



LICET Farewell Speech

19Mar2016

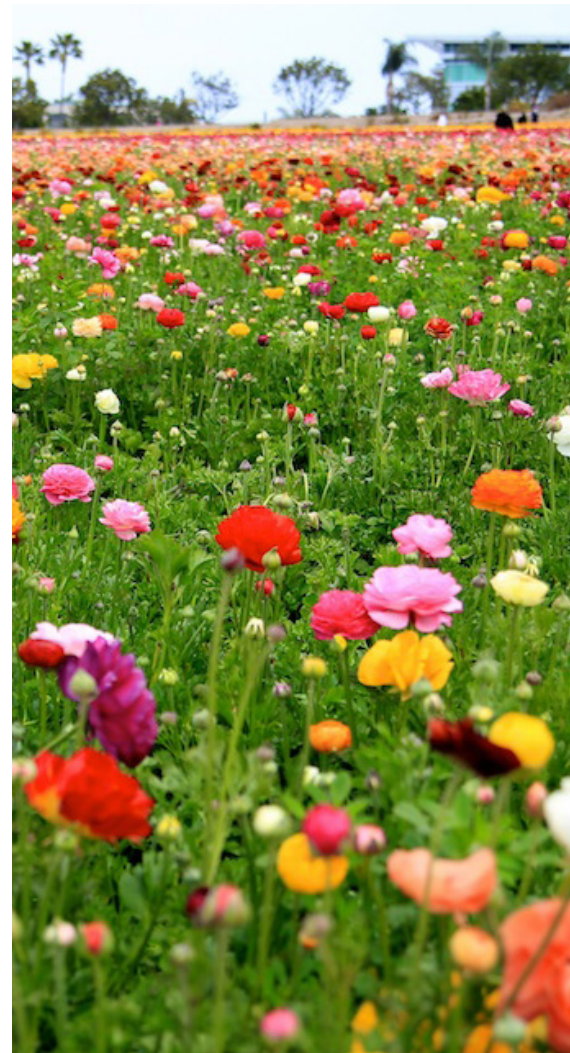
Looking Back: Life in LICET

My dear students of 2012-2016, today is the day of joy as you are recognized as engineers to engineer a new world. As Nicholas Sparks mentions in his novel *The Choice*, you are ready to flap your hands and zoom into the skies! Let us now spend a few moments to reflect on the evolution of your dream: Today your life is a transition from dream to reality, and you realize that success is not what is achieved but the fullness of heart. Become aware of your growth and achievement over the years: it is like a flower in a plant – and you have the choice:

- a. You could pluck it, play with it, and throw it away; or
- b. You could take it and wear it on the head or place it on the table; or
- c. You could admire and enjoy the flower in the plant itself – all depends on the maturity of heart!

You may remember, Mr Hari Thallapalli advising you during the last college day (Mar 30th 2015) as you make a transition from the college to industry/company:

- a. Let go of your learning – unlearn as the world is on the fast track becoming a new every day;
- b. What you pick up outside of your curriculum matters; and
- c. Be the change you want to bring in.





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As you look back in imagination, you could see yourself walking on the shore of life and think of people who accompanied you: your parents, friends, teachers, and role models. Many a time when you were in doubt, they infused confidence and courage in you; many a time when you staggered and wavered they held you and led you. Today remember those loving ones with gratitude; and choose a role model for you: think of Nelson Mandela (as depicted in Long walk to freedom) or Malala (as presented in I am Malala) – both autobiography and in turn you become a role model to others.

Education as Formation for Transformation:

Jesuit education is a cyclic evolution: It begins with academic information, grows into individual holistic formation, and culminates in social transformation. Values are the foundation of Jesuit education – Values that you have learnt at LICET are like the axle of the wheel. The wheel revolves but the axle does not move. The five C's you have learnt here, namely Creativity, Competence, Commitment, Compassion, and Conscious should be the axle of your life-ratha! Resolve to keep the axle intact for the smooth running of your life.



Four Agreements with Yourself:

As you leave the portals of LICET, make four agreements with yourself:

1. Be Impeccable With Your Word - Speak with integrity. Say only what you mean. Avoid using the word to speak against yourself or to gossip about others. Use the power of your word in the direction of truth and love.



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2. Don't Take Anything Personally - Whatever others do is not because of you. What others say and do is a projection of their own reality, their own dream. When you are immune to the opinions and actions of others, you won't be the victim of needless suffering.

3. Don't Make Assumptions - Find the courage to ask questions and to express what you really want. Communicate with others as clearly as you can to avoid misunderstandings, sadness and drama. With just this one agreement, you can completely transform your life.

4. Always Do Your Best - Your 'best' is going to change from moment to moment; it will be different when you are healthy as opposed to sick. Under any circumstance, simply do your best and you will avoid self-judgment, self-abuse and regret. Be a person of magis. Do ever more and ever better. Do not compare yourself with others – You become your own parameters to become better.

Let go of the past and live in the present moment, right here and now. Whatever life takes away from you, let it go. When you surrender and let go of the past, you allow yourself to be fully alive in the present moment. Letting go of the past means you can enjoy the dream that is happening right now. Become a doer of your dream.



Invitation to Leadership:

You are invited not to follow the crowd but to lead others. You are not here to be one in the crowd but only one person who is unique:

1. Be just especially when you become a boss:

In the novel 'The Notebook', Nicholas Sparks quotes his daddy saying: "Give a day's work for a day's pay. Anything less is stealing".

2. Work for your satisfaction:

There was a famous singer in the court of Akbar. One day Akbar happened to listen to the teacher of his royal singer in the forest singing much better. Akbar took his royal singer to task: The singer said that his master in the forest sang for his satisfaction but he in the court sang to satisfy the king and for his livelihood. Working for your satisfaction always brings better results.

3. Develop positive attitude:

Life is like a flute: it may have many holes and emptiness but if you work on it carefully, it can play magical melodies.

4. Grow in patience in life:

You can collect water in a sieve, if you are patient till water becomes ice.



5. Confidence is crucial for meaningful life:

One thing you have confidence in you, but others should also have confidence in you. 'Don't run just with your legs. Run with your mind'... Success in life is not defined by talent and physical ability but by the mental strength to stay the course and run the extra mile when you are exhausted or discouraged.

6. Mindset is very important:

'When you moan and say this is bad, the mind gets conditioned to look for difficulty in opportunity. And when you say this is good, the mind looks for opportunity in difficulty. And therein lies the difference between the winners and losers' (Cf. P. Iyer, The Secret of Leadership, p.37).

7. Be a person of hard work:

One can take honey from the honey-bee but one cannot take away the hard work from the honey bee – Hard work is the secret of success. Mr Honda lost his factory once in World War II and again due to earth quake but every time he rose to the pinnacle of success.

You need perseverance to achieve the goal in your life. Remember, Babur, the first Moghul Emperor in India became King when he was hardly fifteen, but his confidence in himself and his perseverance made him come over from Kabul and conquer Hindustan and set up his throne in Agra.

Finally, leadership and teamwork go together: "It's not the stars that create the light, but rather the light that creates the stars." Remind yourself and your team that leadership is not about what happens to you, but about your response to those events. (Cf P Iyear, The Secret of Leadership, p.37).

Lessons to learn from Teabag:



We can learn leadership from the teabag:

1. What counts is what's inside the teabag.
2. The real flavor comes through, only when the teabag gets into hot water.
3. Good teabags look forward to getting into hot water.

4. A teabag must be porous.
 5. Teabags work, never mind where they are in the cup.
 6. Sometimes, one teabag is just not enough.
 7. Sometimes, you need to add a little sugar and milk.
 8. Someone holds the string, always!
 9. It's all about how good the tea is – Not the teabag!
 10. Eventually, teabags need to make way and get out.
- (Cf Prakash Iyer, The Secret of Leadership, Penguin, Gurgaon, 2013, pp. 4-9.)



The Teabag is ready to take a plunge into hot water and is open to interact through openness to brew tea. And after giving tea, the teabag disappears into oblivion. The quality of the tea depends, not on the label, but on the tea leaves: Fix your attitude and get your values right. 'PhD is the leader's mantra for success. It stands for Passion, Hunger and Discipline! Get them all and see the difference' (Cf Prakash Iyer, The Secret of Leadership, p. 10).

World as a Mirror:

Today you take a quantum leap into the world of challenges and opportunities. The world is like a mirror: You smile at the mirror and the mirror smiles; you make faces to the mirror and it does the same to you. The world loves Jesus and Buddha because they loved everyone and they were embodiment of compassion. The same world hates Hitler and Idi Amin because they hated their fellow human beings (Guruji Vasudev, Lao-Tsuvin Seena Gnana Kathaikal, Chennai, 2015, p.195).



If you love others, others will respect you. In the novel, 'The Longest Ride', Nicholas Sparks portrays the love of Ira for Ruth, his wife. They have been collecting famous paintings – Ruth has been an effective teacher. One student becomes fascinated by her and draws a portrait of her and takes it wherever he goes all over the world. Finally, after his death, his young wife takes it to Ira who was mourning the death of Ruth, his beloved wife. He displays it prominently in his living room. After his death, all his paintings come for auction. As per the will of Ira, the first painting was the student-portrait of Ruth (which was a crude sketch). No one comes forward to purchase the painting – finally one comes forward to buy it for USD 200. Then the lawyer announces the intention of Ira: Whoever buys the painting of Ruth, gets the rest of the painting free. The estimate of the paintings-collection was about USD 3 millions. The moral of the story is: The person, we love, is most important – not wealth. We may not be able to change the world in our life-time but what is important is to try to make a difference.

Good Samaritan: Go forth and do likewise

Dare to be different and be the difference before you make the difference! A traveller was attacked in the mountainous desert area by highway robbers. Though a few walked by no one came to his help, as we see often at the site of accidents in the thickly populated cities! Finally, the Good Samaritan came to his rescue – He bound his wounds and took him to the nearby hotel and took care of him. You do likewise. Have a heart for the needy and the marginalized.



We are born to live – so do not live just because you are born. You need motivation and inspiration to make your life fruitful and meaningful – Motivation might be temporary but inspiration will be permanent. Become yourself an inspiration. The trust you have in you should be stronger than the trust others have in you. Go forth and let your light shine!

Remember your Alma Mater

When you leave LICET, go forth with two propelling thoughts:

- i. I am confident that I could do anything; and
- ii. I am confident that I could do it right

(Cf Ranjani Iyer Arumugam, It's all about Smiles). These thoughts would carry you over the mountains and deserts of your life. LICET has been there when you needed your education and leadership formation – Be there for LICET to continue the great mission of transforming the world through forming leaders with social responsibility.



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Live a Full and Meaningful Life:

A good life is:

*when you assume nothing,
do ever more and ever better,
smile often,
dream big,
laugh a lot, and
realize how blessed you are
for what you have.*

A fruitful life is:

*when you count the blessings and
when you count them one by one.*

May God grant you always...

*A sunbeam to warm you,
a moonbeam to charm you,
a sheltering Angel so nothing can harm you,
Laughter to cheer you.
Faithful friends near you.*

And whenever you pray, Heaven to hear you - (An Irish Blessing)



My dear Students, each one of you has been a blessing to LICET. Now go forth and be a blessing to each one you encounter in your life. May the world become better as you become the yeast of the change we desire. God bless you!

LICET Star:



The LICET sky is filled with stars – Each one of you is a star. As a remembrance of LICET's holistic formation, the academic and administrative personnel at LICET have chosen one among you as the LICET STAR. One who has excelled in academic performance; who has demonstrated team spirit and leadership qualities in fine arts and sports and games, has been selected as the LICET STAR. I am happy to announce that AROCKIA RICHARD RAJ of CSE department is the LICET STAR for this year.



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Mr AROCKIA RICHARD RAJ (2012-2016) has excelled in academic, co-curricular, and extra-curricular activities. With Cumulative Grade Point Average of 8.61 (out of 10) till 7th semester, he has won prizes in many academic and cultural events both at LICET and other colleges. He has rendered service as Department Secretary and Cultural Secretary at LICET. He has created a website for department symposium and also designed a couple of games using java and java script. He has done his internship in Vento Technologies Pvt Ltd for two months and completed few project for industry. He is overall student coordinator of Entrepreneurship Cell and runs stationary shop at LICET. For his overall excellence, LICET honours him as the LICET STAR for the year 2016.

Francis P Xavier SJ
Director, LICET

