

**FICTeX Event, University of Malta  
13 July 2017**

**Dear friends,**

**It is my pleasure to join you for the 17<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Annual Faculty of ICT Exhibition. Let me begin by commending all the students who are presenting their Final Year Projects, and those students in particular whose academic achievements have been recognised with a place on the Dean's List.**

**I must admit that I share the great sense of pride that your parents and your lecturers feel on your achievements, in developing essential skills and abilities, thanks to the knowledge you have gained as part of your work here, at our university.**

**I am informed that this event also marks a special anniversary in the Faculty's calendar. I am told that it is a decade since the Faculty of Information and Communication Technology was first established.**

**All of us must feel proud that during this time, the faculty has gone from strength to strength, nurturing a new generation of academics, professionals, and practitioners.**

**The diversity of departments within the ICT Faculty gives us some indication of just how exciting this growing industry is, and will continue to be, moving forward in the 21st Century.**

**I note, with satisfaction, that not only are Maltese students receiving top-notch training, to be high-level computer engineers and analysts, but they are also being introduced to areas of international innovation, including artificial intelligence and nano-electronics.**

**As a faculty, you are at the cutting edge of education for technological development in Malta.**

**For this reason, it is encouraging to see that there are professional stakeholders, from various sectors of the information and communication technology industry, with us in the audience.**

**We must acknowledge that the support of the industry, to the faculty and its members, is crucial, so let me take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support.**

**I am sure that we all believe that it is essential for us to help students to make a successful transition from the world of academia into the world of work.**

**It is only in this way that students can mature into professional collaborators, on a national and international level.**

**I would also like to take the opportunity to encourage further collaboration across different sectors and disciplines, to give more opportunities to our students, to put their knowledge and their skills to practical use.**

**Let me also encourage all stakeholders to find more innovative ways to bring the inspiring possibilities of information and communication technology, into the lives of all of our communities.**

**I believe it is our responsibility, whatever our capacity, to do all that we can, to nurture our young people.**

**Our young people must feel supported to take the knowledge they have gained during their university experiences, and feel empowered enough to put this knowledge to good use, by making a lasting impact in the world.**

**We all know that technologies are improving and expanding at exponential rates, across the globe. They are changing the conditions of life in all aspects of human activity.**

**Therefore, we must be courageous.**

**We must take up new opportunities for technological innovation, particularly in all the areas which touch upon the sustainable development and holistic wellbeing of our Maltese Islands and all our citizens.**

**The role of technology is essential, for the successful implementation of the United Nations' Agenda 2030, and its Sustainable Development Goals.**

**Agenda 2030 was agreed upon by all the countries of the world, and it is a roadmap for the sustainable future of all humanity. It addresses areas of major concern, and offers tangible ways to overcome the challenges being faced within our communities and societies.**

**The research, development, and widespread dissemination of environmentally-respectful technologies will also be a fundamental cornerstone of the future sustainability of our planet.**

**For this reason, let me urge you, dear students, in all your future endeavours, to keep in mind the importance of a healthy and green economy.**

**If we keep working together to promote ecologically responsible attitudes, in every aspect of our industries and our lives, we shall be doing a lot to implement the full force of**

**Agenda 2030, and, in particular, Sustainable Development Goal Number 17.**

**SDG 17 encourages us to; “*strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development.*”**

**While this may sound like a massive goal for us to achieve, it will be thanks to progress in your sector, and to the commitment you bring, that we can foster new processes of cooperation in the areas of science, technology, communication, and innovation.**

**I augur you to be part of a globally-active network of experts and practitioners, whose contributions shall bring immense benefit to the sustainable and holistic wellbeing of our world, and of our human family.**

**Let me once again offer my congratulations to all the students, whose achievements we are celebrating today.**

**I am proud to say that, thanks to your work, Malta is already leaving its mark in this rapidly expanding sector, and I am convinced it shall continue to do so in the years ahead.**

**Dear students, as you reach the end of this phase in your lives, you are well placed to become a necessary part of the strengthening of our economy and society.**

**Through your commitment, and the dedication of your educators, you are now in a position to make outstanding contributions to our nation's development, in the areas of information, communication, and technology.**

**On concluding, I encourage you to enter into collaborations with your peers from other nations. We must be outward looking in our vision, always ready to build new friendships, not only within our own Mediterranean region and European Union, but also with international stakeholders and partners.**

**I am confident that you shall continue to pursue innovation, by pushing forward the boundaries of our industries and our**

**services, for the ultimate benefit and the sustainable wellbeing of our Maltese Islands, our region, and our world.**

**Thank you for your attention.**