

University of Rome Tor Vergata



IMPPM

International Master
in Public Procurement Management

IV EDITION IMPPM OPENING CEREMONY, MARCH 1st 2016

WELCOME SPEECH BY CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

Welcome Speech by Enrica Porcari

Greetings IV generation. Welcome to Rome and to my fellow students of the 3rd generation.....

'We did it!'

We're finally graduating. Congratulations to those of you who graduated yesterday, Some of us will do so this afternoon.

It's remarkable, to think that only one year ago, we were in the audience with the same sense of anticipation the incoming class is feeling now.

I think I speak for most of us when I say that those days from March 2nd last year went by faster than we ever imagined they would.

A year has gone by, we came in with a bag full of fears and hopes.

We were leaving behind our jobs, our friends, our families. We came in hoping to gain the knowledge and experience to make us better professionals, to gain new friends, to make experiences new to us.

What makes this program great is its diversity of experience, of background, but all with a common interest in understanding how public procurement, that magic place where policies meet funding can make the world a better place.

We have different backgrounds, lawyers, economists, social scientists, engineers...Some of us came in with already years of experience in public procurement others with very little knowledge of procurement - a colleague confided that he had to google translate the word procurement before joining. He started - like many of us here... and now we are all HERE.

Some were very young, some less so, including me.. But I strongly believe 'People do not stop pursuing dreams because they get old, they get old because they stop pursuing dreams.'

We came as individuals, we are leaving as team, some have found love, some new jobs. Even if we live in different countries we know a piece of advice is only an email away, a FB posting away, we have Whatsap groups that are our anchors. And with some we will be friends forever. We have established links that will last a life time. Our field trip to Venice, our bread making experience, our trips to Napoli, to Sicily they all wouldn't have meant anything if I hadn't had people to share them with.

You will spend 4 months in Italy. Modesty should stop me.. But I cannot.. This is a beautiful country. Despite the rain of the last few days, trust me.. This is the land of sunshine. Take the time to enjoy it, its sights, its culture, its flavours. Don't be lazy, take the metro and go downtown. Just for a walk, enjoy the history you can breathe everywhere. Its irresistible gelatos.

Most of you will complain about Campus X, you are not alone, everybody does. But living far from the Center, all together creates a sense of bonding that gets tighter every day. You may not like the food of the cafeteria this is an opportunity to experience each other's cuisine, your traditional dishes and when you feel home sick, you have friends just a few doors down the hall. And no matter how much you complain about it, how some of you will feel hostage, you will want to come back. A bit like a collective Stockholm syndrome, look, most graduates are staying again at the Campus. The memories of the barbeques, the study rooms, the dinners together stay with us and for a last time we want to live that again.

To the 4th generation we will leave our BBQ, look after it, it is a testament of our friendship, of our togetherness,

From all the Italian students in the campus Learn Italian, or travel on Metro A, 'prossima fermata, uscita lato destro' will become part of the Italian you will never forget..

You will not have 600 Porcari, my car became a symbol of freedom for many, trips to the beach, to the country side. We sang, we danced, we watched sunsets, we were a family away from our family.

You will leave from this experience as a better professional and a richer person.

But I digress. I'm sure all of us could spend hour reliving and romanticizing our great trips, and we have been doing that in the past weekend.

But now is time to also look at the faculty. You will meet teachers with an enormous experience, you can learn so much from them. Soak in their words, their wisdom, their experience they so generously share. It will be your treasure chest, like it has been ours.

What will I miss? The people. I think it's a testament to our friendship that I'm still good friends with people that I haven't seen in person in months. We made each other's lives richer.

Of course, we couldn't have made it to this moment alone. If you haven't thanked your family, friends, and teachers prior to this moment you certainly should after. None of us could have gotten here without them.

Adding to Rada's list I would like to mention my own country, Italy and its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, represented here by Consigliere Orizio for their sustained support to this program. A visionary program that builds capacities of the individuals who will make a difference.

Before I end this speech, I want to wish each and every one of you success in whatever endeavors you choose to pursue. While I will likely never see many of the people at my own graduation again, because I vowed that I will NEVER graduate again I will stay friend with many of you, maybe we will be

colleagues one day. I know that we as a generation have so much to offer to world. I know that we are going to do great things and I couldn't be more thrilled.

So 3rd generation, a year ago we came in with a bag full of fears and hopes now leave with a bag full of knowledge and friends.

Let's make the best of them. As Dr. Seuss said: Let's not cry because it is over, let's smile because it happened.

4th generation, it is your time now, make the best of these 4 months, it is an amazing opportunity and for all of you it will be an unforgettable experience. Good luck!

Welcome Speech by Rada Milisav

Esteemed Guests, honoured Professors, dear Colleagues,

I am Rada Milisav and I will be speaking on behalf of 3rd generation of IMPPM students with the EBRD scholarship.

As you know, this day for some means the beginning and at the same time for some others it means the end of one story called International Master in Public Procurement Management.

As for the generation 2014/15, the third generation of IMPPM, which I myself belong to, this day marks the end of studying, sitting the exams but also it represents the start of applying newly acquired knowledge in our work and start of pursuing our career now officially as experts in public procurement management. Our last day at Tor Vergata (last day here as students) is the first day for new, the fourth, generation.

I vividly remember that 3 March 2015 when I was sitting there at your place, filled with hope but at the same time overwhelmed with worries and doubts about the difficulty of this task that lie ahead of me. I want to be honest with you and tell you that the task proved to be difficult, indeed, due to hours, days and weeks of lectures, studying, lack of sleep and many sacrifices made. However, I also must add that, rewards were proportionate to efforts and worth it.

If you wholeheartedly commit and make all needed efforts, you can be sure that you will take from this programme very broad and at the same time practice-oriented knowledge relevant to various aspects of the public procurement.

This programme enables you to have the most eminent experts in their respective fields to teach you and I would use this opportunity to thank to professors for their dedication, energy and will to share their knowledge and experience with us.

Apart from professors, I would especially like to thank the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development for recognising the need for capacity building in the area of public procurement across our countries as without their support most of us from the developing countries would find it much more difficult to get the chance to study at one such prestigious university such is Tor Vergata in Rome. Thank you.

However, probably the most precious reward is that you will connect and make friends with your colleagues for life, people that would be like family to you for the next five months. Studying at Tor Vergata has enabled me to meet very competent, bright and ambitious people, and what is more important wonderful people and good friends.

By yesterday's and today's Thesis defence we will complete our final task and conclude this "third generation story", which makes my heart break. But it is comforting to know, as I already mentioned, that this actually is not the end, but new beginning and that tomorrow brings new collaborations such was the EBRD sponsored conference in London in October last year, where the Alumni Association of the International Master in Public

Procurement Management was launched. Then another conference in Belgrade planned for this year, and hopefully many other opportunities ahead of us to meet and collaborate.

Therefore I will not say 'goodbye' or, as Italian would say 'addio', but instead I will say 'until we meet again' or 'arrivederci'.

Thank you all.