

## **Anupam's Speech for December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 at SCU MBA Toastmasters**

**Title:** Aging – A view of half a century

**Project Number/Manual:** Project Number 5 in the Competent Communication manual

**Time Requested:** 5 to 7 minutes

**Objectives of the Speech:** Project Number 5 is “Your Body Speaks”.

- Use stance, movement, gestures, facial expressions, and eye contact to express your message and achieve your speech's purpose.
- Make your body language smooth and natural.

**Speech:**

**Mr. Toastmaster, fellow members, and guests:**

How would the world look like half a century from now? To project an answer to this question, I look to the past 50 years, where I have seen the world change in unimaginable ways. When I turned 20, I could not believe that I had become so old. However, at 50, I look with optimism at the coming 50 years. I will describe changes in politics, technology, and international conflict over the past 50 years. For each of these, I will give a date that was significant.

In 1966, the year I was born, the world looked much different than it is today. Soviet Union was one of the two superpowers, with its affiliated Warsaw Pact communist countries. Germany was divided into two nations. An important date happened almost twenty-five years ago, when, on December 25, 1991, Mikhail Gorbachev resigned as President of the Soviet Union. In the events leading up to that date, former Soviet Union divided into its constituent republics and Germany unified as one nation again. European Union and NATO each consist of 28 member states, including three Baltic Republics of former Soviet Union. Euro is a common currency of 19 of the 28 European Union nations. United States leads a mostly unipolar world with significant economic, military, and cultural influences. Such a world order would be hard to imagine in 1966.

In technology, in 1966, mainframe computers could be afforded by the very few. Microsoft, Apple, and Google did not exist. On June 29, 2007, the first ever iPhone was released into market. In the years leading up to that date, internet browsers and mobile phones came to be more and more sophisticated. Now, in the palm of our hand are all our electronic communications, banking, navigation, and entertainment. Pictures, videos,

and audio can be recorded from smart phones. Printed form of Encyclopedia Britannica has been replaced by a Wikipedia and address books by Facebook and LinkedIn. YouTube has become our window to the video world for visiting places, learning, and watching content. We now live in an information age where smartphones and internet have transformed what we think is possible.

In terms of international conflict, around the year 1966, Vietnam war intensified and continued to be a significant conflict for almost another eight years. "Cold War" played out in other nations as well. A very different event occurred on the US soil fifteen years ago, when, on September 11, United States suffered a terror attack. This attack took lives of about 3,000 people. Today, in the wake of terrorism, that knows no national boundaries, mass killings continue to be done by those who do not value their own lives. The wars are not between nations with tremendous nuclear arsenals but between a new ideology of using targeted violence to make oneself heard. Terrorism has come to be the most pressing security concern.

How do I look to the next 50 years? I look towards a world that is more fair, where technology provides instant fulfillment, and where conflicts are resolved by dialog. But if the last 50 years are any indication, the next 50 can be equally hard to predict.

Thank you.