



Prof. Muhammad Yunus at the Social Business Symposium.

Nobel laureate at Social Business Symposium

Nobel laureate Prof. Muhammad Yunus delivered the keynote address at the Social Business Symposium organized jointly by the Yunus Center at AIT, Thai Health Promotion Foundation, Thai Management Association (TMA), Thai Social Enterprise Office and AIT on 8 May 2012.

Raising questions about the unfair economic

system, the Nobel laureate remarked that the Yunus Center at AIT could be a hub for everyone interested in social business.

“It is a good start today, and I hope that this continues,” Prof. Yunus said, adding that the Center could bring business leaders and youngsters together at one platform. Prof. Yunus had launched the Yunus Center at AIT in August 2009.



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FAO to strengthen engagement with AIT



Mr. Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is interested in strengthening its commitment with AIT, particularly after its announcement of new policy directions of promoting research in academic institutions and building human resources. Stating this, Mr. Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director General

and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, remarked that AIT has a history of collaboration with FAO, and both should explore ways of greater engagement.

Mr. Konuma stated that another important policy initiative of FAO is to build consensus on food security. As a first step, both AIT and FAO should build on existing collaboration, and involve more students in the process. Remarking that food security is also related to peace and overall security, Mr. Konuma stated that the younger generation needs to be sensitized to the importance of food and agriculture. "I have been visiting AIT earlier, and now look forward towards working very closely with AIT," he said.

Nakornnayok Governor courts AIT for creating a smart province

Governor of Thailand's province of Nakornnayok, Dr. Surachai Srisarakham sought AIT's help and support for transforming Nakornnayok into a "smart province," and welcomed AIT's presence by offering 100 rai (16 hectares) of land to AIT free of cost.

Visiting AIT on 10 May 2012, the Governor stated that AIT could use Nakornnayok as a model for research applications for the benefit of the people. Nakornnayok can be an AIT base for transferring technology; establishing a department of Information and Communication Technology (ICT); creating a center; or using the province as a practical laboratory for experiments, the Governor suggested. He identified agriculture and food quality, aquaculture, ICT, disaster management, and clean en-

ergy as key areas of interest. "We will concentrate on innovation and improving the quality of life of people," Dr. Surachai said.



Dr. Surachai Srisarakham receiving the AIT-Thailand badge from Prof. Said Irandoust.

TSF chief visits AIT

President of Télécoms Sans Frontières, Mr. Jean-François Cazanave has assured AIT of support and sought stronger ties with the Institute. In a visit to AIT on 16



TSF delegation at AIT.

May 2012, Mr. Cazanave said TSF was very happy with the partnership with AIT, and was keen to continue its engagement.

The TSF President stated that AIT has provided many volunteers to TSF, and in return these students had acquired real-life experience in disaster conditions. TSF, whose office and facilities were inundated during the October 2011 flood, also expressed its interest to return to the AIT campus. He added that TSF will be hosting a major European Commission funded training camp at AIT in 2013.

Japanese Ambassador honors scholarship recipients

Ambassador of Japan to Thailand, H.E. Mr. Seiji Kojima honored



H.E. Mr. Seiji Kojima

22 (out of total of 29 awardees) at a function organized on 25 May 2012. Hosting a function for Japanese Government Scholarship Recipients at AIT on 25 May 2012, the ambassador said AIT Master and Doctoral level graduates from around Asia have been playing an active role in various fields in their home countries for years. These activities have raised

AIT's reputation as an important contributor to regional development through human resources development.

The ambassador congratulated AIT Japanese Government Scholarship recipients from Cambodia, Pakistan, Vietnam, Thailand, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Myanmar.

LC Bridging Program readies professionals for Mekong River Commission

AIT's Language Center (LC) was host to a group of Southeast Asian students who honed their presentation skills at a special tailor-made program for the Mekong River Commission (MRC). The Commission had selected young professionals for its Junior Riparian Professional (JRP) program, who were at AIT for capacity development.

The batch arrived at AIT from Lao PDR, Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam and Thailand to attend the Bridging Program. The capacity building program for the MRC, however, also assists the JRP selectees in the professional skills and competencies they need to work. Designed by Mr. Tylor Burrows of AIT's LC for client MRC, the JRP Bridging Program im-

merses the trainees in interactive skills-based class instruction in reading, grammar, speaking, and writing and vocabulary development, while injecting necessary real-world assignments into the curriculum.



MRC participants at AIT.

AIT hosts Alternative University Appraisal meeting

University rankings are a hot topic across the hallowed halls of academia worldwide. Rejecting traditional university rankings as too homogenous and as serving a "survival of the fittest" mentality, academics attached to the Alternative University Appraisal (AUA) project have a profoundly different model in mind.

For AUA core members AIT, Yonsei University, United Na-

tions University Institute of Advanced Studies, TERI University, United Nations University Institute for Software Technology, and Universiti Sains Malaysia, the project recognizes the vast diversity existing in higher education, and varying missions across a very complex sustainable development milieu in Asia.

The 9th AUA Core Members' Meeting was hosted by AIT's

Center of Excellence on Sustainable Development in the Context of Climate Change (SDCC) and funded by Hokkaido University.



AUA delegates.

Energy, Environment and Cooperation in Greater Mekong Sub-region



Prof. I.M. Pandey welcomed the GMS delegates.

The intersection of energy and the environment is one of the most pressing issues facing countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS). To evaluate these challenges, AIT played host on 21 May 2012 to delegates attending the International Conference on “Energy and Environment Sector Cooperation of the GMS Countries.”

AIT alumna appointed Deputy Res Rep, UNDP, Myanmar



Ms. To Thi Thuy Hang

The AIT Alumni Affairs Office reported that AIT alumna Ms. To Thi Thuy Hang, a Vietnamese national who received a Master of Science in Environmental Engineering from AIT in 1991, has been appointed as Deputy Resident Representative (Operations), UNDP Myanmar. Prior to taking up her new position, Ms. Hang worked as an Operations Specialist at the Evaluation Office of the United Nations Development Programme, New York, from 2006-2012.

Sri Lankan alumni raise US \$7500 for AIT

Alumni from Sri Lanka have raised US \$7500 as a contribution for providing books lost during the October 2011 flood. Led by Mr. Sunimal Weerasooriya, President of the Sri Lanka chapter of AIT Alumni Association (AITAA), the fundraising is to purchase textbooks for the AIT undergraduate program.



Sri Lankan alumni handing over books to Dr. Mathew Dailey.

A list of books that could be beneficial to undergraduate students has been provided by Dr. Mathew Dailey, Associate Professor, School of Engineering and Technology (AIT). According to Mr. Sanjeev Jayasinghe, Director, Fundraising, AIT, while the first batch of books has already been handed over, the remaining books will arrive at AIT before September 2012. The handover ceremony witnessed participation from AITAA (Sri Lanka chapter) office bearers, Mr. Palitha Gamage, Vice President and Mr. Dharmasiri Wickramatilake, Treasurer.

SU Research Poster Showcase exhibits AIT students' work

AIT is a research-focused institute brimming with students eager to present their latest work to the public. At the inaugural SU Research Poster Showcase on 29 May 2012 young AIT researchers did just that,



SU Research Poster Showcase 2012

catching the eye of the AIT Community with engaging posters.

In just two hours of open viewing, over 200 visitors reviewed the 20 research posters exhibited at the Korea House Building in the center of the campus. School of Engineering and Technology students displayed 14 posters while students from the School of Environment, Resources and Development displayed six.

Opening and closing the event as the honored guest, Prof. I.M. Pandey, Vice President for Academic Affairs, described it as “an example of our finest students seeking to distinguish themselves.”

AIT student receives IPCC award

A doctoral student of the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Ms. Rizwana Subhani, has received a grant from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for pursuing her research. She is one of the nine recipients for the term 2011-2012.

A total of nine young students and researchers have been awarded the scholarship for pursuing research. Seven of them were awarded a “Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation grant for IPCC,” within the framework of the collaboration between the IPCC Scholarship Programme and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation Young Researchers Scholarships Initiative.

The award follows an open call by IPCC, which received nearly 5000 applications, out of which 1027 were shortlisted. Students and young researchers are required to submit their proposal under five different themes. Rizwana is one of



Ms. Rizwana Subhani at the IPCC award ceremony.

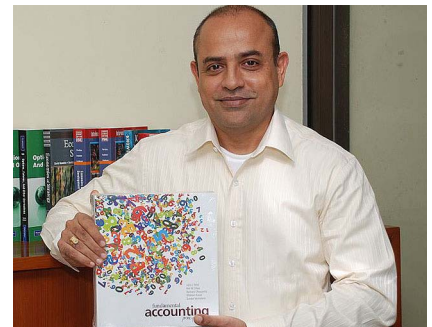
the two recipients under the theme of “Adaptation and mitigation options for different sectors and assessment of socio-economic implications.”

Book by Dr. Sundar Venkatesh

Dr. Sundar Venkatesh, Advisor, AIT Extension, has published a book on “Fundamental Accounting Principles.” Published by McGraw Hill, the book covers both financial accounting and managerial accounting. The book focuses on key concepts of accounting and their role in business.

According to the publishers, it helps students to develop good decision-making by helping them analyze and apply accounting information. The contents are developed using the Conceptual-Analytical-Procedural (CAP) model that identifies learning objectives, textual materials, assignments and test items so that instructors can easily customize their courses. The book includes decision insights as opening vignettes featuring successful Asian entrepreneurs.

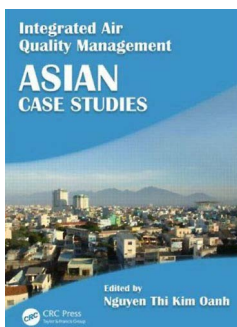
Contents also focus on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)



Dr. Sundar Venkatesh

and IFRS-reporting companies. Financial reports of companies such as Nestle, Adidas, Puma, Apple and Palm are used as examples.

AIT Professor publishes book on air quality management



Professor N. T. Kim Oanh of the Environmental Engineering and Management (EEM) field of study, School of Environment Resources and Development (SERD), has published a book titled “Integrated air quality management: Asian case studies.”

The book has been published by the CRC Press (USA),

and it reports some of the major results of AIT research cooperation in Asia. AIT members from air quality research group serve as the first authors and co-authors of 11 out of 16 chapters. Prof. Oanh is the editor of the book.

According to Prof. Oanh, this publication presents an integrated air quality management methodology that employs technical and policy tools to achieve air quality goals. It includes technical information and policy recommendations based on the outcomes of several multi-year air quality research programs coordinated by AIT.

AITIS Food and Fun Fair brings campus together

The “Fun and Food Fair” organized by the AIT International School (AITIS) saw the entire campus come together on May 25 for a day of festivities. The event showcased a lively group dance by 100 students from the AITIS.

Stalls from seven countries (India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand), besides AIT vendors, were set up and donated by parents and friends of AITIS. A lucky draw was held, with the first prize of a return air ticket, Bangkok – Colombo – Bangkok and a two-night, three-day stay at Hotel Catamaran Negambo, Colombo, sponsored by Sri Lankan Airlines and LSR Lanka Sportreizen, respectively. According to Mr. Ashish Sitoula, Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Chair, the proceeds from



AITIS Food and Fun Fair.

the fair, totaling 150,000 THB will be utilized to replace the academic and extra-curricular equipment that was lost during the flood.

News You Can Use

Technology in Education: The ‘cloud’ ate their homework

There was a time when a student used to complain that the school assignments were inaccessible since the computer had broken down. Today what could be the excuse? Maybe someone would say that the “cloud” ate the assignment.

As this report in the Vancouver Sun reveals that at Notre Dame, Chromebook is keeping the storage and applicable in the “cloud.”

Read more at this link <http://tiny.cc/nsdaew>

Cloud based education services are clearly on the rise, with Internet2, now offering cloud-based service from 16 technology vendors.

Read more in Wired at <http://www.wired.com/cloudline/2012/04/internet2/>.

TODAY!
117th
Graduation
1st June

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