

PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

26 November 2008

(week 48)

(Confirmed)

Present:

Said Irandoust
Izel Ann Dante
Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai
Sivanappan Kumar
Sudip Rakshit
Jayant Routray
Jonathan Shaw
Ram Shrestha

Apologies:

Peter Haddawy
Khin Ni Ni Thein
Vilas Wuwongse
Barbara Igel
Mr. Akhtar Nawaz Khan

Invitee:

Vilas Salokhe

Secretariat:

Karma Rana
Namita Sravat

PAC 08.11.05 Welcome and Apologies

The President welcomed all present to the PAC meeting and the apologies were noted. A special welcome was accorded to the Director for Unified Programs, Prof. Vilas Salokhe, who was invited to the meeting to brief the members on the updates of the unified bachelors-masters program.

PAC 08.11.06 Unified Bachelors-Masters Program

The Director for Unified Programs, Professor Vilas Salokhe gave a presentation on the progress of the 5-Year Bachelors-Master Unified Program. He reported that AIT already has a MoA with Sir Padampat Singhanian University (PSU), Udaipur, India, and the Asian University in Thailand; and in due course MoAs will also be signed with Shivaji and Allahabad University in India. Furthermore talks are on with some universities in Bangladesh, Vietnam and Indonesia as well. Under this accelerated Masters program of 58 months, there will be summer internships after 1st year, in total 4-5 AIT intensive courses during inter-semester at the end of 2nd and 3rd years, 4-5 graduate level courses at AIT during summer break of 4th year and research work during 5th year at AIT. Students enrolled under this program will start paying fees to AIT from the very first year, with 14,900 US \$ fees in total secured per student under this program. He further informed that during his visit to PSU, Shivaji and Allahabad University in India he had conducted several seminars where overwhelming response was received from the prospective students. Based on the survey that he conducted amongst these students, the fields of study identified where critical mass of students is expected are ABM, FEBT, EE and ASE from SERD; and CS, TC, Mechatronics, IEM, CSIM, and WRE from SET. Prof. Salokhe emphasized that for successful running of the program dedicated team work and cooperation from all concerned AIT colleagues will be needed.

It was noted that the total amount of 14,900 US \$ was decided based on the charging of 75% of the fees of AIT students, and it may need to be adjusted in new MoAs if it is less than that. The President clarified that the group discount concept is already included in the proposal so there is no further possibility of giving more than 25% discount. The other key points raised were as follows:

- Intensive courses of approximately 6 weeks duration will be run at Partner Universities (PU) by the AIT faculty or if required locally hired faculty recruited by AIT.
- It was envisaged that latest by March 2009, AIT can start enrolling students into the program and start teaching in PU from May 2009.

- The detailed structure and framework of the program is needed which can be used by FoS for preparing the curriculum structure, including details on faculty hours required.
- Some new courses may be required to be developed at both PU and AIT given that it is a fast track program and in order to better prepare the students.
- To allow flexibility for faculty travel, the program could initially be placed under fund 30 and transferred under fund 10 once the students are at AIT.
- Each FoS enrolling students in this program will then submit the specific curriculum structure for this program for approval by the Academic Senate.
- The number of students should be restricted for the first year, and a balance of nationality at AIT should be considered. It was clarified that eventually when students from other countries also enroll into this program, the balance of nationality would be achieved. Moreover, the Institute cannot afford to lose this opportunity, especially in this time of global economic crisis and increased challenges faced in attracting self-paying students.
- It should be carefully considered that when the large number of students under this program come to AIT in 2012, and start their research, a lot of AIT faculty time would be spent on the supervision, which should not deprive the regular students.
- There is enough time to prepare the infrastructure, lab etc. facilities at AIT for these students who will start coming to AIT only in year 2012.
- It was clarified that all the students may not eventually qualify for admission to AIT, and that the admission to AIT is not automatic. They will be refunded if they are not admitted after deducting AIT's cost of services.
- It was noted that this concept mainly works for new universities who have to start with undergraduate programs and need co-branding for running post-graduate programs. But with AIT attaining full-fledged international status, more universities would be interested in partnering with AIT for co-branding purposes.
- Placement and internships of the students in this program will be a huge challenge which needs to be looked into carefully by the FoS planning to enroll students under this program.
- AIT may need to hire more faculty, as only locally recruited faculty would not suffice, especially since there would be expectation on the part of students to be taught by international faculty.

Prof. Salokhe was requested to integrate the comments in the detailed structure and framework of the program which could be used by the fields of study to prepare the curriculum.

The School Deans were requested to facilitate meetings between the concerned Fields of Study and Prof. Salokhe.

**PAC 08.11.07 Approval and Review of the Minutes of the PAC meetings of
15 October and 19 November 2008**

The minutes of the PAC meetings held on 15 October and 19 November 2008 were approved.

Follow-up Issues:

- 1] **New AIT Charter:** The President informed the meeting that the concerns raised during the last PAC meeting regarding the 2nd paragraph of item 1 under Article 10 on "**Rights, Privileges, and Immunities**" has been looked into and as confirmed through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Thailand website, any rights, privileges and immunities to be accorded would be in accordance with the Vienna Convention and other international treaties and agreements. Therefore, there is no possibility of further negotiation on this clause especially since it was proposed and introduced by the Thai Government. Furthermore, with reference to Thai nationals working in international organizations in Thailand it was noted that they are not automatically entitled to such benefits but are in instances covered by their respective organizations for example in terms of income tax.

- 2] **Updates on AITCV:** Dr. Amrit Bart has been appointed as Director, AITCV effective January 2009.
- 3] **AIT Strategy 2013:** The final version of the AIT Strategy 2013 will be printed by mid-January 2009 after incorporating comments from the Board, Executive Committee, Institute-Level Advisory Board, and School Retreats.
- 4] **Collaboration with Fairview International School:** The task force will soon finalize and submit its report. The TF members were requested to visit the Prince Songkhla University which has been run by Fairview International School since 2 years to interview the in charge there on delivery of their services.
- 5] **Outsourcing of Infrastructure and related facilities:** The President noted that AIT would need to recruit professionals in finalizing the proposal since it is important to ensure that all aspects are covered in the contract such as contingency in the event that requirements are not met, clear set of service standards etc. He also stressed the need for the Institute to have in place strong in-house supervisory capacity, since a different set of skills would be required for managing or overseeing the vendor. AIT will also be setting up a committee comprising of representatives from different user groups at AIT namely faculty, staff, and students to develop performance indicators from their perspectives which could be integrated into the contract.
- 6] **Promotional Video:** Several comments had been received on the new Promotional Video, thus *ERCO needs to get it revised accordingly and follow-up on it.*

In this context, the Institute has to improve its communication strategy, and a professional will be hired to work for AIT's communication and branding. Likewise for the fund raising campaign as well the engagement of professionals is being considered.

- 7] **Faculty Financial Productivity:** Based on the report of the task force on financial productivity, *President Irandoust will soon finalize the P&P on Faculty Financial Productivity.*

PAC 08.11.08 Use of Private Vehicles

The PAC endorsed the following general formula to determine the rate per kilometer for authorized use of private vehicles on AIT business: 1/10th of fuel price per liter (*currently set at THB-3 per kilometer*) plus THB-4 per kilometer to cover the cost of tire repairs, parking fees and so forth. Thus, a total of 7 baht per kilometer (instead of current 6 baht per kilometer rate) was agreed upon. A member questioned the inclusion of rates in the P&P as it becomes difficult to revise it in line with the cost incurred. In this line, it was **agreed** as follows:

The Finance Office will update the fuel rate per kilometer every three months.

The PAC reaffirmed that the use of a private vehicle will be authorized only when no commercial transportation or Institute vehicle is available, or when, in the opinion of the Dean or Unit Head, the use of a private vehicle is in the best interest of AIT. AIT assumes no liability for damage resulting from the use of a private vehicle for AIT business.

PAC 08.11.09 P&P on Gifts and Souvenirs

The PAC reaffirmed that the acceptance of personal gifts or other forms of personal reward from anyone with whom the Institute has a business relationship is strictly forbidden. Soliciting or accepting such gifts shall be considered as a serious infringement which is subject to immediate dismissal. Anyone accepting any gift of THB-3,000 value or more must report to their unit head within 15 days, giving details as to the description of the item, sources and circumstance leading to

such acceptance. Giving of gifts or souvenir items to invited guests should also be limited up to Baht-3,000 value. Only in extra-ordinary cases the gifts or souvenir items could be of higher value than Baht 3-000 value, with the prior approval from President/concerned Dean/ Director AIT Extension.

The Head of Administration will accordingly revise the P&P and announce it to the AIT Community

PAC 08.11.10 P&P on MoU and MoA

It was noted that in order to avoid signing agreements on the spot without appropriate prior discussions at the Schools/AIT Extension, it is necessary to have a P&P on MoU and MoA signing.

The Head-ERCO was requested to draft the policy and procedure on the MoU/MoA signing and submit it for the PAC for its review and approval.

PAC 08.11.11 Other Business

Director, AIT Extension's - Visit to Shanghai, China

Dr. Jonathan Shaw briefed members on his recent trip to China, where he had a meeting with Dr Zhou Nanzhao in Hangzhou. Dr Zhou is influential in China, as President of UNESCO-APNIEVE (Asia Pacific Network for International Education and Values Education) and Co-Director of UNESCO-INRULED (International Research and Training Center for Rural Education). He also acts as Advisor to the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO, and was for many years based in Bangkok.

Dr Zhou has indicated that there are opportunities for AIT in China, and requested that AIT submit a proposal along with a business plan for operations in China. Dr Zhou will help with necessary approvals should AIT decide to proceed with AIT Center in China. He has recommended Shanghai (and the location needs to be discussed further), but the focus would not be on mega-cities like Shanghai, but rather the alleviation of rural poverty in inland provinces.

Dr. Shaw also mentioned that he would soon meet Dean SET regarding the possible involvement with AIT of Mr. Johan Wikander, formerly Chairman of the School Board of the School of Management at the University of Boras, whom he met during his trip to China.

PAC 08.11.12 Next Meeting

The next PAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, 17 December 2008.