

IMT Graduation and Honorary Doctorate Award Ceremony

for Prof. Ugo Montanari

IMT Alti Studi Lucca, March 26, 2014

Introductory remarks of Director

Prof. Alberto Bemporad

Good afternoon everyone, and a very warm welcome to our 2014 Graduation Ceremony. I would like to extend a special welcome to our guest of honor, Ugo Montanari, Professor of Computer Science, who will be awarded a PhD Honoris Causa today for his services to both the greater computer science community and to IMT in its start-up phase as a professor, PhD coordinator and deputy director.

Thank you very much for joining us here today.

I would also like to particularly welcome the families and friends of our graduating PhD students.

I hope you are very proud of them on this important day in their academic and professional career.

Today's graduates are from the 23rd, 24th, 25th and 26th PhD cycles, and are made up of many nationalities from the around the world, including Germany, Greece, United Kingdom, Lithuania, Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, Bulgaria, Albania, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine, Egypt, Cameroon, Iran, South Africa, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, and of course Italy.

They passed at least three years studying and living in Lucca at IMT, in the full integration between research and education, in an international community open to new ideas and contributions. IMT offers in fact a multidisciplinary PhD program that integrates scientific competences of economics, engineering, computer science, physics, and social sciences.

Courses are oriented towards the acquisition of research capabilities, knowledge of methodology and analytical tools. The Institute aims to stimulate participation in research projects, in collaboration with the Research Units and external institutions, and internships within businesses and institutions, both in Italy and abroad.

Since the Institute's foundation in 2005, 279 students have enrolled in PhD programs, and 9 doctoral

cycles have been activated. For the 29th cycle, the 2013-2014 Academic Year, 42 scholarships were granted, and a total of 2094 candidates applied. The number of applications is constantly growing, along with the international scientific community's interest in IMT.

In total 152 students have been awarded a PhD at IMT. At this time 52% are working in other universities or research institutes, 23% work for private companies and 22% currently work for other institutions. The focalization of the incoming and outgoing profiles with prospective appointments in mind is one of our missions.

Everything that I have just said, however, is just a preamble to pay you, our graduates, a deserved compliment.

You are all wonderfully equipped to thrive in this new reality.

You have just completed an international education. You know how to get the best out of others from different cultures.

Your professors and everyone at the Institute wish you every success and happiness in your lives, and you will always be welcome back. In fact, as alumni I look forward to our continued interactions in the years to come.

Thank you, graduates, for being part of the IMT community.

Congratulations on successfully completing your schooling and enjoy your Graduation Ceremony.