

RMIT International University Vietnam
Tai Tran – Presidents Award 2007 Speech

Ladies and gentlemen,

One thing that would take me my whole life to write: the list of all the people, organizations, and wonders to whom I bear my gratitude. I owe my parents for raising me up, my teachers for my knowledge, and those who always support me for my achievements. I owe life, and I owe you so much. You have become part of my life, and thank you all for being with me in the last 4 years and especially today.

I am delighted to be here to tell you the story of an important and unforgettable stage of my life.

When I had the option of studying on a scholarship at the Vietnamese National University, a university abroad and RMIT International University Vietnam, I chose RMIT Vietnam. I realized that RMIT came to Vietnam with the well-established knowledge of world-class quality, which could be adapted to best bring out the potential of the Vietnamese economy, culture and workforce. I had always felt the calling of being a valuable citizen of my country, therefore I always wanted to participate in the economic development of my country, by deeply understanding the characteristics of it, and by applying best practice and lessons from developed countries. No institution other than RMIT Vietnam better satisfied this desire.

At first, I indulged myself in the international environment and professional working style of the university. I loved studying and researching in the labs and playing sports with my friends. Furthermore, all the lecturers encouraged us to actively participate in class discussions and self-research, and they were very tolerant towards our ideas, an experience I hadn't had previously. Additionally, all the staff were very nice, helpful and responsive to students' needs. I really enjoyed the feeling of belonging to the RMIT family.

But then I felt an emptiness, not on the RMIT campus, but from the people outside. When I took part in the Student Ambassador Program to assist charitable organizations, I witnessed so many less fortunate lives in this fast-growing country. They suffered from poverty, disasters, violence, and carelessness. Many children were not taken care of, ill-nurtured, or even abused for child labor. I still remember one young and bright boy named Triet in the Future school for children with developmental difficulties, who always looked at me with the pure eyes of an angel. His brain had been damaged previously by

an accident which could have been avoided if his parents could have spent more time looking after him. I couldn't stop thinking about him for a while. So, I did my best to relieve the pains of those I met, but I soon realized that I could only do so much alone.

Consequently, I tried to think of how I would be able to help them and more generally, contribute to society more effectively. One idea crossed my mind: if many people work together, we can do everything better. For this reason, I became part of the RMIT Vietnam Business Club, and started to organize many student activities, focusing on career development, educational assistance, and charities. While working with many other talented and committed students, I was enlightened that being at RMIT International University Vietnam is not only about achieving personal success, but also about creating opportunities for everyone around.

In the Business Club, we were given full support to organize Career Orientation days to create employment opportunities for RMIT Vietnam students and recruitment opportunities for companies in the industry, Charity Programs to give opportunities for a better living conditions to less fortunate people, and Networking functions to offer opportunities for investors to know more of Vietnam's great development potentials. The most memorable campaign I was involved in was the Grand Charity Series in two-thousand-and-six, where we organized a sequence of activities such as the Song Gift Radio, Lotteries, and a Sky Lantern Night to raise funds for the children from 6 open houses in Ho Chi Minh City.

Ultimately, RMIT Vietnam's reputation gave me the chance to build my network with people in the industry. I talked to many people from different background on many social issues. During our conversations, I was able to learn from their experience and synthesize their viewpoints of life and the country's economy. It dawned on me that if I were more influential, I would be able to help more people in more effective ways and assemble more support in alleviating poverty. I was determined to grow to be a business leader in Vietnam, and I am committed to passing on my passion and inspiring each and everyone I work with.

I would like to close by saying that, now I have one wish, that is, to continue to grow alongside you so we can all work together to make our dreams come true, to develop our countries in the global village, and to collaborate and make this world a better place to live.

Thank you