

Well well well... the three well articulated words which began almost every meeting with the UNU-GTP director. It is therefore my pleasure to begin this short address on behalf of the 2018 graduating group of fellows with these same words. Well well well. We have come to the end of a wonderful journey. Allow me to briefly summarize our untitled 6 month story.

The introduction:

It began in mid April, with only 7 fellows arriving just in time to celebrate the famous first day of summer with Icelanders. But was that reference from a reliable source? It surely left those from tropical countries wondering if they had made a mistake. However, packed days of intense and valuable lessons on geophysics, geochemistry and geology, quickly made it easy to ignore the delay in the arrival of the warm and sunny summer days. With an incomplete group it surely was difficult to determine the title of our story, although one fellow suggested that it be called "Navigating through the blizzard; maybe summer is coming"

Chapter one : Within this chapter of our story, we were finally a full bunch of 24 fellows from 14 developing countries; each country on a journey in pursuit of a more sustainable energy future. It became apparent how privileged we were to receive intense, specialized on the job training in geothermal energy. Well executed lectures in drilling, high and low temperature utilization, reservoir engineering, and well logging and testing will enable us to be counted with a cadre of professionals equipped to advance the development of geothermal energy in our home countries. What better place to be than a country where geothermal is much more than a means to achieving sustainable development goal number 7, but is indeed a way of life. We were also privileged to celebrate with the UNU-GTP family the 40th anniversary of the programme. I take this opportunity to congratulate the staff and recognize the masterminds and fervour behind this continued success.

Chapter two

This chapter features the opportunities presented to us to work side by side with professionals in the geothermal industry, as we began our specializations in geochemistry, geophysics, utilization, drilling and last but not least, project management and financing. This was testimony of the multi-disciplinary nature of a dynamic area such as geothermal energy development. It was also evident of the holistic approach of this training course as it prepares us to transfer the capacity built and skills attained to our home countries. Field visits gave us the opportunity to be marvelled by the geothermal power plants, fish farms and greenhouses across the width and breadth of Iceland. But as the saying goes, all work and no play makes Jack and Jane a dull girl and boy. Our fieldtrip, consequently provided us with the opportunity to be awed by the pristine beauty of the land of fire and ice. Our devices, I am sure, are inundated with photos of the blue lagoon, Reykjanes peninsula, the Hengill area, North Iceland, Thorsmark, Eyafjallajökull, among other spectacular sites.

The conclusion

This chapter of our journey may have put our endurance to the test, but it sure was a learning experience. The patience and assistance of our supervisors who made the final projects possible cannot be understated. We surely did grow to appreciate the high standard set by

the UNU GTP for completion of the report, although the word references may have left some of us scarred. This final chapter, although individually based, was characterised with support from each other, through kind words, sharing of knowledge, and not to mention the occasional joke shared to fill the walls with high pitched laughter. When Olkaria and Menangai become so effortlessly part of your vocabulary, you know you've learnt much from your colleagues. At this point, our story still remained untitled, but another fellow suggests the title: "To drill or not to drill"

Appendix : This section of our report features living the best Icelandic life. It entailed our dinner parties, sharing dishes from our countries, sharing cultures, enjoying swimming lessons, games of badminton, World Cup 2018, Zumba classes, and let's not forget those single ones who dared to date. Exploring Iceland on a budget was surely rewarding as the breath-taking views, landscapes remain imprinted in memories. We sure did go chasing waterfalls, glaciers and even puffins. Perhaps one of the most amazing experiences was looking up at the sky to enjoy the dancing northern lights.

As I conclude I take you through perhaps the most important section of our book entitled Acknowledgements: It would be remiss of me not to explicitly recognize the invaluable support of the staff of UNU GTP, the Director Ludvik and Deputy Director, Ingimar, Frida, Marcus and Thorhildur. We also say thank you to the Government of Iceland and the United Nations University of supporting this programme. We extend gratitude to our supervisors and lecturers, the staff of Orkustofnun, ISOR, Landsvirkjun, Verkis, and all other institutions who provided contributed to the success of the programme. We say special thanks to Rosa for proving such reliable support. To our colleagues pursuing masters and phd programmes, thank you for your indelible support and friendship.

And my fellow graduates, I wish you every success in your future endeavours, in particular your professional journeys. May we cherish the life long friendships we have made, and continue to be cheerleaders to each other. And alas, perhaps a fitting book title is The UNU Icelandic Saga 2018.