Speech on JI’s Opening Ceremony

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Sep. 14, 2014

Dean Huang, distinguished faculty, dear freshmen and your families, good afternoon. My name is Peng, and I represent one of the many voices in Joint Institute.

I know you are excited now, and you cannot wait to explore the campus, so I will be brief. Several days ago, when I was told to speak in front of you, I asked myself why I chose to study at JI. Then a voice came to my mind, “if there is no struggle, there is no progress”. Then I figured out why I came here, for I was always seeking for chances to challenge myself, to struggle in a new environment, to try new things, and to see where is my limit. You may wonder if I got what I wanted. Am I stronger?

Now, after studying here for two years, I could answer that. It is the answer told by lines that stretched out from offices, where we consult professors for advice. It is the answer spoken by seats in the e-reading room, where we shared ideas and stayed up late together for term projects. It is the answer signed on our exam papers, where honor code means everything. Now, I am glad to see that you are listening to me, but I know that you may not fully understand what I am talking about. One day you will. So my answer to that question is yes of course. I am stronger now, both mentally and physically. And my advice to you guys is to enjoy your life and challenge yourself, sometimes it’s hard, and sometimes it hurts, but you shall do that.

I was always wondering what made JI special. After many of my friends went to University of Michigan, I eventually understand that JI is special not because of its high tuition fee, but for our faculties are devoted to their career; that everyone at JI is willing to learn and open to disagreements; that out of many, we are one, and we help each other and grow together. It is people here that made JI different. It is you, that will make a difference. But roads ahead could be tough. Some of you might encounter great difficulties during your first year. If you find yourself in trouble, just calm down and keep going, because those difficulties serve nothing but only to make us stronger.

Finally, I hope you could keep in mind that your goal here is not merely a high score, or merely to go to the dual degree program. You need begin to think what you want to get after studying at JI for 2 or 4 years; you need begin to think what you will left after your graduation; and you shall wonder what differences you are about to bring to this wonderful world in the next ten or twenty years. That is the call you should answer. You are going to receive best education, and you shall in response, take such great responsibility.

Again, “if there is no struggle, there is no progress”. Hope you enjoy your time in Joint Institute, and the story begins today. Welcome! Welcome to Joint Institute!

Thank you.