



Speech

by

Assoc. Prof. Sommai Pivsa-Art, Ph.D., President, RMUTT
on the occasion of RAVTE Students Innovation Award

To Prof. Dr. Kiyoshi Yoshikawa;

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Do Van Dung;

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sukri bin Saud;

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Agus Setiawan;

Distinguished Guests;

Esteemed Colleagues;

Student participants from different Asian universities;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good morning!

Today is the awarding of RAVTE Students Innovation Award and I am privileged to deliver an opening and welcome address to the ASEAN student participants this morning.

Globally, young people are a powerful force for change. Every year, Time Magazine published a list of the most influential teens, many of them are Asian. One them, is 18 years old, in the time of the award, the youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner in history; another is a young student activist whose staunch belief in democratic institutions resonated to other young people in and beyond his community. The world is at a crucial point in history, where social, political, economic, and environmental issues have compelled youth to make a stand and do their part in changing the world. The voice, influence, and contribution of youth are without question increasing, and in Asia this is particularly true.

Being a student participant, you have designed a youth driven social innovation activities that might be useful to all of us. Innovation in technology and industry, innovation in energy/environment/safety, innovation in medicine and herbs,

innovation in quality of life and improvement, innovation in creativity and fine arts and innovation in knowledge construction.

One of the purposes of RAVTE Students Innovation Award is to promote research and innovation in vocational and technical education for students coming from Asian university. This highlights a very strong societal focus on Asian students' development underlining the intent to raise the quality of life of through participatory approach. The specific call for participation applies to all undergraduate students which is one of the most valuable assets we have.

I am confident that all work you have put in, in the application of RAVTE Students Innovation Award will yield, with your support, benefits through empowered youth partners who will ready to take on one of the region's most challenging issues, one sector, one innovative project, and one youth at a time.

I would like to quote the saying from Rabindranath Tagore "You cannot cross the sea merely by staring at the water". It is up to the youth to seize this opportunity-with their fresh, innovative ideas.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of evaluation committee, facilitators, organizers, guests and student participants for joining in this year RAVTE Students Innovation Award.

I look forward to continuing this partnership with young people of ASEAN as we collaborate towards achieving sustainable and inclusive development in the region.

Let me end my talk with the story of a little boy who was sobbing away in darkness, holding a tiny oil lamp.

"What's the matter?" a passerby asked.

"I have to cross the forest to reach my village on the other side, but I am scared of the dark," said the boy.

"But you have a lamp to show you the path," the man suggested.

"Yes I do, but it can show me only a few feet ahead of me and the village is there miles away!" complained the boy.

"Just take one step at a time in light as shown by the lamp," said the man. "And you will reach home!"

The boy took every step in light and soon reached his village without fear.

Yes, there may be some unfamiliar, uncertain areas in the horizon as we journey towards the end of this pandemic. Together, we can reach our destiny-one step at a time.

As I close, I would like to thank you once again, all of you for being part of RAVTE Students Innovation Award. Thank you!