

2016 Commencement Ceremony Speech

February 22, 2016

Good morning, everyone!

It is a great honor and personal pleasure to celebrate your graduation.

I would like to congratulate each of you on this significant accomplishment of having earned a Master's degree at the Park Chung Hee School of Policy and Saemaul (PSPS) at Yeungnam University.

I would also like to thank all our professors and administrative staff for devoting themselves to your success. I deeply appreciate all of the many dedicated persons at our university.

Today is a day I will never forget, because on this day we are sending forth new Saemaul leaders from the PSPS to take charge in the fight against global poverty.

As you all return to your respective nations it is my hope that in your work to advance mutual co-prosperity you will continue to draw upon everything you have learned and experienced here. Keep close in your hearts a neighborly love for the weakest and poorest among us.

My dear graduates, I will always reflect fondly upon our time together - on our many experiences, our fieldwork, our early morning cleanups, our Chuseok festival, our Year-end party, and more. These memories will live on in my heart and I will think of you often.

Each of you is part of our growing family; if you had experienced any inconvenience while you are staying and studying at the PSPS and if at any time we have ever done less than our very best for you, please accept my apologies.

I promise our school will provide more advanced program for new students.

We are now a family of colleagues, so let us never tire in our work to make the world a safer and happier place. It is a small world. We will surely meet again.

So wherever you may go, whatever you may do, always be well and do your best. And know that you are a precious force for good in this world.

I would really miss you and you all are on my mind.

Congratulations once again. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "choi oechool".

Executive Vice-president of Yeungnam University

Director-General of the Institute for International Development Cooperation (IIDC)

CHOI Oe-chool