



SPEECH

**His Excellency Mr Dharambeer Gokhool G.C.S.K.,
President of the Republic of Mauritius**

**EVENT: BCS CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF IT -
 GRADUATION CEREMONY 2026**

VENUE: AUDITORIUM, MGI, MOKA

DATE: 12 SEPTEMBER 2026

TIME: 13:00 HOURS

Hon. Aadil Ameer Meea, Minister of Industry, SME and Cooperatives,
Dr the Hon. Avinash Ramtohul, Minister of Information Technology,
Communication and Innovation,

Ms. Emma Logan, Deputy President of BCS, The Chartered Institute
for IT

Mr. Iqbal Boolaky, Regional Manager (Mauritius),
Ms. Azina Nazurally, Chair, BCS - Mauritius Section,

Distinguished Guests,
Proud Parents and Family Members,
And most importantly, dear Graduands.

Good afternoon.

It gives me great pleasure to be with you today for the BCS Graduation
Ceremony.

I thank BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, for inviting me as Chief
Guest to address our graduands on this important moment in their lives.

I commend BCS for its continued commitment to professional
excellence.

I am particularly pleased to be with you today, having attended a BCS
graduation ceremony in 2005, when I was Minister of Education.

To every graduand here today, I extend my warmest congratulations.

Today, you receive recognition for your knowledge, discipline,
perseverance and the many hours of work that brought you here. But
you did not make this journey alone.

Behind you is a parent who made a sacrifice, a family member who
encouraged you, a mentor who guided you, or someone who believed
in you when the journey became difficult.

So, while today is your graduation, it is also, in many respects, their
achievement. I invite you to remember them and remain grateful to
them.

Your qualification, benchmarked against an internationally recognised standard, reflects a journey that each of you has pursued at your own pace.

Some of you have taken two years; others, four, balancing professional and personal responsibilities.

What matters is that you continued learning and completed the journey.

Education and Transformation

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I stand before you today as President of the Republic. But allow me, for a few moments, to speak to you in another capacity:

As an educator.

Education has occupied a very significant part of my life.

My professional journey spans more than five decades. I have had the privilege of serving as a university lecturer, working with generations of students, and later serving my country as Minister of Education.

Throughout those years, I have seen young people enter lecture rooms with uncertainty and leave with confidence.

I have seen new ideas emerge, professions transform, and the relationship between education, technology and society change profoundly.

This has repeatedly brought me back to one fundamental question:

What is education ultimately meant to achieve?

Is it simply to obtain a qualification? To secure employment? To acquire knowledge?

Of course, all of these matter.

But after more than fifty years in and around education, I believe its deeper purpose is greater.

Education must give you the capacity to confront a world that does not yet exist - and to shape the world in which you will live.

Change: A World that will not stand still

Think about the pace of change.

When I began my professional career, there was no Internet as we know it today. There were no smartphones, social media platforms, cloud computing or generative AI tools such as ChatGPT and Claude.

Today, these technologies influence how we communicate, how businesses operate, how governments function, how children learn and increasingly how human beings work.

Now consider this:

What will the world look like fifty years from today?

None of us can answer that with certainty.

And that is precisely the point.

Some technologies that will define your careers may not yet have been invented. Some professions may not yet have names. Some skills valued today may become obsolete.

And some of the problems you will be called upon to solve may not yet have emerged.

That is why your education must not end today with the diploma you receive.

Your qualification demonstrates what you have learned. Your future will depend on how well you continue to learn.

You belong to a generation that will learn, unlearn and relearn throughout your lives.

We constantly tell young people to prepare for Artificial Intelligence, automation, disruption and new professions.

But today, I want to challenge that idea.

Your professional diploma must not only prepare you for the future. It must help you design it.

Because the future is not a distant destination waiting for us to arrive.

Someone is designing it today.

Someone is writing the code. Someone is developing the algorithm. Someone is creating the next company or building the next platform.

And somewhere, someone is looking at a problem that millions have learned to tolerate and asking:

“Why does it have to be this way?”

That question has driven some of humanity's greatest innovations.

So, why should that someone not be you?

And why should that innovation not come from Mauritius?

Artificial Intelligence: Fear or Possibility

We are living through another major technological transformation.

Artificial Intelligence is no longer science fiction. It can generate code, analyse vast amounts of information, assist doctors, support research, detect fraud, translate languages and create images, text and video.

It is already changing education, finance, healthcare, government and the workplace.

Naturally, this creates uncertainty.

Many young professionals are asking:

“Will Artificial Intelligence take my job?”

That is a legitimate question.

But I want you, as technology professionals, to ask a more powerful one:

“What can I now do with Artificial Intelligence that I could not do before? And how can I use it intelligently and responsibly?”

One question begins with fear.

The other begins with possibility.

Your challenge is not to spend your career competing with machines at what machines do best. It is to combine technology with qualities that remain profoundly human:

Judgement. Creativity. Empathy. Leadership. Curiosity. Ethical reasoning.

And the ability to understand a problem beyond the information presented on a screen.

Artificial Intelligence can generate an answer, but it cannot assume responsibility for that answer.

It can give you information, but it cannot give you integrity.

It can generate possibilities, but it cannot determine your principles.

It can tell you what is technologically possible, but it cannot decide what is morally right.

That responsibility remains ours.

Technology comes with Responsibility

This brings me to something particularly important for you as BCS graduands.

Technology is power. And the greater that power becomes, the greater the responsibility of those who control it.

Some of you may write software used by thousands, perhaps millions, of people. Some will protect networks, manage sensitive information or develop AI systems. Others may work in finance, healthcare, telecommunications, government or critical infrastructure.

A mistake in such environments is not merely a technical error. It can affect lives.

So never allow technical competence to become separated from professional integrity.

The world does not simply need brilliant programmers.

It needs ethical and responsible technologists.

One Lesson from 50+ Years of Education

Dear Friends,

After more than five decades in education and public service, allow me to share one observation.

The people who ultimately make the greatest difference are not necessarily those who begin their careers knowing the most.

Very often, they are those who never stop learning.

Curiosity matters. Character matters. Adaptability matters. Humility matters.

And the willingness to continue learning matters most.

At some point, something you spent years mastering may become obsolete.

Learn again.

There may come a day when someone much younger than you understands a new technology better than you do.

Learn from them.

There will be moments when an idea you believed in does not work.

Learn from failure.

And when you eventually find yourself in a position of leadership, remember that leadership is not about demonstrating how much you know. It is about creating the conditions in which others can grow, contribute and succeed.

I began my professional journey in education. I made mistakes. I learnt from them.

Today, more than fifty years later, I have the privilege, as President of the Republic, of standing before another generation of graduands.

Technology has changed. Institutions have changed. Professions have changed. The world has changed.

But one conviction has remained constant:

The greatest investment a nation can make is in the capacity of its people to learn, to think and to create.

What will you do with what you have learnt?

Graduands,

Twenty or thirty years from now, you may not remember every word spoken at this ceremony. You may not remember every examination you sat or every computer language you learned. Some may no longer even be widely used.

But I hope you will remember one question:

Did I merely adapt to the future that others created, or did I help create it?

A meaningful career cannot be measured only by salary, titles or the names of organisations on your curriculum vitae.

At the end of a worthwhile career, perhaps the more important questions are:

What did I build?

What problem did I solve?

Whose life did I improve?

Whom did I help along the way?

And what did I leave behind for those who came after me?

Conclusion

Dear Friends,

Today, you leave this auditorium with a qualification. But more importantly, you leave with capability, knowledge and confidence.

What you do with them from now on is your responsibility.

So, if there is one message I would like you to take away from this ceremony, it is this:

Do not simply prepare for the future.

Design it.

Build it intelligently.

Build it courageously.

Build it ethically.

And above all,

build it for humanity.

I extend my warmest congratulations once again to each and every one of you, and to your parents, families, lecturers and mentors who have accompanied you on this journey.

I commend BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, for its commitment to professional excellence, ethical standards and the advancement of the technology profession.

And to the graduands, I leave you with these words:

Keep the light of learning brighter and brighter.

Thank you.