

Good Morning Mr Soh Wai Wah, Principal & CEO of Singapore Polytechnic,

Distinguished Guests

Parents & Graduands,

What a wonderfully exciting today.

Firstly a big well done to you all graduating students.

It's no mean feat getting out of bed in your young adult days... for long enough every day to finish a diploma.

And a big thank you to all the lecturers, teaches, administrators, family members and friends that supported you along your journey.

So today you leave with a piece of paper in hand.

A certificate that establishes your credentials as a graduate.

This piece of paper is your entry ticket to the big Game.

The big Game of your future career and work life.

A Game that is sure to be full of ups and downs.

Failures and Successes.

Travels and Adventures.

Many amazing projects,

and collaborating with many incredible people.

A game full of jeopardy and intrigue.

Full of challenges and surprises.

Laughter and Tears.

The entry ticket is no guarantee of success.

It simply qualifies you to enter the Game.

Now that you're in the game, your destiny is in your own hands.

Every day when you wake up, your attitude and application,

The choices you make,

Determines how the game plays out.

No it's not going to be as intense as the Game of Thrones,

But perhaps just as colourful and thrilling.

So as someone who has played the Game,
For longer than I wish I could remember,
What advice can I give for new players into the Game?

I discovered that it's not all about the money or to focus too much on the money.
Its also not about the destination.
The journey itself is the destination.
Live in every moment.
And be present every day to enjoy and grow from the ride.

Rather than chasing the role with the highest pay,
The best looking work colleagues,
The easiest transport route,
The best chicken rice next door,
Chase the role with the best bosses,
The best mentors that will help you grow and thrive.
Mentors who will believe in you and have your back.
Interview them when they interview you.
Find your *Jorah*.

Dont take easy street in this Game.
Chase the role with the most interesting projects,
The bravest clients.
The challenges that will test you and grow your skills.
Opportunities to get you of your comfort zone.

When you step into work each day,
Don't do the easiest tasks first,
The ones where you have the most skills.

Do the tasks you don't like... first.

The ones you avoid.

The ones where your skills or experiences are the weakest.

Work on your weaknesses more than your strengths.

This is how you learn how to be better at the Game.

To learn from your colleagues - no matter if it's the CEO or the guy sitting next to you.

Be brilliant at asking the dumb questions.

The questions most people have that are too scared to ask... for fearing of looking dumb.

When you discover the answer to the dumb question, the question will no longer be dumb.

We humans are an evolutionary species.

We have been engineered to evolve.

Be a junkie for self-growth and improvement.

Be curious about everything.

Have a voracious appetite for learning.

Be a sponge.

Knowledge and Experience is the real Power Play in this Game.

Never get ahead of yourself.

Stay Humble.

No matter how much success you have,

Your next failure is just around the corner.

Expect to fail.

Don't be surprised when it happens.

It's how the Game gives you wisdom.

Live everyday with compassion, pride and integrity.

Never sacrifice your integrity.

Don't judge others and don't gossip.

These traits are our greatest weakness and the least useful in the Game.

Don't compare yourself with others.

We all have a different role and purpose in the Game.

Just be true and authentic to who you are.

Spend lots of time away from the work environment.

The best ideas often come when you are in a foreign environment - out of your daily routine and bubble.

Observation feeds creativity and is the birthplace of new ideas.

So be a keen observer.

Most of allbe kind and caring to yourself.

Nourish and Nurture yourself,

Your mind body and soul.

You are your greatest asset in the Game.

I wish you all love and light,

Enjoy the Game of Life.