



Speech of His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at the annual graduation ceremony of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

3rd of May 2015

In the Name of Allah the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful,
Peace be upon our beloved prophet Muhammad and his fellow companions,

Dear the Dean and the members of the Faculty of Engineering and Petroleum at Kuwait University

Dear parents,

My sons and my daughters the graduates and the distinguished graduates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It's my pleasure to sponsor and to attend the celebration organized by the American Association of Civil Engineers, branch of Kuwait University, to celebrate this elite of engineers. I am very happy to share with you, with your parents and with your teachers this great joy, the joy of distinction and the joy of graduation.

I tell you with pride that you have the right to be proud. You have the right to hold up your heads, because this joy today is the result of the big effort you made and the sleepless nights you spent. This joy is the result of your hard work, your perseverance, your



insistence and your determination. So hold high your heads. You have the right to be proud, just like we are proud of you today.

We should also recall the people who contributed to this graduation and thank them, the professors of the college, the administrative and technical staff, and certainly your families: your fathers and your mothers, because, believe me, no joy today is bigger than the joy of the mother and the father. It's a feeling that I cannot describe to you but that you will feel it one day, when you see your sons and your daughters sitting in your chairs. He is totally right he who said that, "Parents are only rewarded by God".

Nothing is more beautiful than a father's feeling when he sees his son graduating, or better, graduating with distinction. Nothing is compared to the feeling of a mother when she sees the result of her kids' sleepless nights. Therefore, I command you to take care of your fathers and your mothers; they are your capital. And remember the words of God Almighty when He ordered us saying: "And lower to them the wing of humility out of mercy and say, "My Lord, have mercy upon them as they brought me up [when I was] small."

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Kuwait, your beloved country is expecting a lot from you today. I'm not telling that your way will be easy and full of roses. On the contrary, you'll face a lot of challenges. But what distinguishes a



person with a strong determination? It's his ability of facing challenges. The strong belief in God Almighty should be filling your hearts. You should be patient and learn how to forgive and how to take rational decisions instead of emotional ones. If Allah Almighty wills it, your efforts, your determination and your love to your country will lead you to do your best for Kuwait.

I know that you have graduated from the Faculty of Engineering and Petroleum, but I'd like to assure you that our love to Kuwait is not based on its buildings or its petrol. We are proud of you. We are proud of the Kuwaiti citizen. We are proud of the beautiful values that we inherited from one generation to another. They are the values of love and of supporting each other, the rush to relief people suffering and to wipe the tears of the needy.

All the previous was proved by the decoration that His Highness the Amir offered us when he was nominated by the highest international authority in the world as the leader of humanitarian work and when Kuwait was called the center for humanitarian work.

Yes, the Kuwaiti citizen is our pride and our hope, and the Kuwaiti values instilled in you are our pride. But today we need your efforts too. We need your expertise in order to continue building this country that gave us so much. I hope to see you working hand in hand like the proverb says: "Those who cooperate don't fail."



May Allah Almighty preserve Kuwait and its people under the auspices of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad and His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad, May Allah Almighty protect them.

Again, I congratulate you for your distinction and for your graduation. Congratulations for you and for us.