of roses. Fine dining is but a small fraction of your existence. You do not dress up like this in your daily life. Who would? But regardless of your outer appearance, the way you speak tonight, the way you smile, the way you behave tonight, even the way you hold your spoon and fork later, the way you cut the beef on your plate, if ever beef will be served.....all these can be, and ought to be repeated again and again in your daily life, until they become your second nature.

Tonight, even as I entered this room, I have been touched by all the beautiful faces in every corner of this wonderfully decorated venue. Beautiful not purely in their physical sense, wonderful not because of its colors and adornments, but because of the spirit they radiate; the spirit of mutual respect, harmony and cordiality. The spirit which I hope you will cherish and stay with you wherever you are.

Thank you.

(Opening Remarks during the Fine Dining of Third Year Curie, Iloilo Scholastic Academy on 23 February 2007)