

Excerpts from Dr. Kalam's Address



I am delighted to participate in the XXIst Convocation of Birla Institute of Management Technology (BIMTECH), Greater NOIDA. I am happy that BIMTECH has been offering doctoral and post-graduate programmes in management, insurance, retailing and international business, which are vital disciplines for the economic growth of our country. I congratulate all the students who are graduating from this institution today. I commend the faculty members who have taken extraordinary care in shaping the young minds and building capacities in them which will facilitate the students to achieve greater heights in their professional career. My greetings to all the students, faculty members, staff and distinguished guests participating in this function.

The Knowledge Society in 21st Century

The world in the 21st century will be a knowledge based society with multiple opportunities. I was studying a book, "Empires of the Mind" by Denis Waitley. This book gives what type of the new world we are facing now? What it was yesterday and what it is today. I have modified certain points of the author to suit our conditions. I have also added a third line which relates to action of university.

It specially says that *"what worked yesterday, won't work today"*.

1. Yesterday – natural resources defined power

Today - knowledge is power

Educational institutions will be the powerhouse for knowledge

2. Yesterday - hierarchy was the model

Today- synergy is the mandate

Educational institutions will enable the intersection of multiple faculties towards mission goals

3. Yesterday – leaders commanded and controlled

Today – leaders empower and coach

Potential Leaders will be empowered through exposure to the needs of sustainable development

4. Yesterday - shareholders came first

Today – customers come first

Education should inculcate sensitivity to "customer" needs

5. Yesterday - employees took order

Today – teams make decision

Educational institutions can inject team spirit

6. Yesterday - seniority signified status

Today – creativity drive status

Educational institutions is the breeding environment for Creativity

7. Yesterday – production determined availability

Today – competitiveness is the key

Competitiveness is powered by research and university has to have the motto of “teaching-research-teaching”

8. Yesterday - value was extra

Today – value is everything

Value based education has to be introduced as a part of the curriculum, at least for one hour every week

9. Yesterday – everyone was a competitor

Today – everyone is a customer

During education industrial and entrepreneurship training is essential

10. Yesterday - profits were earned through expediency

Today – work with integrity and succeed with integrity.

Home and education places should become learning places

Conclusion

Friends, since you are graduating from here today, I will suggest all of you should ask a question “what I will be remembered for?” I am sure, you would like to do something different – out of box missions, what are they?

1. Will you be remembered for a visionary action for the nation, like Prof. Vikaram Sarabhai or Homi Bhabha?
2. Will you be remembered for creating a company which finds a place in the top 100 of the Fortune 500 companies from India?
3. Will you be remembered for facilitating the creation of 100 PURAs (Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas) in your region?
4. Will you be remembered for becoming the pioneer in developing the smart water ways in the states and Interlinking of Rivers in the nation?
5. Will you be remembered for revitalizing or revolutionizing the integrated Primary Healthcare Centre in a Public-private-participation model?

6. Will you be remembered for working and creating a validated system for the production of 340 million tonnes of food grains and value addition through food processing by the year 2020?
7. Will you be remembered for modernization of 10 million SME's and addition of another Million by providing Private equity funding ventures?
8. Will you be remembered as a venture capital banker by introducing the unique private equity funding for the ideas that will bring new dimension to the society.
9. Will you be remembered for bringing energy independence for the nation?
10. Will you be remembered for the action oriented – “Clean home, clean environment, clean state and clean nation”
11. Will you be remembered for developing one million enlightened youth in your region who will participate in the accelerated societal transformation of the nation?
12. Will you remembered for establishing and nurturing a \$500 billion retail chain like Wal-Mart which will bring a revolution in retailing India keeping the interest of all the petty-retailers spread across the country and the customers?

I would suggest you that all of you decide on “what you will be remembered for” as quickly as possible, since that statement will act as a goal post for you and facilitate your systematic work for the realization of the goal. Once again let me congratulate all the graduating students. My best wishes to all the members of BIMTECH success in their educational mission.

May God Bless You!