



AIT cohosts 15th General Conference of International Association of Universities

Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) cohosted the 15th General Conference of the International Association of Universities (IAU), an event that was presided over by Her Royal Highness Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. The Conference, which was jointly organized along with Chulalongkorn University, Siam University and Suranaree University of Technology from 13-16 November 2016, also commemorated 100 years of the University System in Thailand.

This year, the IAU General Assembly focussed on sharing strategies and practices that demonstrate how higher education institutions contribute to innovation and sustainability. The Conference also sought to

determine how higher education institutions and IAU can emerge as true catalysts for change. The theme this year was “Higher Education: A catalyst for innovative and sustainable societies.”

Key participants in the inaugural session included Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai, President, AIT; Dr. Dzulkipli Abdul Razak, President, IAU; Prof. Bundhit Eua-arporn, President, Chulalongkorn University; Prof. Pornchai Mongkhonvanit, President, Siam University, and IAU Vice-president; Prof. Charas Suwanwela, Former President, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand; and Prof. Prasart Suebka, Rector, Suranaree University of Technology, Thailand.



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Prof Kanchana honored with prestigious Jonathan B Postel Service Award

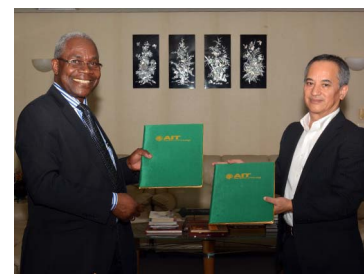
AIT's Prof. Kanchana Kanchanasut has been honored with the prestigious Jonathan B. Postel Service Award for pioneering the spread of internet across Southeast Asia. Prof. Kanchana received the award at Seoul, South Korea, on 16 November 2016 on the occasion of the 97th Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) Meeting.

The award was instituted in 1999, and Prof. Kanchana is the first from Southeast Asia to receive the honor. The Jonathan B. Postel award is presented to an individual or an organization that has made outstanding contributions in service to the data communications community. "Dr. Kanchana's devotion and pioneering work has helped extend the Internet to people both in Thailand and across Southeast Asia," said Gonzalo Camarillo, Chair of the Internet Society Board of Trustees.



Prof. Kanchana Kanchanasut receiving the award.

Asia signs MoU with Lusaka Agreement Task Force



Bonaventure Ebayi (left) and Surendra Shrestha.

Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF) and AIT have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the implementation of the Wildlife Enforcement Monitoring System (WEMS) in Africa and Asia. Signing the MoU on 16 November 2016, Bonaventure Ebayi, Director, Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF) stated that the adoption of WEMS in Asia is a positive development for wildlife conservation.

"We are happy that AIT will champion the implementation of WEMS," the LATF Director remarked, while adding that he was confident that with Asia possessing a strong base in Science and Technology, it will be easier for Asian countries to embrace the system.

Urban infrastructure can reduce emissions by half, says study by AIT author in Nature Climate Change



The design of today's transportation systems, buildings and other infrastructure will largely determine tomorrow's CO₂ emissions. Climate smart urban infrastructure and buildings could cut future emissions in half or about 10 Gt CO₂ per year from 2040 onwards. These core findings have emerged from a new study that has been jointly published by Dr. Shobhakar Dhakal of AIT in the prestigious journal "Nature Climate Change."

The study is led by Felix Creutzig from the Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change (MCC) and other international colleagues. Published on 24 November 2016, the journal article titled "Urban infrastructure choices structure climate solutions" adds that urban planning is key to achieving the two-degree target.

Prominent Alumnus Honored at UN Headquarters

Prominent AIT Alumnus and Member of AIT's Institute-Level Advisory Board (ILAB), Prof. Tissa H Illangasekare was honored with the 7th Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water (PSIPW) at an award ceremony organized at the United Nations Headquarters on 2 November 2016. The ceremony was presided over by the UN Secretary General H.E. Ban Ki-moon and HRH Prince Khaled Bin Sultan.



HRH Prince Khaled Bin Sultan, HE Ban Ki-moon, and Prof. Tissa Illangasekare.

Prof. Tissa, who is the AMAX Endowed Chairman of the Environmental Sciences and Engineering department and professor of Civil Engineering at the Colorado School of Mines, graduated with a Master's in Water Resources Engineering from AIT in 1974. Sharing details about the award, Prof. Tissa thanked AIT and Dr. Subin Pinkayan, Chairman, AIT Board of Trustees for "introducing him to hydrology."

Structural solutions for tall buildings: AIT shows the way

When buildings become taller, the challenges for engineers and architects skyrocket. Higher buildings bring more challenges for all experts involved in this profession. These were the issues deliberated at the tall building seminar organized by AIT from 7-9 November 2016.

"We need structural solutions to architectural challenges," Executive Director of AIT Solutions,



Dr. Naveed Anwar

Dr. Naveed Anwar said while welcoming participants.

Speaking at the inaugural session, AIT President Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai enumerated various new initiatives including the plan to introduce a Professional Master's program in Tall Buildings. Joel Luna, Vice President, Innovation and Design Group of Ayala Land, and Jose A. Sy, President and CEO of Sy² + Associates delivered the opening remarks.

Back to the basics, says water conservation expert

Eminent water conservationist and Stockholm Water Prize winner Rajendra Singh sought a return to basics and made an impassioned plea for inculcating a love towards nature. While delivering the keynote address at the Water Security and Climate Change Conference organized at AIT from 28 November-1 December 2016, Rajendra Singh pointed towards an immense chasm that had emerged between



Rajendra Singh

scientists and the grassroots community.

Elaborating on how he had helped create 11,800 water bodies in India without the help of any governmental organization or corporates, Rajendra Singh gave credit for these initiatives to the local community. The event is organized by exceed centers CNRD (Cologne) and SWINDON (Braunschweig) along with AIT, and it is supported by Germany Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

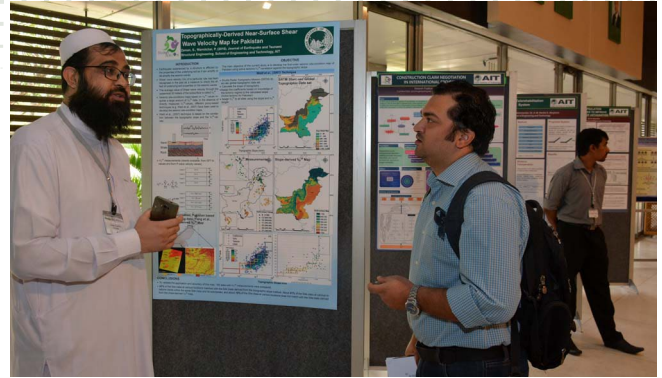
25 companies participate in AIT Career Fair



Twenty-five companies participated in the Career Fair held on 2 November 2015 at AIT. Six of the companies were participating in the bi-annual event for the first time.

Inaugurating the event, Prof. Sivanappan Kumar, Vice President for Academic Affairs, stated that the Career Fair provides an excellent platform for companies to interact with AIT. According to Carla C. Gonzales, Coordinator, AIT Career Center, the event witnessed participation from a large number of Thai firms.

Students showcase their work via research posters



A stellar demonstration of research conducted by students at AIT is the bi-annual exhibition organized by the AIT Students' Union, where students present their work using conference posters.

Organized in conjunction with the Career Fair, the Research Exhibition provides an opportunity to students to communicate their research findings in a simulated conference environment. Holding it along with the Career Fair helps them connect with potential employers and the outside world. Led by the Muhammad Yaseen and Kaavya R, Chairperson and Secretary of AIT Students' Union Academic Affairs Committee, this edition saw 13 students participate in the event.

“Education is still based on 20th Century assumptions”

“Rapid globalization, digital revolution, mass migration, and the prospect of climate change requires a new breed of workforce.” Stating this at the Horasis Asia Meet held in Bangkok. AIT President Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukul remarked that our education system is still based on twentieth-century assumptions. Users, particularly the business sector, are unhappy that they are receiving outdated products. The education system should equip students with global competencies to stimulate life-long learning and nurture global citizens who can act on issues of global significance, he added.

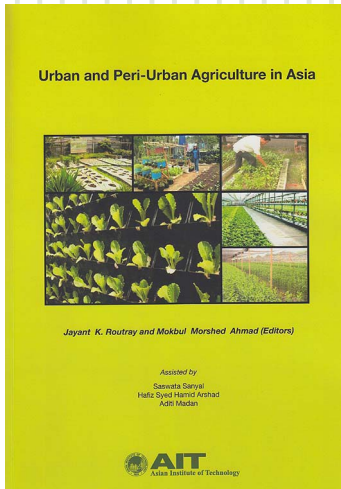
AIT was the academic partner of the Horasis Asia Meet on 27-28 November 2016. Dean of AIT's School of Management, Prof. Lawrence Abeln chaired the



AIT team at the Horasis Asia Meet.

plenary session at the event. A team of 12 AIT students hailing from eight countries acted as event rapporteurs.

Urban agriculture for tackling food crisis



While close to 800 million people are involved in different types of Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture (UPA), it is only recently that UPA has started receiving due attention and importance. This is the theme of an AIT publication titled “Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture in Asia” published by Prof. Jayant Kumar Routray and Dr. Mokbul Morshed Ahmad of AIT’s School of Environment, Resources and Development (SERD).

Emerging out of the deliberations at a Regional Consultation Meeting on “Strengthening Food and Nutrition Security of the Urban People through Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture” jointly organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and AIT in July 2015, the publication examines trends, issues, practices, challenges, implications and impact of UPA.

Book on Structural Engineering by AIT authors

A book on “Structural Cross-sections: Analysis and Design” authored by Dr. Naveed Anwar and Fawad A. Najam of AIT has been published by Elsevier. Released on 11 November 2016, the book focuses on basic tools and computation methods for structural design and analysis of beam and column cross-sections.



Dr. Naveed Anwar and Fawad A. Najam.

“The basic understanding of cross-sectional behavior is a key component in almost all aspects of analysis and design of structures,” says Dr. Naveed Anwar. “Our motivation to write this book is derived from the key role which cross-sections play in understanding overall structural behavior,” he adds.

While Dr. Naveed is the Executive Director of AIT Solutions, co-author Fawad Najam is a doctoral student in Structural Engineering at AIT’s School of Engineering and Technology (SET).

Young Author award for AIT researcher

A researcher working at AIT’s Geoinformatics Center (GIC) bagged the young author award at the Eighth International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Kaleidoscope Academic Conference held at Bangkok between 14-16 November 2016. While Biplov Bhandari, Research Associate at GIC won the young author award, the paper also won the best paper award at the Conference.



Biplov Bhandari (center) receiving the award.

The research paper also supports three UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are targeted at ending poverty, making human settlements safe and sustainable, and at combating climate change.

AIT Food Fair: 19 November 2016



COMING UP!

- **INSTITUTE FORUM**
1 December 2016
- **BIKE + LOVE = 2ND BREATH**
2 December 2016
- **AIT GRADUATION**
15 December 2016

Blast from the Past

World Bank's McNamara Reviews AIT Research

World Bank's McNamara reviews AIT research

World Bank President Mr. Robert McNamara visited the Asian Institute of Technology this month during his visit to Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines and Japan. Meeting with AIT President Dr. Milton E. Bender Jr. (left) and faculty members, Mr. Namara reviewed past contract research conducted by the Institute for the World Bank and discussed current AIT proposals for further International Bank for Reconstruction and Development research funds.

AIT's last IBRD project: a study of the "Application of State-Dependent Queueing Models for Analyzing Ship Turn-Around Times at the Port of Bangkok" done by Drs. Donald R. Drew and Pakorn Adulbhan, Mr. Manu Juaseekoon and Mr. Woo Wai Ling of AIT's Systems Engineering and Management Division, presented to the World Bank in July.



From our November 1971 archives

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