

Acsenda School of Management Convocation 18 July 2018

Address by Sir John Daniel, O.C. on his installation as Chancellor

Graduands, Faculty and Staff colleagues, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

It is an honour to be appointed and installed as Chancellor of the Acsenda School of Management. I thank the authorities of Acsenda warmly for the confidence that they have shown in me.

My association with Acsenda and its predecessor institutions began in 2012. I pay tribute to all who have toiled, often in difficult circumstances, to bring the Acsenda School of Management to the promising situation in which it finds itself today. They saw our School through some anxious times. We all owe a special debt to Dr. Glen Farrell, who has guided this institution from the very beginning, occupying many vital roles along the way. His faith in Acsenda's future has been unwavering and no one is more delighted than he that the stability it has now attained through ownership by EduCo finally allows us to do some exciting strategic planning.

It is also a pleasure to congratulate Neil Mort on his appointment as interim president and to wish him well as he leads Acsenda into a new and hopeful era.

My role as Chancellor is to be the figurehead of the institution, most visibly by presiding at ceremonies such as this. I intend to make it a student-oriented function and I look forward to holding informal sessions with students on topics of global and local interest from time to time.

Today, my essential task is to congratulate all of you who are graduating on your achievements and to wish you well in the future. Many of you

have left your own countries to come here and your adjustments to life in Vancouver and study at Acsenda were not always easy. But you have succeeded and I share your joy. I also thank your parents, partners and relatives, some of whom are here with us, for supporting you through your studies.

I congratulate the faculty and staff of Acsenda who have helped you along your journey. Their dedication to giving you a good and productive experience has been evident to me ever since I joined Acsenda. Please give them a round of applause.

We believe that we have prepared you well for the professions that you will join, whether back in your own countries or here in Canada. I wish you success and happiness in your lives and careers, wherever they take you.

You are graduating into an uncertain world. Basic principles of economic, organisational and political life that we have taken for granted since the second World War can no longer be taken for granted. This has been called the ‘post-truth’ era. Living with fake news and lies makes us lose trust in our institutions and governments – and sometimes in each other.

As your careers advance you will find yourselves managing people and resources in a great variety of projects and organisations. Remember that the economic, social and cultural success of nations and business enterprises relates directly the trust that their people have in each other and in their institutions. I invite you all to make respect for truth and the restoration of trust key principles in your professional and personal lives.

You will certainly stay in touch with your closest classmates, but I ask you also to keep in contact with Acsenda. What you can now call your *alma mater* is entering a dynamic phase of growth and we shall see interesting developments in collaboration with EduCo, our Australian owners.

This will likely mean adding new programmes. I hope that one day some of you will come back to Acsenda to do Masters degrees.

Meanwhile it is a pleasure to thank you for studying at Acsenda and contributing to the life and growth of the institution during your time here. I congratulate you again and wish you well wherever life takes you.