



MOHAMMED FARASHUDDIN, Ph.D.

FOUNDER VICE CHANCELLOR (1996 – 1998) AND
PRESIDENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS, EAST WEST UNIVERSITY



Your Excellency Professor Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed, the Hon'ble President of the Republic and Chancellor of East West University, Dr. M. Osman Farruk MP. Hon'ble Education Minister, the Convocation Speaker, the distinguished former education ministers of the Republic, esteemed Chairman and Members of the University Grants Commission, Vice Chancellors, Founder Directors of East West University, Professor M. Musa, the Acting, Vice Chancellor, Deans of Faculties, Convocation Marshall, other beloved faculty members and non-teaching colleagues of East West University, proud parents and guardians, friends from the electronic and print media, very dear graduating students, and distinguished guests
Assalamu Alaikum,

I welcome you all to the convocation of East West University and express our gratitude for gracing the occasion. I extend heartiest congratulations to you, our dear students on the successful completion of your years at East West University. I am sure some found it difficult at times to live up to the academic rigor and requirements of the university, demanding huge investments of your time, energy, patience, perseverance and of your intellectual, creative and critical abilities and talents. But all those days, months and years of hard work, the sleepless nights and moments of self-denial have come to their desired fruition today. This symbolic occasion is the pinnacle of your academic achievement and the reward for the steady and patient pursuance of your mission and self-sacrifice over the years. Congratulations! To the parent and guardians, a very big thank you for your confidence in East West University.

Dear Graduating Students,

Certainly, today is the occasion that you must have eagerly looked forward to since your day one at East West University. In a rather different way, we also look forward to this graduation ceremony. Not only does the ceremony symbolize your academic accomplishments, but it also epitomizes the accomplishment of the university's social and academic obligations in preparing you for your career and leadership in different spheres of social and national life. The occasion thus gives us reason for optimism and strongly justifies our existence: East West University exists not just for generating human capital for economic production; it does so for deeper, more significant social needs of higher education, for producing knowledge and applying it to societal needs, and, more importantly, for making a knowledge-oriented and knowledge-based society befitting the twenty-first century.



Hon'ble Chancellor, Distinguished Guests,

At East West University, we not only scrupulously abide by the rules and regulations set by the relevant authority, but set our own norms and standards for achieving the excellence in education that we espouse. For one thing, we insist on a 30:1 teacher student ratio with at least eighty percent of teaching time done by full time faculty members. Also, in order to help blossom the merits of the children, there is, since the birth of East West University, a significant Merit Scholarship-cum-Need Based Financial Aid scheme. For the year 2005 alone, more than 800 students received such scholarships and financial aid amounting to taka two crore sixty lakhs. We make sure that teachers have decent office and education related facilities and students are in a congenial atmosphere with adequate class rooms, laboratory facilities, healthcare, sports facilities, library books, extra-curricular activity opportunities, free internet connections and other auxiliary services. Equally important, the university has a humane but strict, (zero tolerance) discipline policy. Obviously, the facilities shall vastly improve when East West University moves to its own campus at Rampura in about two years time.

And in fulfilling this crucial role, East West University has relentlessly pursued a policy of providing quality education since its foundation. We are happy that this uncompromising attitude of East West University towards quality and standard education has received social recognition and commendation. I emphasize our position in producing quality graduates here particularly because in recent times private universities have at times been the targets of social criticism on the question of quality and other academic and institutional grounds. On our part, we not only welcome social awareness and criticism but also ask for even more stringent institutional standards of quality control for the sake of higher education in the country. But as I have made clear on other occasions, while quality of education should be our prime concern, given the time, market forces themselves will also play a crucial role in quality maintenance in higher education.

How can I conclude my remarks without some advice for our fresh graduates! You are surely thinking about your career now. We believe that your academic knowledge, qualification, educational experience and personality training at East West University will help you throughout your career. Our best wishes are with you and we hope that you will excel in whatever professions you choose to be in. But do not restrict your thoughts, creative ideas and activities only to your own career and life; connect them to the society and its people. Despite the overwhelming spread and expansion of education in many societies since the World War II, education in our country, particularly good quality higher education, is still accessible to only particular classes of people. Considering this, you must feel yourself privileged to have attained quality higher education in the country. Therefore, you have social and moral obligations towards those who are less privileged; keep those obligations alive in your thoughts and actions and work out some feasible ways and means of changing the fate of our people. I feel very confident that the kind of you, the graduating class of today can make a major difference in institutionalizing democracy in Bangladesh and in taking the nation towards the light at the end of the tunnel we seemed to have embroiled ourselves in.

I know you will remember East West University – your alma mater – in the future. Don't think that this is the end of your relationship with East West University; this is your university and it will remain so for ever. Please keep visiting the university, both on the internet and in person, and

keep the connection intact. See how you can contribute to its mission and goal of ensuring quality higher education in the country. Already there are a number of channels through which you can contribute to the university and we are working towards creating more feasible and effective options for integrating East West University alumni to the East West University system.

Congratulations once again on your academic accomplishment and best wishes for your bold and onward march in reaching the glorious apex of your career and in accelerating the nation towards peace and prosperity.

