Salinas: 'Be Part of the Creation of a New Era'

Following is a partial and valued text of the Commencement Address given by President Salinas de Gortari of Mexico as provided by the MIT News Office.

Involvement in this project means that perhaps it's a problem for Harvard because there are 25 years between Harvard and MIT. It's not that close, but it's there.

It is a great pleasure for me to deliver this commencement speech today. MIT has steadily built great prestige since the first class of 15 students walked the streets of its deans always remaining a truly unique institution. It will be fondly remembered as the home of engineering wizard, but its strength lies in educating generations of young men and women with the highest expertise in these fields, who are mature and insightful, ready and willing to shoulder the great demands and responsibilities that society lays upon its most promising citizens.

I come here today to recognize that the class of 1993 is a unique class. Certainly because of each individual student, but also because, that seldom in a generation a community so dedicated to the future, so pleasant, so attuned to her environment-and we are most grateful for your generosity and kindness: "Imagine.

We have learned the value of cooperation and team work. Let me give you a few examples of how we have learned, and how much we still have to learn, about the right balance between competition and cooperation. Just a few years ago, the United States was declared to have lost all competitive advantage in the world marketplace as a manufacturer of automobiles. Newsweek predicted that the pride of our democracy, to paraphrase Mark Twain, was premature, how foolishly we underestimated the life of companies like the Semitec Corporation, which respect the basic tenets of the marketplace, enabled the companies of the semiconductor industries-

No experience necessary... really!