

**怡朗新華學院中學部第一屆畢業典禮、  
小學部第四屆畢業典禮暨優秀生頒獎禮  
開幕詞**

**Iloilo Scholastic Academy 1<sup>st</sup> High School and 4<sup>th</sup> Elementary Commencement Exercises  
And Recognition Day Opening Remarks**

**吳志超院長  
Mr. Peter M. Chan  
ISA Executive Director**

**16 March 2008  
CAP Auditorium**

畢業典禮主講人，新華學院主席張德志先生，新華董事，老師，家長，同學，女士先生們：

下午好！今天的首屆中學畢業典禮，標誌著新華學院又邁開了歷史性的一步。三月十六日是我校履行她神聖職責的過程中的一個重要里程碑。今天的畢業典禮是四年來大家共同努力奮鬥的結晶。

新華學院在過去四年所走過的歷程、她為我們社區的教育事業所做出的力所能及的貢獻是值得每位董事、老師、學習者和家長驕傲的。在過去的四年裡，我們奠定了新華向更高的目標衝刺的堅實基礎，明確了今後發展的方向。我相信在現有的基礎上，在大家的共同努力下，我們的目的一定會達到，我們的目的一定能夠達到。

祝新華學院為我國的教育事業做出更大的貢獻。

祝新華學院明天會更加燦爛、更加輝煌。

Commencement Speaker, ISA President, Mr. Vicente Tiu, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Venido Peña, Officers and member of the Board of Trustees of Iloilo Scholastic Academy, ISA facilitators, Parents, ISAers, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good Afternoon.

Graduation ceremony has always been appropriately called as ‘Commencement Exercises’. Because we believe, every ending germinates a new beginning. Many people want to live in the past, because in the past everything has been done, people are no longer haunted by uncertainty; uncertainty is often dreadful, and future is full of uncertainty.

But no matter how uncertain is the future, it is the only place where we can explore more opportunities and find more meaning in life. The past is done, no amount of wealth can change the past. Some corrupt powerful persons might succeed in concealing their past ugly deeds, but they can never bring back the past and change what has been done.

In its truest sense, the past does not belong to you and me as individuals, it belongs to the collective human race, the past belongs to history.

Dear ISAers, you might have earned quite a few medals, but you know the excitement won’t last, because you are fully aware that after a short-lived euphoria, you need to attend to something truly belongs to you, the future.

Dear ISAers, more particularly the candidates for graduation, I believe, Life Is Fair. Commencement exercises once again reminds you, and perhaps all of us here including your parents, that each one, and no one else, is making his own future. It is not your past that determines your future, it is you.

As what Theodore Roosevelt once said: “Whenever you are asked if you can do a job, tell them, ‘Certainly I can!’ Then get busy and find out how to do it.” That’s it. He did not say, ‘Wait, I check first what I have accumulated from the past and let me think if I can do it.’

My dear ISAers, always keep in mind even the well-known ISA philosophy ‘I am, I can’ is not in past tense. Thank you.