Digital DayZ 2015

Zaman University

Phnom Penh, Cambodia (2015)

Introductory speech by Hugo Mártires

The IT education in Cambodia

Ladies and Gentleman, dear students, colleagues and honored guests,

the Faculty of Information and Computer Technologies and Zaman university would like to welcome you to our Digital DayZ an event on ICT. We are honored by your presence and pleased to host you at our campus. For the following 2 days we hope to meet your expectations on the motives that brought you here.

Last week I was visiting a Wat and as I passed by I had the chance to meet a young monk. He approached me and started the conversation. He told me he came to the Wat when he was 12 years old to study. Today he is 18 and apart from the religious studies in the Wat, he attends a public school for general education and an American school where he studies English. Next year he is going to Canada on a scholarship to take some pre-university studies and after that he hopes to go to MIT to study Computer Science. While at the Wat whenever he is done from his daily tasks he dedicates his time to learn programming languages and mobile development by himself, taking online courses and doing some tutorials. He was very excited when I told him I was a CS teacher and started asking questions. Finally he told me that he's dream is to work at Google someday!

There is a Portuguese poem that says, "dreams command life and every time a men dreams, the world moves forward."

Science and technology has been always about people's dreams and this is what keeps shaping the industry still today. Most of the products we use today would not be possible if not for some one's vision.

In the world of digital communications the society is continuously changing and the challenges we face today are far more complex than those in the era of Floppy Disks, noisy modems and IRC.

The present is all about ubiquitous computing, multimedia and big data. If we stop dreaming, our vision will be blurred and we will end up stuck at a dead end. That is why we gather here today, to share our visions, experiences, achievements and finally … to embrace technology in order to explore the best of ourselves.

Without further delay I will hand the stage to our senior student and the host of the conference, Mr. Chiphong.