

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Australian International Islamic College

**“Basic Skills of Today
and
the Need of Tomorrow”**

**Annual Graduation Address
Delivered by**

Imam Abdul Quddoos Azhari

**at
SUNPAC Events Centre
Brisbane
15 November 2018**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Bismillah ir Rahman ir Raheem

In the name of Allah the most beneficent the most merciful

الحمد لله رب العالمين والصلاة والسلام على أشرف الأنبياء والمرسلين

Alhamdullillah rab Alalamin wal Salatu Wal Salamu 'ala ashrafil mursaleen,

Peace and blessings of Allah upon our Nabi Muhammed (SAW).

In the name of Allah, the beneficent, the merciful. Peace and blessings of Allah upon our Nabi Muhammed (SAW). The honourable Chairman, Mr Aziz Khan, Board Members, The Honourable Mr Ally, Chief Administrator, Respected Haja Mrs Mariam Banwa, the Honourable Principal, Head of Primary and Secondary, Coordinators, learned teachers, support staff, parents, respected distinguished guests and my dear graduands.

AsalaamuAlaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakathuhu.

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

Dear Year 12 graduating students of AIIC,

I congratulate you, your parents, dedicated teachers and the wider community members, on the successful completion of a remarkable journey. Your hard work, dedication, tireless efforts and sacrifices have enabled you to reach an important milestone in your life. I also would like to recognise and acknowledge the sincere dedication of teachers and sacrifices of parents that have helped you to reach this important memorable day.

It gives me tremendous pleasure to note that AIIC had a remarkable achievement over the past few years, a praiseworthy remark by offering high quality education to the students in a caring Islamic environment.

I am pleased to announce that our college AIIC has been selected by the Education Department as the most Improved School in Australia, and also listed in the top 10 most improved secondary college.

For you, my dear students, as graduating students, there is no doubt that you must feel a mix of excitement. And for your parents, this is a proud moment to see their child leaving AIIC to pursue their bright prospects that lie ahead.

I wish and pray, as you prepare to take further studies, all the best, success, and good luck in the pursuit of excellence and I pray that you will remain committed to the betterment of your community, the Australian Islamic Community, committed to the wider Australian community and indeed committed to the betterment of global humanity.

2018 was another successful academic year. The AIIC Alumni Association was established. The first gathering was held on the 26th November 2018 and all our previous students gathered, discussed and shared their experiences.

It was hard work and efforts of Mr Ally and our Honourable Principal Mrs Banwa that this Alumni was established and formed. This will be now a continual annual event on the college calendar.

Another important gathering held this year was the community leaders and intellectuals' get-together. We had three important events: two in Durack and one in the Gold Coast. These were very successful events where hundreds of leaders, intellectuals, Imams and educators came, mixed and mingled, exchanged views and saw great opportunities. These initiatives were organised by Mr Ally and honourable principal Mrs Banwa, Jazakallah Khair.

2018 was another successful academic year for our international students. A team from AIIC including myself, the chairman of the board, Abdul Aziz Khan, and Dr Abdul Ziyath, took part in an Educational International Fair, which was held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 18 October to 22 October. We took the opportunity to visit a number of Islamic schools, where sister schools' programs have been established. As a result, 12 students from Al Madinah School will be visiting our college early 2019 under the Australian Study Tour Program. This will be our very first student exchange program. Many more similar programs will follow in the future Insha'Allah.

Another remarkable achievement in 2018 was the close corporation between the chairman of the board and the administration of the school. I thank Mr Chairman, Aziz Khan, for his valuable time and for working closely with the management team of AIIC.

Distinguished guests, dear brothers and sisters, graduands and parents, technology and globalisation are significantly shifting business models in all sectors. Most education systems today are preparing students for the future, and adapting for the 21st century, through STEM curriculum, that is (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.) This approach is to ensure that the students will have the ability to face the challenges of the future. The WEF (World Economic Forum), highlighted that basic skills such as Literacy and Numeracy will not be sufficient for the future. Its study clearly demonstrates that one third of the skills that exist today will be totally changed by 2020. It is estimated that 65% of children entering primary school today will ultimately work in jobs that do not exist yet.

As such, the current basic education system will fail to prepare children and, as a result, they will be unable to meet future skill requirements, which could affect their job prospects, similarly a study conducted by the United State Science Foundation reveals that in the future 80% of jobs worldwide will require critical thinking and problem solving skills. Preparing to face the challenges, we require more than just basic academic skills. Technology today is becoming a part of children's lives.

Taking these facts into consideration, Australian International Islamic College Board has decided to concentrate and construct the STEM building as a matter of priority and urgency, at around the cost of 4 million Dollars. Dr Abdul Ziyath is putting in all his efforts into this project. May Allah bless him. On behalf of the Board and the Trust, I would like to thank Dr Abdul Ziyath for his wonderful and professional efforts to realise this important project of the STEM building. Jazakallah Khair Providing and utilising the STEM methodology and by providing hundreds of hands and minds on activities facilitated by highly skilled teachers will ensure that AIIC students will be ready for the future.

Dear Graduates, honourable administrator, Mr Ally and distinguished guests, today in our technologically advanced world, economic side of education is crucial to be able to succeed.

Almost all the teachings of Islam have an economic oriented side to them, pertaining to the contribution to the wealth, which is so important to the Islamic system. Imam Muslim Narrates a Hadith, “Once Umar RA came to the Prophet Muhammed SAW and said his best property was a piece of land in Khaybar which he would like to give in the path of Allah. The Prophet SAW told Umar RA, you keep the land, but give away its produce and fruits in the path of Allah.”

Today in our technologically advanced world, the economic side of education is crucial to be able to succeed.

- If you wish to own a house, you will need a good job
- If you wish to travel the world, you will need a good job
- If you wish to have a good car, you must have a good job

A good job requires a good education, so that you can enter University and obtain tertiary qualifications. To get that good job or good career, the path to success today requires well-educated individuals.

- You need to do this for yourself in order to succeed
- You need to find the discipline within you
- You will need to discipline yourself, study hard and do well.

Australian International Islamic College has been serving you to help nurture you into young adults. Once you find success, you will need to come back and help us in order to help others. The more successful you are in your everyday life, the more you can help your community and the Islamic community to find success.

Once again, I congratulate all graduands tonight. I thank Mr Ally, Mrs Banwa, the coordinators, support staff, P&C Committee, volunteers and the general public for their continuous support and tremendous contributions. It is our main focus of Adaab, Akhlaq, Taaleem, Tarbiyah of Aouladul Muslimeen. Etiquette, Education and proper upbringing of Muslim children in order to become better law abiding citizens of Australia.

May Allah bless them all and reward them.
Jazakumullahu Khairun,

Thank You very much,

AsalaamuAlaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakathuhu.

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ