

## PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

14 December 2006

(week 50)

confirmed

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**Present:** Said Irandoust (*Chair*)  
Peter Haddawy  
Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai  
Imran Khan  
I M Pandey

Sudip K Rakshit  
Jonathan Shaw  
Hoang Le Tien (*AOH Coordinator*)  
Khin Ni Ni Thein  
Vilas Wuwongse

*Secretaries:* Karma Rana  
Renedith Calabdan

**Apologies:** Sivanappan Kumar  
Stephen Ogunlana

Dennes T Bergado

**Invited:** Noppadon Rittipongshusit

### PAC 06.12.01 Welcome and Apologies

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

### PAC 06.12.02 Review of the Minutes of the PAC Meeting of 21 November 2006.

The minutes of the 21 November 2006 PAC meeting were confirmed.

## ISSUES FOR DECISION

### PAC 06.12.03 Appointment Case

PAC endorsed the appointment of Dr. Djoen San Santoso , Assistant to the School Dean, 2 years, SET, Fund 10. It was noted that the new appointment is in replacement of the two vacant administrative posts. The appointee will also be tasked to assist in some teaching activities.

It was pointed out that appointments for affiliated faculty position will be taken up separately and shall follow the guidelines in place.

### PAC 06.12.04 Partnership Agreements

In follow-up to the request of the President to the school deans to review the outcome of partnership with the Technical University of Munich ("Technische Universität München" TUM) in their respective schools if any, Dean, SOM provided the meeting with the information on the outcome of AIT collaboration with TUM, Germany as provided in Annex 1.

## ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

### FINANCE AND AUDIT

### PAC 06.12.05 FY 2006 Year-end Financial Result

Mr. Noppadon Rittipongshusit, Manager, Finance Office provided the meeting with the 11-month financial results as provided in Annex 1 and 2. A link to the presentation of the President during

the year-end institute forum held on 12 December 2006 regarding the initiatives and activities, including the latest financial figures of AIT were also provided to the community and is accessible at:....

*Year-end Institute Forum 2006"*

[http://203.159.28.31/AITPresentations/Year-end Institute Forum 2006.ppt](http://203.159.28.31/AITPresentations/Year-end%20Institute%20Forum%202006.ppt)

*Title : "Year-end Institute Forum 2006-Finance"*

[http://203.159.28.31/AITPresentations/Year-end Institute Forum-2006\[Finance\].pdf](http://203.159.28.31/AITPresentations/Year-end%20Institute%20Forum-2006[Finance].pdf)

The PAC commended Mr. Noppadon for his role and efficient work in the Finance Office.

#### **PAC 06.12.06 Update on FY 2007 Budget**

It was agreed that all revised budget from schools and units for FY 2007 budget should be received by the Finance Office latest by Monday, 18 December 2006, for compilation and finalization.

#### **PAC 06.12.07 Head, Finance Office**

The President informed the meeting that the new Head of the Finance Office will be joining AIT in mid January 2007.

### **ISSUES FROM THE PRESIDENT**

#### **PAC 06.12.08 Response to KPMG Recommendation**

The draft AIT management response to KPMG (Sweden) recommendations was received by PAC members. The response has been prepared through the various inputs from relevant/responsible offices and individuals in AIT. The document provides updates on the status of the recommended actions to be taken and is considered a work in progress. The President reiterated the importance of the management response to KPMG recommendations and the need to continuously follow through the actions required.

- PAC members were also requested to review the documents and provide necessary inputs to the President's Office not later 18 December 2006. The response and other relevant documents will be sent to KPMG Sweden during week 51 (18-21 December 2006) and will be copied to Sida officials.

#### **PAC 06.12.09 Institute-Level Advisory Board**

The President requested the school deans to provide feedback on the names for the Institute-level advisory board. The main idea is to create a link between the school boards to that of the Institute-Level Advisory Board, thus some of its members are coming from the Boards of the Schools and AIT Extension.

#### **PAC 06.12.10 Consultancy Work by Deans and Director, AIT Extension**

The issues related to the engagement on personal consultancy of the Deans and Director, AIT Extension was discussed at length in PAC, including the question on how a decision is made whether to take on a consultancy work either through the institute using internal resources or personally which could be considered contributory to AIT as long as it is declared. It was agreed that a clear set of guidelines is imperative in addressing the issue.

The issue of not excluding academic / research staff with Ph. Ds from conducting teaching activities should also be looked into.

The President requested VP Research to bring the issue to the Consultancy Task Force, in the context of personal consultancy work not only by the Deans and Director, AIT Extension but also by the VPs and other senior administrators. The TF will be requested to develop and recommend the necessary policy guidelines.

#### **PAC 06.12.11 Role of AITAA Advisers**

The issue concerning the role of AITAA advisers who are also senior members of the AIT administration was discussed. The purpose of raising the matter was not to question the participation of senior members of the administration who currently serve in such a capacity but more towards clarifying how certain issues which could be conflicting in nature from the standpoint of view of the AITAA vs. the administration are handled and considered wherein the individual has the dual responsibility of both senior AIT administrator and AITAA advisor. The general feeling was that in most other well reputed institutions such advisory members comprise of prominent and influential alumni from outside the institute, which in the case of AIT, seems to be dominated largely by internal members of the AIT faculty and staff. It was clarified that the AITAA advisers are appointed by the President of the AITAA Mother Chapter and that the AITAA advisers participate in a purely advisory capacity and at times also providing clarification and explanation on certain AIT issues without engaging in any discussion or debate that could conflict with the stance of the AIT administration. The meeting stressed the need to ensure that senior members of the AIT administration who also serve as AITAA advisers keep in mind this aspect and place as priority ways in which communications and relations could be further strengthened with the alumni.

#### **PAC 06.12.12 AIT Extension's Country Director (Draft TOR)**

The President deemed it fit to deliberate at PAC the draft TOR of the proposed new post of AIT Extension Country Coordinator which was prepared by one of the AIT Extension's senior staff. The overall objective of the assignment is to assist AIT Extension in promotion, coordination and quality improvements of its activities in Nepal.

The PAC decided that individual with that role could be considered as a consultant but not as an AIT employee based in another country. The PAC members were in agreement that the individual could be provided with a certain percentage commission as incentive based on the revenue he/she brings in to AIT. There will be a separate discussion pertaining to the engagement of the individual as consultant.

Modalities on setting up branches of AIT Extension in other countries will also be explored.

#### **PAC 06.12.13 The Management of Computer Services for SET Students**

Dean, SET presented a proposal on the management of computer services for SET students which will be based on renting / leasing and/or purchasing of personal computers (please see Annex 3, attached). It is a cost sharing program where students can use part of their research budget allocated to each second year student.

- The President requested that this proposal be discussed in schools.
- The Finance Office through Mr. Noppadon was requested to check the leasing process.

**PAC 06.12.14 Austrian Scholarship**

The President reported that the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) has approved a new agreement with AIT, as part of which the ADA will provide 30 full scholarships approximating 36 million baht from 2007 to 2009. The countries identified by ADA are Afghanistan (one per year), Bhutan (six per year) and Nepal (three per year) in specific fields of study.

OTHER MATTERS**PAC 06.12.15 AITAA General Board**

Some of the highlights of the meeting of the AITAA Governing Board held in Vientianne Lao PDR during the period of 9 – 11 December 2006 were jointly reported to the PAC by VPDR, Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai and Dr. Hoang Le Tien, all of whom attended the meeting. At the AITAA GBM, VPER-Prof Vilas Wuwongse presented an update of the work on the international status and ownership / governance concept while Prof. Tawatchai presented on the area of research. Copies of President's message for the occasion which was read by VPDR Dr. Ni Ni Thein on behalf of the President, were also provided to the attendees upon their request.

Most of the AITAA members expressed willingness to assist in the fund raising campaign and in supporting AIT's efforts towards expediting attainment of full fledged international status. Concepts on setting up a center in AIT that will serve as a nursery for emerging technologies that will benefit Thailand and the region were also discussed. On concerns expressed regarding AIT's financial situation, the President remarked that AIT's financial system is very open and that AIT welcomes visits such as from AITAA in order for them to obtain first hand, up to date financial figures and information at the Finance Office.

The President likewise informed the meeting that a paper on the "request for additional financial support from the Thai government" has been prepared upon request of General Boonsrang to be presented to the Thai parliamentarians. Comments from PAC members were also requested.

**PAC 06.12.16 New AIT Landmark**

The meeting was informed of the proposal from the AITAA to build a new landmark for AIT which will be located in front of the administration building and AIT Conference Center. The AITAA proposed that the land mark would include monument of the founding President, Prof. Milton E. Bender Jr. and of the founding chairman of the Board of Trustees Dr. Puey Ungphakorn.

**PAC 06.12.17 AIT Platinum Card**

The VPAA reported to PAC regarding the progress of the possible launching of the AIT Platinum Visa card in partnership with Siam City Bank PCL (SCIB) which will have some of the following key features: a] 0.8% cash back to AIT on all purchases made with the card, b] airport lounge access, c] purchase protection plan up to Baht 400,000/card/year, c] roadside assistance, d] travel accident insurance of US\$500,000 and e] concierge service/customer service.

The cash back from the card will be put into a special account administered by AIT and to be used only for scholarships. The initiative, if successful, is anticipated to bring in sufficient cash back to the Institute to support approx. 2 scholarships per year. Negotiation on possible relaxation of the minimum income level for each individual to obtain the platinum card will be made by VPAA on behalf of the Institute. It was agreed that this initiative will be done in collaboration with AITAA. Since the SCIB Visa card will be available primarily to residents of Thailand, it was agreed that this model could be extended to banks in other countries with large numbers of AIT alumni.

The President requested Dr. Tien to discuss issues pertaining to the above mentioned initiative with General Boonsrang, AITAA President and to report feedback to PAC at the next meeting.

**PAC 06.12.18 Student Union**

The PAC gave a vote of thanks to Mr. Imran Khan for his service and contribution to the President's Advisory Council during his term of office as President of the Student Union.

**PAC 06.12.19 Next Meeting**

The next PAC meeting is scheduled for 06 January 2007.