

**Domine Magnifice Decanes et Prodecanes,
Dear Students, Dear Colleagues, Dear Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is a great pleasure to welcome all of you at the Opening Ceremony of the students who begin their studies this year at English Program of the Budapest University of Technology and Economics.

Let me introduce the members of the presidium:

Prof. Lajos Kisgyörgy	vice-dean	Faculty of Civil Engineering
Prof. Tibor Szalay	vice-dean	Faculty of Mechanical Engineering
Prof. Balázs Balogh	vice-dean	Faculty of Architecture
Prof. László Nyulászi	vice-dean	Faculty of Chemical Technology and Biotechnology
Prof. János Levendovszky	vice-dean	Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Informatics
Prof. András Eleöd	vice-dean	Faculty of Transportation Engineering

I am Péter Moson, Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, vice-rector for international relations. Let me give you a short welcome address on behalf of the staff members of the university.

Dear Students, Guests, Colleagues,

Welcome to the **Opening ceremony** of the 2009/10 academic year of the international students of the English program of the Budapest University of Technology and Economics (or in abbreviated form BME). This event is especially important to **our freshmen**, so I mainly address my short speech to them.

Today you officially enter a university with **great tradition**. Three years ago we celebrated the **225th** anniversary of our foundation by the Austrian Emperor Joseph the 2nd. The main building where we are was built **100** years ago.

During its existence many important scientific and engineering results were achieved, many famous persons studied and / or taught in our institution. I mention only 3 **Nobel prize winner scientists** from the 2nd half of the previous, 20th century. Denis **GABOR**, Eugene **WIGNER** were decorated in Physics, George **OLAH** in Chemistry. Some of their results e.g. the **hologram** - has become a part

of our **everyday life**. When you look at for example a **credit card**, remember that the hologram on it was invented by a former student of your university. (*Show a credit card*).

Another former student – Ernő RUBIK invented a mechanical puzzle the **RUBIK's CUBE**, a game probably known by everybody, some 30 years ago.

When on a nice summer night you look at the **sky**, remember Professor **Zoltan BAY** of the Department of Nuclear Physics. In 1946 **he was the first person to observe radar echoes from the Moon**, and by this way he determined the exact Earth-Moon distance.

So be proud to be a student of BME, and I hope that some of you will have later **similar world famous scientific achievements**.

The life is not only science and work, but leisure and culture as well. You have arrived at Budapest a short time ago, but you will know it pretty soon. It offers endless number of cultural events, historical places, beautiful architecture, and many places where you can meet young people like you and have fun. **Student organizations at BME**, like ISU (International Student Union) or ESN (Erasmus Student Network) and many others, will organize events for international students, where you can also meet your fellow Hungarian students.

Similarly to you, **I studied** at a foreign university as well. My **experiences** taught me that you should learn as much as possible about the country you live in, *learn the language too and be open to new people* and at the same time be proud of your heritage and **be yourself above all**.

Now that you will study at a university you will have to learn a **new way of working**. There will be great challenges and you will have to study probably a lot

more than you did before. When you entered this hall you made a decision to fulfill your dreams and I wish you the best to reach your goals and your potentials.

Let me share another personal experience with you. Let's call it the wise advice of an older person. Your **mind, body and soul** are all equally important. Study hard, have fun, look for happiness, but never forget to **care for your body**, exercise frequently. Physical activity, **sports** will clear your mind and strengthen your body and soul at the same time.

When your body hurts, it is good to know that **it is only because of too much physical activity the day before**, and not because of some **sickness**. Exercise and stay fit is my philosophy. Myself I had a few days ago my 60th birthday, but each week I play twice basketball, once soccer, and go at least once to the swimming pool.

If we are at the water sports I mention that there were former BME students in the 3 times Olympic champion Hungarian **water polo team** (actually on the credit card I showed you, there was a picture with them). **Laszlo CSEH** our recent student in informatics won **three silver medals** in swimming last year in Beijing (just behind Michael Phelps).

Finally allow me to tell you a few data about the **teaching activities** of Budapest University of Technology and Economics. We have about **25.000 learners**, and more than **1000 academic staff**. BME teaches in **4 languages**: obviously in Hungarian and English, but we have a French and German division as well. This year there is **5000 freshmen** in the Hungarian education. More than **200 exchange students** arrived from all **continents**, mainly in the framework of the European Union **ERASMUS** program.

The **students' mobility** - both incoming and outgoing - is the **first priority** of our international relations. Our courses taught in different languages are identical. You will meet in your classes foreign exchange and Hungarian students as well.

Related to your training, your number is about **400**, among them **102 Freshmen**. We have big communities from Iran, Nigeria, Turkey, Cyprus.

All our new and old students are welcome and on behalf of Professor Gábor PÉCELI, the rector of BME I wish you good health, successful studies, nice days.

Let me invite next Mr Ali RAHNAMA vice president of Students' International Union (M.Sc.student of Electrical Engineering) to deliver his welcome address on behalf of the Students.

Rahnama beszéde

Thank you Mr. Rahnama.

I ask now Dr.Judit Sárvári, Director of Center of Modern Languages to read the „Solemn Declaration” – the students' oath.

I ask now Dr.Polónyi Károlyné to announce a new scholarship called „Polónyi Scholarship” for the students of the Faculty of Architecture.

Thank you Ms Polónyi

Zárszó

Dear International Students!

You are now **officially** the students of the Budapest University of Technology and Economics. I wish you once more much success and happiness in your professional and private life.

And now I invite you listen to the **Hungarian National Anthem** as the closing act of this ceremony.