

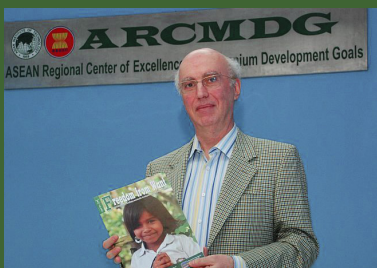


AIT President Prof. Said Irandoust at the scholarship signing ceremony.

100 scholarships for Aceh

A five-year program involving 100 scholarships for staff and faculty members of Government of Aceh, Indonesia, will be launched at AIT. The Government of Aceh will provide 75 per cent of tuition fellowships and transportation, living and other associated cost, while AIT will offer 25 per cent tuition fellowship.

This was finalized under a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signed by the AIT President Prof Said Irandoust on 19 April 2011. “It is indeed a privilege that AIT has been chosen by the Government of Aceh as a key partner in its capacity building efforts,” Prof. Irandoust remarked. ■



INSIDE...

■ Recent News / Happenings at AIT.....	2-4
■ People.....	5
■ Backpage.....	6

AIT donates to Japan

AIT donated 200,000 Thai Baht to the Government of Japan towards reconstruction activities following the disasters that struck Japan on 11 March 2011. The



Prof. Said Irandoust (left) with H.E.Mr. Seuji Kojima

donation was handed over by Prof. Said Irandoust, President, AIT, to the Ambassador of Japan, H.E. Mr. Seiji Kojima at the Embassy of Japan, Bangkok on 20 April 2011.

Prof. Irandoust also expressed his sincere condolences on behalf of AIT. The donation from the AIT community followed a voluntary effort of many individuals and groups, particularly the AIT Student Union, which had organized several activities for fund raising. Mr. Lawal Umar Kankia, President AIT Student Union, informed H.E. Mr. Kojima about the range of activities organized by the Student Union. He said that a strong sense of unity prevails among the AIT community in its efforts to help people in Japan, who are very much “a part of AIT.”

AIT a ‘natural bridge’ to Africa’s vast opportunities

AIT is a natural bridge for connecting Africa to South-East Asia. This was stated by Dr. Roland Amoussou, AIT adjunct faculty, and co-founder and president of the Asia-Africa Foundation, while addressing nearly 200 delegates at the Africa and South-East Asia Business Forum (AFRICSEA) 2011 held from 19-21 April 2011 at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

AIT was the sole higher learning institution partner for the event held under the theme “Bringing Africa to South East Asia.” Apart from Dr. Amoussou, the delegation included Mr. G.I.D. Chima, Senior Counsellor, Economic Matters, Embassy of Nigeria to Thailand; Mr. Joseph Bazambanza, Senior Partner, Jobaz Consulting; and Mr. Wolfgang Bertelsmeier, a former World Bank and IFC official, and Asia-Africa Foundation representative. Among those who attended the Forum included H.E. Mr. Bruno Jean Richard Itoua, Minister of Energy & Hydraulic, Congo; H.E. Mr. Alexandre Barro Chambrier, Minister of Mining and Oil, Gabon; Dr. Nicholas S. Zefferys, President, American Malaysian Chamber of Commerce, Malaysia; and Dr. Mohamed IBN Chambas, Secretary-General of the Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP Group).



From left to right: Dr. Mohamed IBN Chambas, Mr. Bruno Jean Richard Itoua, Mr. Alexandre Barro Chambrier and Dr. Nicholas S. Zefferys



Mr. Hua Ngoc Thuan

A step forward towards a satellite campus in Vietnam

AIT moved closer towards establishing a satellite campus in Vietnam, with a delegation headed by the Vice Chairman of the People’s Committee of Ho Chi Minh City, Mr. Hua Ngoc Thuan, offering land and “all support” to AIT to help establish a full-fledged AIT-Vietnam campus.

The eight-member strong delegation from Vietnam, which visited AIT on 18 April 2011, stated that they would prepare a final proposal and complete all formalities, so that the concept of AIT satellite campus in Vietnam can be presented to the appropriate authorities. Mr. Thuan stated that an area ranging between 22-25 hectares will be available exclusively for AIT to establish a university at Ho Chi Minh City. “I have already informed the Vice Prime Minister of Vietnam and the Vice Minister of Education about the proposal to partner with AIT to establish a University,” Mr. Thuang added.

AIT and Sweden's BTH discuss sustainability education

Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH), Sweden, recently played host to AIT, represented by Dr. Jonathan Shaw, Director of AIT Extension, for discussions on building a dual-degree Master's program to be launched in 2012.

Dr. Shaw discussed collaboration opportunities with Prof. Anders Hederstierna, Pro Vice-Chancellor; Mr. Ihsan Zakri, Project Coordinator at External Relations; Dr. Stefan Sjö Dahl, Acting Deputy Dean of School of Engineering; and Ms. Tamara Connell, Programme Director of the Master in Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability Program. For BTH, the collaboration with AIT offers an exciting opportunity to develop understanding and awareness of sustainable development needs in the Asian context. For AIT, the collaboration is attractive due to BTH's strong reputation in engineering education for sustainable development, which



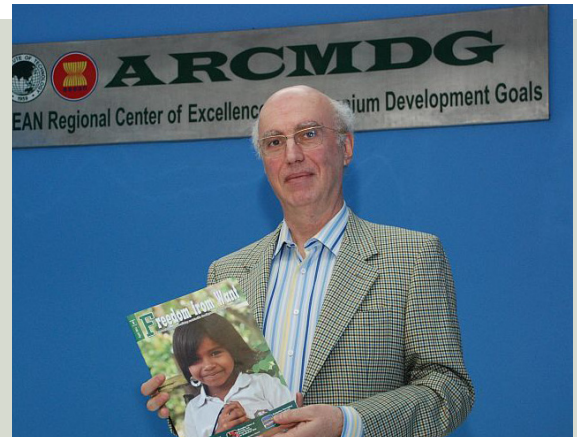
Dr. Jonathan Shaw (left) and Ms. Tama Connell

has earned it the top ranking in Sweden and the number three rank in Europe. BTH and AIT are planning a one-week executive development program in leadership for sustainability, to be hosted at the main AIT campus in Thailand, in December 2011.

ARCMDG launches *Freedom from Want*

Freedom from Want, a new magazine produced and published by the ASEAN Regional Center of Excellence on Millennium Development Goals (ARCMDG at AIT), reached the public in early April 2011 in both print and online.

According to Dr. Sandro Calvani, Director of ARCMDG at AIT and editor-in-chief of the magazine, *Freedom from Want* targets development professionals working in the field who seek innovative and proper tools to accelerate sustainable development work to obtain real, concrete development goals. The publication also aims to engage those interested in the views of university lecturers and thought leaders, and is not necessarily the prescribed recommendations of the United Nations, he said. "We believe that we can reach 65,000 people in at least 50 Asian countries," Dr. Calvani said.



Dr. Sandro Calvani with the inaugural issue of "Freedom from Want."

The publication can be downloaded from these two links:

- <http://www.arcmdg.ait.asia/Magazine.htm>
- <http://issuu.com/arcmdg/docs/magazine>

AIT organizes UNCSD2012 consultation workshop



Mr. Uchita de Zoysa

AIT organized the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD2012 - Rio+20) Consultation and Climate Sustainability Workshop, on 5 April 2011, with Mr. Uchita de Zoysa, Chairman of Global Sustainability Solutions (GLOSS), making an ardent plea for ensuring that sustainable development and climate sustainability remain the bedrock of the development debate.

Mr. Uchita brought an activist's perspective to the debate stating that the "Green economy" model focuses more on efficiency rather than sustainability. The session was a part of the series leading to the UN Climate Conference in Bangkok held from 4-8 April 2011. The regional consultation witnessed participation from Prof. Jayant Kumar Routray of AIT's School of Environment, Resources and Development (SERD); Dr. Sandro Calvani, Director, ARCMDG; Dr. Riaz Khan, Director, Yunus Center at AIT; Mr. Purna Chandra Lal Rajbhandari, UNEP RRC.AP, lead person on Rio+20 related activities; Dr. Fazle Karim, Head, Information Technology and Engineering at AIT Extension as chairperson, and Dr. Faiz Shah, Head, Development Management, AIT Extension as the moderator.

Agreement between AIT, CIRAD and University of La Réunion, France



From left: Prof. Mohamed Rochdi, President University of La Réunion, Prof. Sudip Rakshit, and Dr. Gilles Mandret, Regional Director of CIRAD in Reunion Island and Mayotte.

Following a five-day visit by senior officials to the French overseas Department of Réunion Island, AIT signed a General Declaration of Understanding on 9 April 2011 between AIT, CIRAD and University of La Réunion, France.

The tripartite General Declaration of Understanding, signed on behalf of AIT by Prof. Sudip Rakshit, Vice President for Research, expresses the intention to collaborate on academic exchanges of scientists and faculty, joint research, student mobility, joint thesis, publications, and will explore the possibility of a joint Master's program, especially one on ecological intensification research. Prof. Rakshit led a delegation from 4-9 April 2011 to Reunion. Mr. Olivier Dréan, Coordinator of AIT-French collaboration, facilitated the mission.

Nepal delegation signs MoU



Prof. Said Irandoust (left, sitting) signing MoU with Dr. Sriam Bhagut Mathe (right, sitting).

Nepal Education Foundation-Consortium of Colleges (NEF-CCN), Nepal is keen to offer joint programs with AIT. These include a two-stage Bachelor's and Master's programs, and a five-year unified Bachelor-Master's degree.

An Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by Dr. Sriam Bhagut Mathe, Chairperson, NEF-CCN, and Prof. Said Irandoust, President, AIT, proposes offering a two-stage Master's program in business administration, environment and energy, and biotechnology. A two-stage Bachelor's program in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and Civil and Infrastructure Engineering is also planned. The delegation from NEF-CCN also expressed their desire to offer Professional Master's in hydropower, tourism and hospitality management; apart from an Executive Master's in Business Administration (MBA).

PEOPLE

AIT alumnus wins award, dedicates to faculty



Mr. Navaneethan Navaratnam

Mr. Navaneethan Navaratnam, an AIT alumnus from Environmental Engineering and Management (EEM) field of study, has been awarded with the "2011 Radebaugh Award" by the Central States Water Environment Association (CSWEA), United States.

While conveying the news of his selection for the award, Mr. Navaneethan not only expressed his gratitude, but he has also dedicated the award to Prof. Chettiyappan Visvanathan of AIT's EEM and Dr. Samir K. Khanal of the University of Hawai at Mānoa. Prof. Visvanathan was the Chairperson guiding Mr. Navaneethan's thesis when he was pursuing his Master's in Engineering at AIT; and Dr. Khanal, then with Iowa State University, was the co-chairperson. In a message to his former advisors, Mr. Navaneethan says, "I would like to dedicate this award to you both."

AIT organizes Open House



The Open House organized by the AIT on 22 and 29 April 2011 witnessed participation from interested students from Bangkok and neighboring areas. With a desire to pursue academics in an international institute of higher learning like AIT, interested students, some of whom were accompanied by their parents, came to learn about the Institute.

Welcomed at the Milton E. Bender Jr. Auditorium by Ms. Wannapa Pliansri, Coordinator, Royal Thai Government Relations, and in-charge, Government Relations Unit (GRU), External Relations and Communications Office (ERCO), the students were introduced to AIT and its offerings. "AIT is an international institute with students from almost four dozen countries," Ms. Wannapa said. She added that a number of scholarships and fellowships were available to students to study at AIT. The Institute offers HM King's and HM Queen's Scholarships, apart from fellowships from the Royal Thai Government. Mr. Benjamin A. Gargabite, Coordinator, Admissions and Scholarships, provided details regarding the admission process at AIT.

PEOPLE

AIT alumnus appointed Leducor Group Applied Research Chair



Dr. Haneef Mian, an AIT alumnus has been appointed the Leducor Group Applied Research Chair in Oil Sands Environmental

Sustainability at Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT), Canada.

Dr. Haneef credits AIT for the knowledge gained during graduate studies, and the advice offered to him at the Environmental Engineering and Management (EEM) program. "The graduate training at AIT-EEM provided me with the state-of-the-art tools, techniques and practices that assisted me in pushing the envelope," he says. Describing his studies at AIT as "amazing," Dr. Haneef recalls that there were challenges along the way, and that he still reflects on the advice and knowledge gained during graduate studies. "Kudos to all for making my time at AIT memorable, enjoyable and extremely productive, and thank you for contributing to my career," he says.

Dr. Haneef, who was earlier with the Energy Resources Control Board (ERCB), completed his Master's from AIT in 1997.

Dr Limanond joins AIT



Dr. Thirayoot Limanond has joined AIT as Assistant Professor in the field of Transportation Engineering (TRE) in AIT's School of Engineering and Technology (SET). Dr. Thirayoot completed his

Ph.D. in Civil from University of California, Davis (USA) in 2001. He obtained his M.S. in Civil Engineering with a major in Traffic Engineering from Arizona State University in 1997, while his Bachelor's in Engineering was from Chulalongkorn University in 1994.

His research interests include sustainable transport, travel demand, transportation planning, traffic engineering, transport energy planning and intelligent transportation systems. Prior to joining AIT, he served as Assistant Professor, School of Transportation Engineering, Suranaree University of Technology, Thailand.

Cultural Show 2011: AIT Unites in Solidarity for Japan



The team from Nepal in the drama competition.

As the lights dimmed and the spotlight shone, a bevy of AIT’s finest performing artists took to the Conference Center auditorium stage on 1 April 2011 to sing, dance and entertain for the sheer love of performance and to show solidarity for the victims of the recent catastrophe in Japan.

AIT Cultural Show 2011 attracted a full house of over 500 who witnessed a wide variety of acts and nationalities compete in singing, drama, talent show, and dance competitions.

Organized on 1 April 2011 under the theme “We Unite in Solidarity” the evening brought out the very best of what the AIT Community represents. As teams and individuals vied for the judges’ approval, organizers said the competition took a back-seat to the spirit of international togetherness on display. The Gender and Culture Committee of the AIT Student Union spearheaded a donation box for Japan at the auditorium’s entrance, and the capacity crowd observed one minute of silence for Japan prior to the show’s opening curtain.

News You Can Use

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Is cost of learning dropping?

“While the ‘cost’ of learning is falling dramatically, the cost of college continues to rise,” says TechCrunch in an article titled “Higher Education’s Toughest Test.” Written by Jon Bische and Semil Shah, the article compares the sub-prime crisis with the spiraling cost of education. It also refers to Peter Thiel’s “20 Under 20 Fellowship”, which pays bright students to drop out of college.

Read more at this link

<http://techcrunch.com/2011/04/24/higher-education%E2%80%99s-toughest-test/>

<http://goo.gl/qo2sv>

What’s happening at AIT

AIT Open House
11 May 2011

Video research competition
19 May 2011

Information event for the
launch of Professional
Master’s Degree in CSR
19 May 2011

115th Graduation
26 May 2011

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