If it wasn't for the gowns and mortarboards, you might think you were attending the Summit of the Americas at the INCAE MBA 2015 graduation. Listening to the graduates, their families and INCAE professors you hear a full range of Spanish dialects. The graduates come from 15 Latin American countries, the US and two European countries.

It's been a busy few weeks for INCAE and a couple of the highlights have been the graduations of the two editions of the INCAE MBA. The 104 graduates of the 21-month MBA taught on the Costa Rica campus celebrated their commencement on 22nd May, while the 81 graduates of the 15-month MBA Camp taught on the Nicaragua campus, graduated on 29th May.

Just 14 hours after his investiture as INCAE's new Rector, Enrique Bolaños was back on stage addressing the MBA graduands. Speaking from his experience in international business, Rector Bolaños stated that as INCAE graduates they should try to make an impact using a mixture of three main ingredients: Passion, Community and Tools, all worked on in INCAE.

Having been in their position 41 years ago, Bolaños spoke of the importance of completing the circle, of continuing to be impassioned by promoting the development of the region and of
searching for ways to improve it. “There will be many distractions in your lives, but don’t let the long flights, the high-level competition and the pressure to succeed take away the glimmer in your eyes as you talk about the future of your country or the region” he recommended.

Focusing on the great sense of community at INCAE thanks to all students living on campus, he said, “I’m pretty sure that in my case, many of the professional achievements in my career have been thanks to the interpersonal leadership skills developed in INCAE teams… successful companies don’t look for a lone star, but someone able to get results through being part of and leading teams. Here you have experienced the challenges of solving problems in teams, you have enjoyed success achieved in teams and you have built a community.”

Finally, Rector Bolaños told the graduands that armed with the tools learnt in INCAE, “you are ready to manage organizations with impact, of different sizes, start-ups or mature companies, selling products or services within the region or operating globally.” Concluding he said, “We only ask that you make a difference, that you do something incredible and add value to society.”

Jeff Felipia from Peru and recent graduate of the MBA Camp 2015 in Nicaragua, commented, “You feel a great sense of responsibility having graduated from INCAE. Aside from the technical and methodological knowledge, it’s more a sense of leadership that you take on with this MBA. You feel you should share this mentality with others so that they can improve and change things.”

Elan Maurete, from Cuba and recent graduate of the MBA 2015 in Costa Rica said, “INCAE is a business school that asks a lot of you, effort, discipline. You commit to the school. You commit so much that you hold it in your heart and you can never let it go. INCAE give you brothers and sisters, it gives you knowledge. INCAE gives you passion, ways of living your life and a motive to move forward.”

The next edition of the 21-month MBA starts on the Walter Kissling Gam campus in Costa Rica in August 2015, click here to find out more about how to change your life and make a difference.