

# Congratulations to AIS Graduates 2016

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I wish to congratulate AIS graduates of the undergraduate BSocSc in Asian and International Studies programme, graduating taught postgraduate (MA in Modern Asian Studies, MA in Asian and International Studies, MA in International Studies and MSocSc in Development Studies) students, and research degree students receiving their MPhil and PhDs who will be graduating on 23 November 2016.

I do this with particular pleasure on the tenth anniversary year of the founding of this unique Department within the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences which combines the study of politics, international relations and social sciences more generally with cultural studies focused on contemporary Asia.

One way to measure your accomplishments is in terms of scholarships. Ten scholarships were received with the largest amount being the Tian Teck Scholarship - congratulations to all scholarship awardees.

In the MSocSc in Development Studies programme, we had a Photography Competition "*Shadows of the Sun - Paradoxes of Development*". My thanks to everyone who participated.

Our doctoral degree graduates had received Hong Kong Fellowship for Research Degree Studies, Outstanding Academic Performance Award for Research Degree Students, and the Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies Entrance Scholarships.

We are also pleased about the internships in which many of you have participated - for example two BSocSc in Asian and International Studies graduates had internships with a leading international organisation, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), with one of them going to Mongolia for the IOM. Other internships were with established and renowned organisations including the Hanoi Hotel in Vietnam, the Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden, and the Hong Kong Fair Trade Power.

I would also like to acknowledge our AIS graduates who joined the "*PLAN International Youth Conference*" this year and last year, which is dedicated to raise awareness of the conditions of girls and women in the developing world and involves a cooperation between AIS and PLAN international Hong Kong, an NGO we are proud has among its leadership a recent AIS taught postgraduate programme graduate.

We also had graduates who went on exchange programmes at universities around the world including the National Taiwan University, the Sun Yat-Sen University, the Kanagawa University, Japan, the Sogang University and the Hanyang University, the Republic of Korea, the Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia, the Universiti Brunei Darussalam, the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, the University of Göttingen and the University of Mannheim, Germany, and the Charles University in the Czech Republic.

Many of you also participated in study tours to Myanmar and Indonesia or did creative writing in literature classes, or policy debate or simulation exercises relating to territorial conflicts in Asia and the politics of development. Several of you learned Japanese and Korean in AIS.

But aside from the scholarships, awards, the internships, exchange programmes, and competitions, tours and creative learning, and language acquisition, there is one other thought I would like to leave you with. And that is according to our recent employment statistics of our undergraduate major graduates, most of you will find jobs quickly. Moreover, and interestingly, although some of you will enroll in further education here in Hong Kong or abroad, join the civil service, or be employed by NGOs, based on our past surveys more than two-thirds of you are likely to end up working in the private sector, including business, service, real estate, finance, insurance, hospitality and tourism, manufacturing, trading, logistics and communications.

What does this have to do with studying Asian and international studies you might ask? The point is that in the highly internationalised city of Hong Kong and beyond is much demand for students who have a broad overview of the politics, society, international relations, and cultures of rising and changing Asia, who can think and write knowledgeably, critically and innovatively. They say the world is your oyster. You are in a global city and have completed a globally-oriented education. We hope and trust you will use it wisely.

On the behalf of AIS, I wish you all you the very best. Please keep in touch with us. AIS has a facebook page where we link up with our graduates. We have active alumni network which we invite you to be a part of and ask you to join us in future events. Thank you for being with us at AIS during these years and please consider yourself part of the AIS alumni family. Thanks very much and, again, my congratulations to you all!