

Ladies and gentlemen, Welcome!

This is my welcome address. It will be brief, very brief. I hope that you will appreciate it. [I mean, I hope that you will appreciate that it will be very brief.]

It has not been easy to organize this competition. It has not been easy to reach you.

Rotman and LUISS made a fantastic overseas team work, and, first of all, I would like to thank Professor Tom McCurdy, the person who invented a new way to teach finance. "Learn by doing", "experiential learning", "learn while having fun" seem to be his messages.

Tom is the Founder & Director of the BMO Financial Group Finance Research and Trading Lab at the Rotman School of Management of the University of Toronto and he is co-founder of the RIT market simulator package that is now used by many universities around the globe, including Stanford, MIT, and Chicago. We would not be here today if it was not for Tom's innovative ideas, hard work and determination.

I would also like to thank our sponsors: Enel (our main sponsor - gold level), EIB Institute and Generali (our case sponsors - silver level), Flaminia Computer and Fineco (our partner sponsors - bronze level).

Many thanks to Mr. Marchionne for accepting our invitation. We are so pleased to have three Ferraris at LUISS! We are also grateful to Electric Drive Italia for making its electric vehicles available to RETC participants.

The manager of Rotman's Finance Lab, Marco Salerno, made a great job in developing the cases of this year's competition. I am sure that you appreciated the Enel case, a case that is entirely new and that required an intensive and time-consuming fine-tuning process. Thanks, Marco!

Marco has been helped by Eric Kang, Assistant Manager, who is here today as in the first edition of RETC. We also have with us Jeremy Chiu and Amanda Wildi, two of the 17 Lab Assistants who cooperated with all of us to make today's event possible.

A special thanks goes also to my RETC co-organizers Aldo Ballarini, Alessandro D'Atri, Ylenia Franetti, Vincenzo Marzetti, Alessio Ottaviani, Maria Paola Satolli.

We tried all the roads to reach you, but now we have all the European Union, 28 Countries, in this hall. Plus Norway, that won RETC's first edition. It is fantastic! YOU are fantastic.

Many, many thanks for being here!