

STADIO

HIGHER EDUCATION

MESSAGE FROM CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF STADIO HOLDINGS



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As members of the STADIO community, board members are delighted and privileged to join you in the celebration of this significant milestone in your lives. Graduations are very special. I still cherish the memories of my first graduation in 1975. The entire clan, family, and friends came in their numbers. I could even imagine the presence of my ancestors in the hall.

One irony has always burdened my heart. Poverty and underdevelopment are most prevalent in resource-rich countries. Instead of development or even opulence, ordinary people contend with wars and affliction. In contrast, a country like Singapore, without any natural resources, is one of the leading economic players. What accounts for this?

It is because development is not primarily about resources, but essentially about the levels and quality of education.

It is with such realization in mind that we congratulate you for accepting the challenge of development through education.

STADIO is an academic institution. This means that Graduands and academic staff are the core of the institution. The rest of us are here to support you in driving our academic agenda. We thank graduands for their resilience and commitment. If you believe, as you no doubt do, that learning is a lifelong process, then your graduation today is merely the beginning (an important one at that) of a long process of expanding the horizons of knowledge and of developing yourselves and our country further.

We also thank our “teachers.” This is what Gunn says about good teachers. They, she observes, ... Literally save lives. However, they do it—by loving Graduands, helping them imagine the future, and insisting that they meet high expectations and standards—the best of them are magic weavers. Many of us can remember such a teacher—one who changed our lives, so gifted that he or she transported us out of our own time and place and circumstances and jump-started the dreams and possibilities that lie within us.

I hope that these are memories you will cherish about our academics. May God bless you, and keep you resolute and cheerful, even in the moments of discouragement.