



489 STUDENTS FROM FIVE CONTINENTS CONFERRED DEGREES AT AIT'S 127TH GRADUATION

Four-hundred-and-eighty-nine students from 27 countries were conferred degrees on the occasion of the 127th Graduation of the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) on 19 May 2017. Graduating students came from Asia, Africa, Europe, and North and South America.

The largest cohort of graduating students came from Sri Lanka (128), followed by Thailand (114), Myanmar (64), India (36), Vietnam (33), Nepal (32), Afghanistan (26), and Pakistan (13). A lone student from Colombia and another from USA represented their respective continents. The graduating batch had students from School of Engi-

neering and Technology (289), School of Environment, Resources and Development (155), School of Management (30), and Inter-school programs (10).

Dr. Kinley Tenzin, Executive Director of the Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN), Kingdom of Bhutan; and Prof. Alastair M North, former AIT President (1983-1996), delivered the graduation speeches. The outstanding alumni addresses were delivered by Mr. Chaiwat Kovavisarach, President and CEO Bangchak Petroleum, and Prof. Nimal Rajapakse, Professor, School of Engineering Science, Simon Fraser University (SFU), Canada. *(Photo Gallery P.2)*



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AIT's 127th Graduation: 19 May 2017



1, 7-10, 12-14 Graduating students 2 Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai 3 Dr. Kinley Tenzin 4 Mr. Chaiwat Kovavisarach
5. Prof. Alastair M North 6 Prof. Nimal Rajapakse 11 AIT International School students

Bangladesh Government endows Bangabandhu Chair Professorship

The Government of Bangladesh has gifted an endowment for establishing the Bangabandhu Chair Professorship at AIT. The Bangabandhu Chair Professor will be appointed for a fixed term of four years.



H.E. Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali

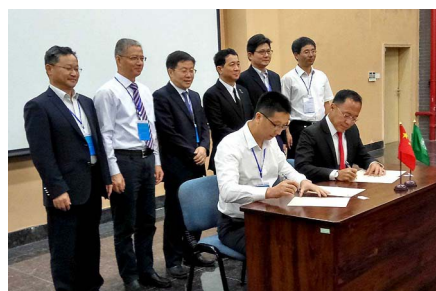
The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, H.E. Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali in his message not-

ed that the Chair Professor Fellowship is aimed at the advancement of sustainable development aspirations of the people of Bangladesh. “It is in this spirit that Bangladesh would be fostering advanced research on applied technologies and innovation on sustainable, affordable and clean energy under the Bangabandhu Chair at AIT,” the Minister said. “Given our long-standing partnership with AIT, we await the recruitment of an eminent academician and expert in the field to honor the seat of the distinguished Bangabandhu Chair at AIT,” he added.

The endowment is a result of the initiative of H.E. Ms. Saida Muna Tasneem, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Thailand, and a member of AIT Board of Trustees.

Joint research agreement with IUE-CAS

AIT has signed a joint research agreement with the Institute of Urban Environment, Chinese Academy of Sciences (IUE-CAS). The MoU was signed by Prof. Yong-Guan Zhu, Director-General, IUE-CAS and Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai, President, AIT.



Agreement with IUE-CAS at Xiamen.

The MoU exchange took place at the kick-off meeting of joint projects between the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) at Xiamen, People’s Republic of China, on 8 May 2017. Under the agreement, IUE-CAS and AIT will conduct joint projects in China and Thailand, including field investigations, laboratory analysis, and land use and land cover interpretation.

AIT and Siam University sign MoU



Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai (left) with Dr. Pornchai Mongkhonvanit.

Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) and Siam University (SU) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote academic cooperation. The MoU was signed by Dr. Pornchai Mongkhonvanit, President, Siam University, and Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai, President AIT.

Signing the MoU on 11 May 2017, Dr. Pornchai expressed his delight at welcoming the AIT delegation at the SU campus, adding that both SU and AIT can jointly offer top quality international engineering programs. Prof. Worsak suggested that the partnership can be accelerated by introducing the Unified Bachelor-Master degree program. The AIT President offered help in designing a curriculum for international students. “Mentoring new universities of the region has always been a mission of AIT,” Prof. Worsak added.

AIT was represented at Xiamen by Dr. Thammarat Koottatep, Dr. Vilas Nitivat-tananon, and Dr. Saroj Kumar Chapagain. Presiding over the ceremony was Prof. Liu Congqiang, Vice President of NSFC, and Prof. Sirirung Songsivilai, Secretary General of NRCT.

Index International announces three scholarships



The agreement signing ceremony.

Index International Group Company has announced the grant of three bonded scholarships for Thai nationals to pursue Master's degree programs at AIT. A cheque of three million THB was handed over by Dr. Chainarong Na Lamphun, President and CEO of Index International Group Company, to Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai, President of AIT on 30 May 2017.

Dr. Chainarong, who is an AIT alumnus, remarked that AIT had provided him, his family, and his company with both education and a network of connections. He wanted to support AIT and contribute towards the development of the region by offering these scholarships.



The delegation from Index International Group Company.

Dr. Chainarong was accompanied by his sons and daughter (all of whom are AIT graduates) — Dr. Phannachet Na Lamphun (Ph.D., Information and Communication Technologies, 2012), Dr. Pornlapas Na Lamphun (Ph.D., School of Management, 2012), and Mr. Rathawit Na Lamphun (MBA, 2015); and Mrs. Nannapat Kongrod, Director and Assistant CEO of Index.

Two scholarships are meant for Thai nationals to pursue a two-year Master's degree program in the field of Structural Engineering and Transportation Engineering respectively at the School of Engineering and Technology (SET); while the third scholarship is meant for an MBA student at the School of Management (SOM). The scholarships will commence in August 2017.

Prof Za-Chieh Moh donates 1.1 M Baht for Geotechnical Laboratory

Prof. Za-Chieh Moh, Member, AIT Board of Trustees has donated a sum of 1,102,093 THB for the Geotechnical Engineering Laboratory. The cheque was handed over by Dr. Chainarong Na Lamphun, Secretary-General, Friends of AIT Foundation to Prof. Pennung Warnitchai, Head, Department of Civil and Infrastructure Engineering, School of Engineering and Technology (SET).

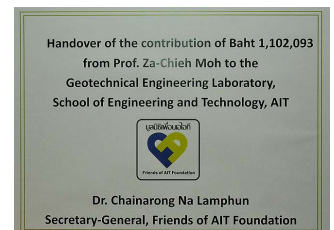


File photo: Prof. Za-Chieh Moh

Prof. Moh, who served as Professor of geotechnical engineering at AIT from 1967 to 1976, and as Vice President and Provost from 1974 to 1976, played a key role

in laying a firm foundation for geotechnical engineering in the Asian region. He was also the Founding President of the Southeast Asian Geotechnical Society (SEAGS).

The Geotechnical Engineering Laboratory will formulate a proposal for appropriate utilization of the donation, after consultation with Prof. Moh.



Top: Dr. Chainarong Na Lamphun (left) and Prof. Pennung Warnitchai.

ilab to foster innovation



A new Innovation Laboratory (ilab) hosted by AIT Solutions will mentor students, patronize ideas, and promote the finished products in the market. At the inaugural event on 24 May 2017, Dr. Subin Pinkayan, Chairman, AIT Board of Trustees suggested that ilab could emerge as a leading networking hub for innovation in the region. Dr. Subin led a brainstorming session with 40 participants representing international organizations, business sector and industry, academia, researchers and the informal sector.

Dr. Naveed Anwar, Executive Director, AIT Solutions, mentioned that ilab would focus on mentoring student ideas, holding regular hackathons and organizing the AIT-Tiger Leong Innovation and Leadership Camp (see page 6). “We will identify research work conducted by students, provide them with expertise and resources, prepare a business plan, and help in marketing their innovations,” Dr. Naveed added.

Family dedicates AIT annual scholarship and prize in memory of former President Banks

The family of late Prof. Robert B. Banks has announced the creation of a new annual Master’s scholarship and a prize in memory of the late AIT President. Prof. Robert B. Banks was AIT’s third President, having served from 1977 to 1983.



Mr. Erik Banks



Introducing Bob and Gunta Banks

A cocktail reception was held at the Erawan Hotel in central Bangkok on February 17 in honour of Prof. Robert B. Banks of the United States, new President of AIT and his wife, Gunta. Hosting the reception was former Thai Foreign Minister, Dr. Thanet Khomam, Chairman of AIT’s Board of Trustees. Attending the reception were distinguished members of the diplomatic corps and leading officials from the Royal Thai Government. Prof. & Mrs Banks are no strangers to Bangkok, having lived here from 1961–63 when Prof. Banks was Director of Research at the SEATO Graduate School of Engineering, as AIT was then known. Prof. & Mrs Banks are accompanied by sons, Steven, 14, and Eric, 12. (L-R) Dr. Thanet Khomam, Korean Ambassador to Thailand, I.E.E. Mr Kun Park; Mrs Gunta Banks and Prof. Robert B. Banks.

From AIT Review, April 1977

Announcing this, Mr. Erik Banks, the youngest son of late Prof. Banks said that the new annual “Robert B. Banks Scholarship” will be open to all Master’s candidates, regardless of their field of study, nationality or gender.” Candidates with a high academic

performance in their Bachelor’s studies and having cleared AIT’s admission requirements will be eligible for the scholarship. The new annual “Robert and Gunta Banks Prize,” which supersedes the previous Robert Banks Prize, is a cash award of US \$500 for students of Environmental Engineering and Management (EEM) at AIT’s School of Environment, Resources and Development (SERD).

Donors and Recipients



Thai Pipe Scholarship recipients with the donors. From left: Ms. Wintica Phataralaoha, Ms. Khin Seanghak, Dr. Yanyong Phataralaoha, Mr. Sovanna Ang, Ms. Thi Reindar Tin Tun and Ms. Kesryon Phataralaoha.



CEO and President of Bangchak Petroleum Mr. Chaiwat Kovavisarach, congratulating Mr. Danupol Wetchasirikul from AIT’s energy field of study on his graduation. Danupol is the first Bangchak Scholarship recipient to graduate from AIT.

NEW LANDMARKS AT AIT

The AIT Graduation Ceremony also saw the informal unveiling of two new landmarks in the AIT Campus — the AIT Clock Tower and the new AIT gate.



Deadline
10 June 2017

News You Can Use

Editor:

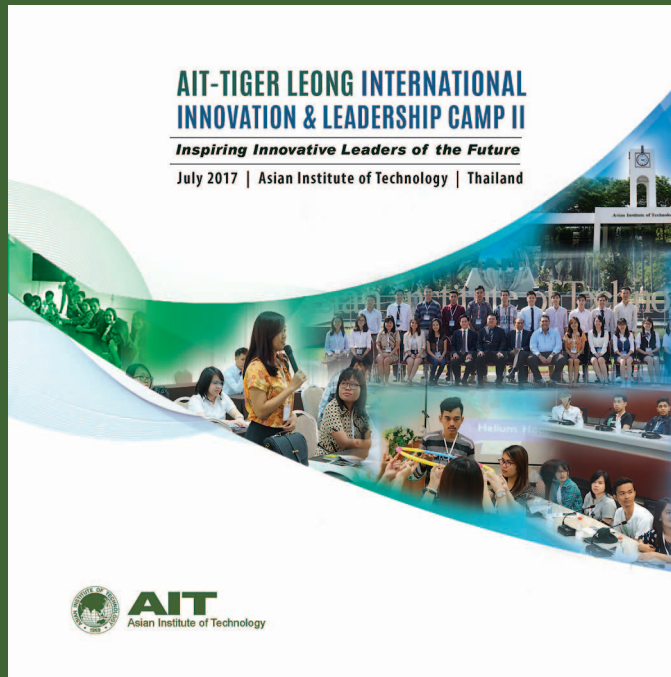
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