

PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

23 July 2008

(week 30)

(confirmed)

Present:	Said Irandoust Barbara Igel Sivannapan Kumar Sudip Rakshit Jonathan Shaw	Pakin Santanan Khin Ni Ni Thein Vilas Wuwongse
Apologies:	Izel Ann Dante Peter Haddawy Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai Jayant Routray Ram Shrestha	Secretaries: Karma Rana Renedith Calabdan
	Invited:	Nitin Afzulpurkar Ann Lopez-Fontanilla Shawn Kelly Patcharee Wangsakan

PAC 08.07.01 Welcome and Apologies

The President welcomed all present to the PAC meeting. Apologies were received.

PAC 08.07.02 New Dean of the School of Management

PAC members congratulated Dr. Barbara Igel on her appointment as the new Dean of the School of Management.

PAC 08.07.03 Approval of the 23 July 2008 PAC Agenda and Review of the PAC Meeting Minutes of 04 June 2008.

The meeting agenda was approved and the minutes of the 04 June 2008 PAC meeting were confirmed.

Follow-up Issues:

1] Update on the AIT Center Vietnam (AITCV) Director Position

The negotiation on the terms of employment with the selected candidate did not work out well. Consequently the President will extend the appointment period for Prof. Vilas W. (VP for External Relations) as AITCV's Interim Director. The President is considering some potential candidates for the position. The School Deans were also invited to suggest internal persons whom they view to be suitable for the position for consideration of the President.

2] Annual Report

The President requested PSSU to provide the printed Annual Report 2007 to the Executive Committee at its meeting scheduled for 28 July 2008.

3] Proposed Associate Vice President Positions

After considering feedback received from PAC members the President decided to change the associate VP concept to directorship for specific initiatives. Declaration of interest received from faculty members will be reported to PAC at the next meeting.

- 4] D/SERD reported that the issue on faculty engagement on outside professional activities will be taken up in the next SERD faculty meeting.

ISSUES FROM PRESIDENT

PAC 08.07.04 Progress on the New AIT Charter

The President expressed his full support and endorsement of the latest version of the draft AIT Charter which was prepared by the Chairman of the Intergovernmental working Group, taking into account feedback received from members, following several rounds of intercessional consultations. The working group is scheduled to meet on 24 and 25 July 2008.

Although it has been an extremely lengthy process, the President is grateful that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand through its effective handling of the process has been able to bring on board all of AIT's major partners. Under the new charter AIT's status as a full-fledged international organization will be reaffirmed. AIT will be enabled to position itself to more effectively impart its development mission and objectives in the region and beyond.

PAC 08.07.05 New AIT Promotional Video

The PAC members reviewed and provided inputs on the new AIT promotional video produced by PSSU and presented by Mr. Shawn Kelly, AIT Media Specialist.

Some of the comments highlighted were:

- The text/name in the segment featuring His Majesty the King of Thailand should be corrected.
- Identification of specific AIT supporters/partners should be avoided.
- The idea of including statements from some of the members of the Board of Trustees was well received.
- It was agreed to include a segment from the speech of one of the most outstanding students who graduated in the May 208 semester.
- Exclude any segment featuring animal experiment.
- It was suggested to add more segments on SERD to balance features from other schools.
- Include interaction of SOM students with companies/ industry partners.
- Show more of AIT's green environment to balance segments taken inside the buildings/classrooms.
- Showcase AIT's unique quality such as its practical orientation on research and almost 50 years of dedicated service to the region in terms of educating people to address the development needs of their countries.

PAC recommended production of AIT promotional video by PSSU which are specifically targeted to prospective 1] students, 2] research partners and 3] industry/corporate partners. The new promotional video could be used officially as soon as finalized.

PAC 08.07.06 Strategic Development Plan (Update)

Inputs on the SDP from the Vice Presidents and Head/ Administration (presented by H/Student Office in the absence of H/ Admin.) were deliberated at length during the meeting.

Some of the main discussion points were:

- Members were encouraged to reflect on whether AIT academic structure promotes change/development.
- It is recognized that development of knowledge platform and thematic areas require long-term investment and that these need not be the same for all schools.
- AIT's profile in relation to the MDGs should also be highlighted.
- Issues related to the development of undergraduate programs.
- The action plan should be a detailed document with sellable and concrete goals that will drive the AIT community to achieve targets made. Mechanisms and yearly milestone should also be set.
- Communicate the AIT core values and use the SDP as a promotional document.

ACTION: The President would like to see action plans within each area of SDP. Each section of the SDP should have a goal e.g. by end of 5years, 5 undergraduate programs would have been developed; "x" number of active partnerships established, increase in funding and publications etc.

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION**PAC 08.07.07 August 2008 Student Intake (update)**

The latest admission forecast for August 2008 intake (as of 18 July 2008: week 29) particularly on the school-wise applications, offers and confirmations, were presented by the Head of the Student Office to PAC members (Annex 1).

Implications of the latest figures for respective schools and the possible contributing factors were discussed. The H/SO confirmed that there are no pending applications at the Admissions Unit. All documents have been forwarded to the FoS for decision. The School Deans informed the meeting of the ongoing efforts being made to improve the latest enrollment figures. The PAC members were also informed that active communication with potential students will be continued until the first week of August 2008.

In addressing the issues related to the drop of application and acceptance of offers by nationals from Myanmar, some suggestions were put forward:

- Consider possible waive of application fee for Myanmar nationals.
- Make a clear strategy for Myanmar, one of which could be a similar scheme done by D/SET where agreements were established with organizations who are willing to support through scholarship provision.

ACTION:
1] Based on PAC recommendation, the President approved waiving of application fee to nationals from Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia starting from January 2009 semester. The trial period of this implementation will be for a few years (1 or 2years, maximum 3 years). H/SO was requested to make an analysis on the effect of this step on the overall submissions of application.

PAC 08.07.08 Half-Year Financial Results

H/Finance Office presented the half-year Financial Results, including the summary of revenues and expenditures for all funds except the agency fund, statement of revenues and expenditures (consolidation of schools and units for funds 10 and 21, balance sheet and statement of cash flows.

The total increase in consolidated Net Surplus of approximately 104 mio THB represented a turnaround result from last year's Net Deficit of 27 mio THB to this year's Net Surplus of 77 mio THB for all non-agency funds. Both the operating funds (10 and 21) have continued the trend showing increasing surplus. On cash balances, AIT ended the period as at June 2008 with roughly 254 mio THB more than that recorded at the end of June 2007 and 88 mio THB more than in December 2007 (549 mio THB cash balances). The net cash flow provided by operating activities indicated that the Institute generated 100 mio THB in positive cash flow as at June 2007. Impressive operational performance resulted in an increasing trend of General Reserves amounting to 265 mio THB, an increase by 94 mio THB in the past 6 months. (General Reserves as of end of 2007 was 171 mio THB).

OTHER MATTERS**PAC 08.07.09 Collaboration with Fairview International School (FIS)**

The President clarified that discussions with FIS regarding their proposal to develop and run the AIT Community School is on-going but no final decision or commitment was made on the part of AIT.

The concept of developing an undergraduate program in teacher education with the practicum linked to the AITCS will be further deliberated. The possibility of creating a small program especially focused in mathematics and science and technology will be considered. Other collaborators interested on the above mentioned concept will be provided the opportunity to present proposals. The President intends to visit the AITCS to explain the concept to the teachers and school management.

PAC 08.07.10 Next Meeting

The next PAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 03 September 2008 in Room 210.