

Opening Ceremony of Aalto University
Friday 8 Dec 2010



Opening Speech

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New Year's for Aalto University was very peaceful – there was no sudden bang that would have brought together three leading universities in their respective fields.

Wonders do not happen overnight, nor in a year or a decade. This is a unique period in the history of Aalto. With our actions we can determine what kind of University we will build for ourselves and for future generations. I urge us to do it in a manner that is sustainable, because the consequences of our actions will be far-reaching.

Our new university has been prepared for quite a while already, but today we have the first real opportunity to celebrate, together, our first steps in Aalto. When you return to the campuses, I hope that you carry with you the following thoughts about how WE can build our own Aalto University, TOGETHER.

Challenge

Aalto is committed to building a learning- centred culture. The key to learning is interaction between the different members of the University community. It is now the time to realise our vision.

Fellow students, challenge your teachers – Ask questions and make teachers feel that each teaching situation is for substantiating claims and demonstrating arguments. Teachers, I would like to give you the same advice. Expect students to arrive in lectures well-prepared and challenge them with your questions.

Team Work

Even from the very beginning Aalto provides, , the possibility to cross boundaries between different fields of science. Let's learn from each other and make use of these cross-scientific opportunities.

Searching for solutions alone is not satisfactory: let's also invite other partners, companies and the society to join our team.

We should not make Aalto a fortress standing alone in a dark forest; it should be a bright meeting place, a hub for the different colours of our society.

Let's be the colour on the scene

Aalto gets its strength from being different: Let's value the expertise of each one of us. We need to support each other in our different ambitions and dreams. Let's make Aalto the Google of the university world, a place to where more and more people head to realize their passion.

Let us be what we are: We must dare to take risks and make mistakes; refine the diamonds created so that they best serve the society and people. Let's stimulate our environment each day with our new initiatives.

Let us create a community which we are proud to belong to and to which we want to return.

Forward with Sisu

Learning how to think differently can be difficult and stressful, but now is our unique moment to do it.– let's make use of it.

Aalto is not just a foundation, its organizational structure or a mass of fine buildings.
Aalto is created when different kinds of people learn from each other.