



The MoU signing ceremony at AIT on 10 June 2015.

Asian Water Academy established at AIT

AIT has joined hands with seven other organizations to establish the Asian Water Academy (AWA), which aims to emerge as a knowledge hub and experience-sharing platform on water-related issues in Asia. As the first such academy in the region, AWA seeks to be a leader on water issues within the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).

The eight founder members of AWA include AIT, Thai Hydrologist Association, Thai Waterworks Association, Water Institute for Sustainability, Federation of Thai Industries, Wastewater Management Authority, Thai Hydrogeology Association, Environmental Engineering Association of Thailand, and Thailand Water Resource Association. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish AWA was signed at AIT on 10 June 2015.

Dr. Subin Pinkayan, Chairman, AIT Board of Trustees Chairman, and President of Thai Hydrologist Association stated that through AWA, members can exchange their ideas and experience about water, and recommend solutions about emerging water issues in Thailand. “Water does not come at the right place at the right time, and this is the problem that we need to solve,” Dr. Subin remarked.

In his welcome remarks, AIT President Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai said that in 1959, AIT commenced operations with only one field of study — “Hydrology.” This helped AIT alumni to emerge as leaders and planners in this field. Prof. Worsak stated that AIT has substantial experience in dealing with water-related issues.



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Hungarian Ambassador pays maiden visit to AIT

Ambassador of Hungary to Thailand, H.E. Dr. Peter Jakab, paid a maiden visit to the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) on 23 June 2015, and offered to connect Hungarian institutions of higher education and research with AIT.

Stating that he was “very impressed” by AIT and its achievements, the Ambassador remarked that it was important that AIT and Thailand engage with Hungary. He said that the World Science Forum, which is organized biannually in Hungary, is a forum where the two could cooperate. Stating that relations between Thailand and Hungary date back to the nineteenth century, Ambassador Jakab added that ties between the two cover the fields of agriculture, music, finance and technology. He also elaborated on a new scholarship program for international students that had been initiated by the Hungarian government.



Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai (left) with H.E. Dr. Peter Jakab.

Japan’s Ministry of Environment partners with AIT for RRC.AP

AIT renewed its partnership with Japan by signing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on 9 June 2015 with H.E. Hideka Morimoto, Deputy Vice Minister, Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ). Through the agreement, MOEJ will second one of its top professional executives to serve as the Director of AIT’s Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRC.AP) for a term of three years.

In addition, MOEJ will fund more than US\$ 1.2 million worth of projects in 2015, including capacity building activities under the Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN), of which RRC.AP has been a core technical partner since its inception. Other partners of APAN include the Institute for Global Environmental Studies



RRC.AP Office at AIT.

(IGES), the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and UNEP.

A New Milestone – All AIT Degrees are Officially Recognized in India

The Asian Institute of Technology crossed another historic milestone when its degrees were officially recognized by India as a result of AIT being granted Associate Membership of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), the apex coordinating body for all universities in India.

The Governing Council of AIU authorized AIT membership at its meeting on 22 May 2015. As the representative body for all universities of India, the AIU plays the important role of evaluating foreign degrees and granting recognition. AIT’s graduates will now be treated with equivalence to all graduates from Indian universities.

AIT will also be invited to participate in the annual vice chancellors’ conference or even to play host to the meeting at its campus in Thailand.

“This means all AIT graduates are to be treated at par with graduates from prestigious Indian universities like Indian Institutes of Technology,” said AIT’s Prof. Nitin Tripathi, who liaised with the AIU and made the case for AIT’s acceptance.

Books/Publications

Multi-level Forest Governance in Asia

A new book titled “Multi-level Forest Governance in Asia” that offers a fresh look and comparative perspectives from various Asian countries on multi-level forest governance, has just been released. Co-edited by Prof. Ganesh P. Shivakoti of AIT, and Prof Makoto Inoue of Forest Sociology and Governance, University of Tokyo, Japan, the book presents policy implementation cases in forest resource management from 14 Asian countries.



Prof. Ganesh Shivakoti with his book.

Says Prof. Shivakoti, “This book examines prototype design guidelines for collaborative forest governance through an evaluation process at the level of its enforcement mechanism.” It takes a fresh look at the issue of cross-scale interactions and multi-level governance by unfettered and trustworthy outsiders, he says, adding that the publication reveals how foreign, domestic and local ‘outsiders’ can be involved effectively in the activities of forest use and management. Such involvement and activities are expected to provide a breakthrough in solving these problem, Prof. Shivakoti adds.

Sustainable Energy Access Planning: A Framework



Prof. Ram Shrestha (center) at the book release function.

A book titled “Sustainable Energy Access Planning: A Framework” coauthored by Prof. Ram Shrestha, Professor Emeritus, AIT, was released at the Asia Clean Energy Forum 2015 at the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Manila, Philippines, on 17 June 2015.

Published by ADB, the book is coauthored by Prof. Ram M. Shrestha with

Mr. Jiwan S. Acharya, Senior Climate Change Specialist, Clean Energy, ADB. The publication focuses on Sustainable Energy Access Planning (SEAP), which is aimed at “developing a socially inclusive energy supply system that gives both the poor and the nonpoor sustainable access to at least the minimum amount of energy for their basic needs.” This type of planning is also done to identify environmentally sound and climate-friendly technologies and resource options for providing energy access, and associated investment opportunities, Prof. Ram Shrestha said.

New AIT partnership with Thai giant TEAM Group fosters student internships and co-research

“Today is another milestone in our long collaboration,” said TEAM Group Chief Executive



Dr. Prasert Patramai

Officer Dr. Prasert Patramai, praising a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between his firm and the Asian Institute of Technology that will enable numerous student internships and lucrative co-research.



Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai with Mr. Chawalit Chantararat.

The deal signed on 3 June 2015 between AIT President Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai and TEAM Group Chief Executive Officer, International Sector, Mr. Chawalit Chantararat – as part of a ‘Technical Exchange Seminar 2015’ co-organized by AIT Consulting and TEAM Group – will foster cooperation over the next five years. Under the MoU, AIT students will now have a chance to intern at the leading conglomerate of Thai-based consulting firms, during the summer months of June and July.

Standard Chartered Bank brings over three dozen financial institutions to AIT



Mr. Abrar A. Anwar

Standard Chartered Bank (SCB), Bangladesh, brought over three dozen varied financial institutions to AIT for a two-day intensive professional development program on Leadership, Corporate Governance and Financial Risk Management on 10-11 June 2015.

Speaking at the valedictory session, Dr. Jonathan Shaw, Executive Director, AIT Extension, stated that AIT hoped to build on this relationship, and planned to take it to the next level. “Consider AIT to be your partner institution,” Dr. Shaw remarked. The opening ceremony witnessed participation by Mr. Abrar A Anwar, Chief Executive Officer, SCB, Bangladesh; Mr. Alamgir Morshed, Managing Director and Head of Financial Markets; Mr. Naser Ezaz Bi-joy, Managing Director and Head of Corporate and Institutional Clients. Dr. Fazle Karim, Head, Information Technology and Engineering (ITE), AIT Extension, stated that the participation of over three dozen organizations in a single program made it a very unique exercise.

AIT to benefit from Microsoft “Student Advantage” scheme

AIT is among the 10 educational institutes which will benefit from Microsoft’s “Student Advantage” scheme that allows students free usage of the Office 365 ProPlus package. The scheme was announced by the Microsoft (Thailand) Managing Director, Haresh Khoobchandani at an event organized in Bangkok.



Anthony Edwin Guirnela (left) with Haresh Khoobchandani.

The 10 educational institutes are the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, Kampheng Phet Rajabhat University, Stamford International University (Thailand), Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok Christian College, Bangkok Patana School, Bangkok International Preparatory and Secondary School, NIST International School, Saint Gabriel’s College, and St Andrews International School Bangkok. Anthony Edwin Guirnela of AIT’s intERLab attended the event on behalf of AIT.

30 Afghan students arrive under ADB program

Thirty engineers hailing from the Western Basins regions of Afghanistan have arrived at AIT under an ADB program funded by the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD).



Afghan students at AIT.

The group, which includes six women, began their bridging program at AIT’s Language Center as a preparatory course prior to beginning their Master’s Program. Eighteen of these students will enrol in Water Engineering and Management (WEM), nine in Agricultural Systems and Engineering (ASE), and one each in Mechatronics, Computer Science and School of Management. This capacity building project, which falls under the aegis of the Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW), Government of Afghanistan, is worth nearly \$1.57 million.

Prof. Yamamoto receives prestigious 'Grand Prize 2015' in Japan

AIT's Vice President for Resource Development Prof. Kazuo Yamamoto was awarded the 'Grand Prize 2015' by the Japan Society of Material Cycle and Waste Management at a blue ribbon ceremony held in Kanagawa, Japan. The Grand Prize is awarded

to members for prominent contributions to society. Prof. Yamamoto twice served as President of the Japan Society of Material Cycle and Waste Management. Following many years of service, Prof. Yamamoto retired last year as a Managing Board member.



Prof. Kazuo Yamamoto

AIT staffer wins Marina van Damme award



Dr. Marina van Damme (left) with Ms. Dang Anh Nguyet.

A staff member of AIT, Dang Anh Nguyet, has won the Marina van Damme award becoming the 13th woman to be honored by the University of Twente, The Netherlands. The award is named after Marina van Damme, who was the first female engineer to receive her doctorate from the University of Twente.

After completing her Master's in Geo Information Science and Earth Observation in 2012, Anh Nguyet has been working at AIT conducting research on interaction of land-use change, socio-economics and the ecosystem, with Prof. Nguyen Thi Kim Oanh.

Joyee Chatterjee joins Gender and Development Studies

Dr. Joyee S Chatterjee has joined Gender and Development Studies (GDS) at AIT's School of Environment, Resources and Development as Assistant Professor.

Dr. Chatterjee received her Doctorate in Communication from the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, University of Southern California (USC), USA in May 2012. Her undergraduate

degree is in Political Science from the Lady Shri Ram College, Delhi University (India). She has an M.A. in Social Work from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai (India) as well as a M.A. in Communication Management from USC Annenberg.



Dr. Joyee S Chatterjee

AIT alumnus is Vice Chancellor of South Eastern University of Sri Lanka



Prof. Mohamed Mujithaba Mohamed Najim

Prof. Mohamed Mujithaba Mohamed Najim, an AIT alumnus has been appointed as Vice Chancellor of South Eastern University of Sri Lanka. Prior to his appointment, Prof. Najim was serving as a Professor in Environmental Conservation and Management at the Department of Zoology and Environmental Management in the Faculty of Science at the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka. Prof. Najim obtained his Master's in Irrigation Engineering and Management from AIT's School of Civil Engineering in 2000.

AIT reaches out to Nepal’s communication needs

While Nepal was grappling with the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, students from the AIT were among the first to reach and provide emergency communication services. As a part of the team of Télécoms Sans Frontière (TSF), AIT students rushed to Nepal on 28 April 2015, and launched emergency communications operations.

Two AIT Master’s students -- Serena Amatya of Disaster Preparedness Mitigation and Management (DPMM) program and Niraj Bhujel of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)—focussed on TSF operations, while another DPMM Doctoral student, Md. Shahab Uddin, conducted field work on critical infrastructure.

DPMM also organized a “Learning through Drawing” art lesson for children of the AIT community, and a seminar on “Lessons learnt from the Nepal Earthquake” on 25 June 2015. AIT alumnus and Director of Strategic Cooperation, International Centre for Integrated



Mr. Basanta Raj Shrestha

Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Mr. Basanta Shrestha delivered a talk on “Nepal Earthquake 2015: Information Debris – Making Sense of it All” on 29 June 2015.

News You Can Use

“Regional Forum on Climate Change (RFCC) - Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Societies: Bridging Science, Practice, and Policy”

Coming up
RFCC
1-3 July 2015



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