

Annex A

Ministerial Speeches at Chevening Scholarship Events from 13 July 2016 to Date

Chevening Scholar Orientation Event

22 October 2016

Rt. Hon Boris Johnson MP

Good morning.

It's great to have the chance to welcome you to Britain.

But first of all, congratulations on getting here. Over 45,000 people from every corner of the world applied for Chevening Scholarships – and only 1,918 of you made it.

That's about 5 per cent, making you the winners in something that I have no hesitation in glorifying: competition – avowed, palpable, tooth and claw, academic competition.

And now you'll have the chance to study everything from Biodiversity to Behavioural Economics in a country that has for centuries been a hub of intellectual discovery.

Three of the world's ten best universities are in Britain.

We have a dozen of the top 100 universities in the world.

Some of you will be studying nuclear physics and, if you'll forgive me, I'd like to borrow one aspect of your discipline as my text for today.

There is a technical term for that agglomeration of fissile material which forms the necessary precondition of the explosion.

That term is critical mass. Thanks to you and many thousands like you, that is what we have here in Britain.

A critical mass of human talent, drawn from every quarter of the globe.

A giant cyclotron of supremely gifted people who meet, jostle, interact and then occasionally there is that flash of inspiration: the breakthrough which leads to invention.

One day in Cambridge, two scientists met in a pub, a fine British institution that you will no doubt encounter.

By the time Francis Crick and James Watson had finished their pow-wow in The Eagle – a splendid establishment, as it happens - they had worked out how DNA transmits genetic information.

One British pub, two scientists, four pints – perhaps more, the exact number is unrecorded – and the secret of life was discovered.

Watson, incidentally, is American and Crick British.

It was their combined trans-national genius, brought together by the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge and a 17th century pub, which transformed our understanding of genetics.

And that's why you're here: to produce the inventions and breakthroughs and ideas of the future.

And there is no better place to be than Britain.

Where was the first light bulb illuminated? In Dundee.

Where was the first TV switched on? In Soho, just a few miles away.

Where did the first steam ship embark on its first journey? From Bristol, after being designed by Brunel – and some of you will be heading to the fine university that bears his name.

Where was Penicillin invented? Praed Street – next to Paddington station.

Where did Charles Darwin perfect the theory of evolution? In Bromley, just down the road.

Where did Leo Szilard, the great Hungarian physicist, get the idea of a nuclear chain reaction? In Bloomsbury. During a traffic jam, as it happens.

You'll be studying at universities all over the country, but I was delighted to learn that 40 percent of you will be staying here in London.

That's not surprising, since London is the higher education capital of the world.

Four of the top 100 universities on the planet are in this one city.

London has more world class universities than any other capital.

There are more Chinese students here in London than in any other city outside China.

And it is this agglomeration of human talent in a free and open society that produces such astonishing results.

Just one British university – Cambridge, as it happens – has produced more Nobel Prize winners than every university in Russia and China added together and multiplied by two.

Much of the world is governed by people with British educations.

Of the world's kings, queens, presidents and prime ministers, one in every seven studied here in Britain.

Scattered around the planet are 46,000 former Chevening scholars, including heads of state, chief executives and leaders in every field, from law to finance to creative industries and even journalism.

I hope your stay will be the start a long friendship with Britain and our people. When you finish your scholarships, we want you to stay in touch as part of that great global elite, Chevening alumni.

They are a wonderfully fissile critical mass. They have done great things – even the journalists - and so will you.

ENDS

Thank you, and good afternoon. Thanks also to the Chevening Unit and Asia-Pacific Directorate for organising today's event.

I hope you have enjoyed it and had the opportunity to get to know your fellow scholars. To those of you who came to the induction event – sorry, no visit from my boss the Foreign Secretary this time.

UK - World Leader in Education

Let me begin by echoing his words, that you have done the right thing in picking the United Kingdom for your studies. We are home to 34 of the top 200 universities in the world, many of which you are attending.

We have more Nobel Laureates than any country outside America.

As you may have seen already, the UK is a world leader and an innovator in the subjects and issues that you have chosen to pursue – in finance, business, international relations, law, science, technology and more.

You have the potential to be world leaders too. By becoming a Chevening Scholar you have already proven that you are some of the best in the world. You could become the leaders, influencers, and decision-makers of the future.

It is to you that people around the world will look for the solutions to tomorrow's global challenges. It is to you we will look for the breakthroughs in science and technology that will improve our living conditions. And it is to you we will look for leadership to ensure that the political, economic and academic institutions of the future make fair and open decisions for the benefit of all.

That may sound a daunting responsibility, but we are confident you are the right people to deliver.

Importance of Chevening

The Chevening Scholarship programme is important to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and important to me –and it's not just about bringing talented foreign students to the UK to experience high quality teaching and research.

That really goes without saying in a scholarship programme.

What is really unique about Chevening is the opportunity it gives you to build networks with future leaders in your field right across the world. This network extends far beyond your cohort, because it includes every Chevening Scholar, going back years. Many are now leaders in their field – which is why we are so confident about you!

This is the network that you will join once you have completed the programme. When I have met past scholars on my travels – such as in China and Indonesia recently - many have told me of the valuable support they have received from fellow alumni.

Today, as well as discussing the most important challenges that face your countries, your region, and the wider world, I hope you have also started to build your own Chevening network.

Importance of Asia Pacific region: It has been said that this will be the ‘Asian Century’. The Asia-Pacific could power global growth, and shape the world’s political and economic future more than any other region. In recognition of the growing influence and importance of Asia, the UK has invested significantly in our partnerships in the region. Since becoming Minister for Asia and the Pacific in July I have been fortunate to visit many countries in the region, and I have seen for myself the depth of the friendship that already exists between the UK and your countries.

During my visit to Guangdong Province in China, I met Chevening Alumni including Vice Governor and other rising stars in law, media, academia and finance. I spoke with them about how the UK and China can strengthen our global partnership.

In Australia and Japan, I met investors and businessmen who are hugely positive about our relationship, and the potential for us to work more closely together in finance and technology.

This determination to strengthen our partnerships in Asia Pacific, and indeed across the world, demonstrates that the UK remains a global player.

This will be as true after we have left the EU as it is today. We will continue to be an outward-looking, open country and we will continue to promote peace, security and prosperity around the world. Strong partnerships and personal links remain vital to achieve these ambitions.

Nowhere are the opportunities for mutual benefit from strong partnerships greater than in the Asia Pacific region.

Conclusion

I am sure you are keen to hear who won the quiz, so I won't delay you any longer.

Thank you for coming today and for sharing your views on the future of the Asia Pacific region, and UK relations with your home countries. I hope we can continue our discussions with you throughout the academic year, and you will come to other events. As you continue your studies and pursue your career, wherever that may be, I hope that you will keep in touch.

With the knowledge you will gain here in the UK, and the combined talents of the Chevening Alumni network to support you, I know you will be well equipped to help the world meet the challenges of the future.

ENDS

Good evening, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen...and most importantly, scholars. As Minister for the Americas, I am delighted to welcome you all to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. But let me apologise that we can't enjoy the fantastic red wines from your great continent. Durbar Court is a fantastic setting for any celebration but the floor before your feet is marble and drinks red wine even faster than I do! Nevertheless, it is a fitting venue to mark the end of your first academic term here in the UK.

Importance of UK-Americas relationships

The United Kingdom remains committed to our relationships with the Americas and the Caribbean - relationships built on strong foundations and shared values. I am pleased those relationships are flourishing and hope to get to know more of the continent as I fulfil my role as Minister for the Americas.

Importance of Chevening scholarships

Now as Chevening Scholars, you are the most significant sign of our strong commitment to the region and to the future.

So this evening's event is to honour you. I am proud to say that this year's cohort is our largest ever from the Americas and the Caribbean - 482 scholars from 33 countries. You beat significant competition to get here, and should be proud of your achievement.

This year is a very exciting one for you. Chevening scholarships offer a unique opportunity for you - the next generation of leaders and decision-makers - to develop both professionally and academically here in the UK. But it isn't just about academia. It is also about the experiences you have living here and getting to know the United Kingdom, our values, our institutions and our way of life. Above all, it is an opportunity for you to make friendships and build networks that will support you for a lifetime.

I hope you have enjoyed your time here so far, despite the slightly murky winter weather! During the rest of your stay I encourage you to explore our countryside, experience our culture and enjoy the diversity of our people.

This year is just the beginning of your Chevening journey; the end of your programme will be the start of your membership of the Chevening Alumni, an influential network of over 44,000 scholars going back more than 30 years. It's a network which includes Presidents and

Prime Ministers; entrepreneurs and educators; film directors and foreign editors to name but a few. It's a network that will include you.

And you all have one thing in common: you have become Chevening scholars because of your potential and your ambition. All we ask is that you become leaders in your fields. What matters most to us is that when you return home, you remember to keep in touch with your friends here in Britain!

Conclusion

Let me end by wishing you continued success for the remainder of your scholarship. As Chevening scholars, you are following in illustrious footsteps. They may seem big shoes to fill – but I hope you will take your predecessors as inspiration. Work hard and learn as much as you can from those around you. But above all, enjoy your studies, the opportunity to make friends and to learn about this country. I wish you well in your chosen careers; we will follow your progress with interest - your future awaits.

ENDS

20 March 2017

Chevening Partners' Reception

Alok Sharma MP

NB: On this occasion the Minister used speech notes

SPEECH NOTES

- Over 90 organisations represented at this event.
- This year we have welcomed 1,896 scholars to the UK.
- 496 of whom are supported by our partners.
- Chevening now has over 46,000 alumni worldwide including prominent figures in the fields of politics, business, human rights, and civil society.
- Welcome guests from HSBC with whom Chevening has partnered for many years. This year, HSBC is supporting 30 scholars.
- Welcome Rio Tinto, who have recently signed a three year agreement to support scholars studying Marine Law and Policy.
- Thank Chevening's university partners and welcome guests from the University of Bradford who, as well as supporting through a partnership, will this year be hosting the annual Chevening conference at the end of March – an opportunity for scholars to showcase their academic research.
- For those of you who are not yet partners with the programme, I would encourage you to talk to our scholars, our alumni and our current partners. Find out more about the excellent work of the Programme and the benefits associated with being a partner of Chevening.
- We are joined this evening by a current scholar and an alumnus who will speak of their experiences as Chevening scholars. The scholar is Darathtey Din from Cambodia, a current Chevening- University of Warwick scholar.
- We will then hear from our Alumnus, Guil Silva from Brazil, who was a scholar in 2000 at the University of Reading.
- Thank you again for your commitment to the Chevening Programme and in the scholars we support.

5 July 2017 Chevening Scholar Farewell Event Rt. Hon. Mark Field MP
(by video)

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. I'm Mark Field, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister responsible for our Chevening programme. I'm sorry I can't be with you in person, but I didn't want to miss the opportunity to congratulate you at the end of what I hope has been a fulfilling year with us.

Coming to the end of your course may involve some goodbyes, but today should not be a sad occasion – it should be a celebration. A celebration of an enthralling, absorbing and memorable year.

A year in which you have studied at some of our finest universities and gained excellent qualifications.

Perhaps most important of all, it is a year in which you have learned what Britain is about - our culture, our values, our institutions and our way of life. You have done that in the best possible way – through living, studying and making life-long friends here.

I know that my department and the Chevening Secretariat have laid on countless visits and events for you. You have seen devolved governments, the UK Parliament and Whitehall departments. Politically, it has been the most fascinating time to see the British system in action.

None of this would have been possible without the support of our Chevening partners, some of whom are in the audience today. By hosting, mentoring and working with our scholars you have helped make this year such a great experience. I want to thank you, on behalf of the British Government, for your commitment to our Chevening programme and to our scholars.

This year the United Kingdom has welcomed almost 1,900 Chevening scholars from 140 countries. It shows how truly global and diverse our Chevening programme is.

It also symbolises, as we negotiate our departure from the EU, that the United Kingdom remains open, outward facing and welcoming to talent. Most of all, it shows how much we cherish our relationships right across the world.

This is especially important to me, not just as a Minister, but also as a Member of Parliament representing the central London seat of the Cities of London and Westminster, one of our nation's most diverse constituencies.

While today may mark the end of your scholarship programme, we hope that it is just the beginning of a lifelong relationship with the United Kingdom, as you join an exclusive and influential club: the Chevening alumni.

This means you will be free to tap into a global pool of talent and expertise.

You will have access to advice and support, not just from your peers, but also from older alumni, many of whom are now leaders in business, academia and the public sector in their countries.

This is why many alumni have found that being part of the Chevening network has provided life-long assistance to their careers.

It is now even easier to stay in touch, through our online platform, Chevening Connect. Please sign up as soon as you can, and start making the most of this special club.

We ask just two things of you in return.

First, while you're building your worldwide network, remember to keep in touch with your friends and colleagues here in the UK.

Second, please spread the word about the Chevening programme, to help us reach the next generation of potential leaders.

Thank you all – our scholars and our Partners - for taking part in the Chevening programme.

I wish all the scholars success and fulfilment in their future careers and I look forward to meeting many of you at some point on my future travels.

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