



AIT MOURNS THE PASSING AWAY OF
HIS MAJESTY KING BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ OF THAILAND

The Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) deeply mourns the passing away of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand. AIT has been blessed by the continued gracious support of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej ever since its existence.

AIT was established by a Royal Charter signed by His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej on 15 November 1967, while its precursor, the SEATO Graduate School of Engineering was founded by a Royal Decree issued by His Majesty the King in 1959.

In their messages, Chairman, AIT Board of Trustees, Dr. Subin Pinkayan; Chairman, Executive Committee, Dr. Sahas Bunditkul; and AIT President Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai have condoled the death of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej. The entire AIT community has also offered its condolences in an Online Condolence Book <http://condolences.ait.asia/>.

See also pages 2-3.

AIT
NEWSLETTER





AIT has been blessed with a Royal association with His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej. His Majesty presided over AIT convocations (1968, 1975), and the opening of AIT campus in Pathum Thani (1973). His Majesty graciously accepted AIT's first Gold Medal for Outstanding Leadership in Rural Development (1987), Doctorate in Engineering, and Doctorate in Science (Honoris Causa) in 1975 and 2001 respectively.



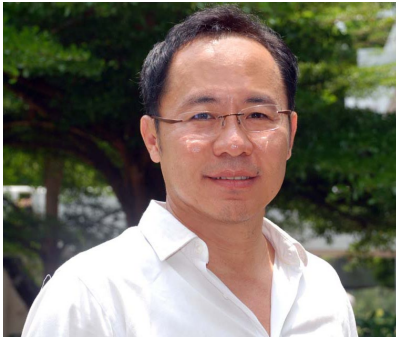


Prayer and Condolence Meeting



Candle Light Memorial Service

Dr Thammarat Koottatep appointed International Foundation for Science (IFS) Trustee



Dr. Thammarat Koottatep

AIT's Dr. Thammarat Koottatep has been appointed Member of Board of Trustees of the International Foundation of Science (IFS). IFS is a Stockholm-based research council that provides opportunities for young scientists to conduct research on biological and water resources in low income countries.

Dr. Thammarat is among the two trustees from Asia, and the lone member from Southeast Asia. His appointment, which was announced by IFS Director, Dr. Nighisty Ghezze, follows the recommendation of the nomination and members committee of IFS. He has been appointed for a period of three years (2016-2019). Dr. Thammarat has worked with IFS earlier, when he was a grant recipients of a project on "Effectiveness of Phnom Penh's Wetlands in Reducing Contaminant Loads to the Mekong/Bassac River system."

AIT President Prof Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai Inducted into Thailand's Academy of Sciences of the Royal Society of Thailand

AIT President Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai is among the four scholars in Thailand who have been inducted into the Academy of Sciences of the Royal Society of Thailand.



Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai

His Majesty the King of Thailand issued a royal command appointing Prof. Worsak as Fellow of the Royal Society of Thailand, for his national expertise in Civil Engineering, effective from the 8 June 2016; following which an announcement regarding Prof. Worsak's induction was made by the Royal Society of Thailand on 29 September 2016.

Fellows of the Royal Society are appointed as senior experts in the society within their individual fields. Before being appointed as Fellows, prospective scholars have to serve as associate members, and can be considered only when there is a vacancy in the Fellow positions. The Royal Society of Thailand has three main duties, — conduct research in all fields and publish the outcomes for the common good of the nation, to exchange knowledge with foreign academic bodies, and to provide academic opinion to the government and public agencies. Prof. Worsak described the honor as "a lifetime royal grace I have gratefully received from His Majesty the King over my professional contributions to the nation and to the society."

Nine University Presidents sign Xi'an Manifesto

Nine University Presidents from across the globe have signed the "Xi'an Manifesto" with an aim "to propel international exchange and cooperation among the nine universities."



Signing of Xi'an Manifesto

President Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai participated in the signing ceremony on 12 October 2016 at the University Presidents Forum held on Youyi Campus of Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU) in Xi'an, China. Signatory universities include NPU, China; Aberystwyth University, UK; Aquinas College, United States; AIT, Thailand; CETYS University, Mexico; Queen Mary University, UK; University of Missouri-Kansas City, US; Ural Federal University, Russia; and Free University of Brussels, Belgium.

Inaugural Advisory Board meeting deliberates on AIT's vision and mission

The inaugural meeting of the newly constituted AIT Institute-Level Advisory Board (ILAB), which met on 21 October 2016, deliberated on the vision and mission of the Institute, and discussed ways to position AIT in the years to come.

Chairing the meeting, Prof. William C Webster mentioned that AIT is at a crucial juncture and “it must place itself in a new role that both respects its distinguished origins and alumni and that meets the needs of the coming generations.” AIT President Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai stated that AIT should position itself on its niche and exclusive uniqueness, so that it can take full advantage of the blue ocean, i.e., an uncontested market space.

ILAB members who attended the deliberations included Prof. William C. Webster, Prof. Charas Suwanwela,



Inaugural meeting of ILAB.

Dr. Za-Chieh Moh, Dr. P.J. Lavakare, Prof. Tissa Illangasekare, Mr. Ragnar Soegaard, Prof. Sahol Hamid Abu Bakar, Prof. Tso-Chien Pan, and Prof. Suchitra Punyaratabandhu. Following the inaugural meeting, a discussion board has been created at this link <http://www.vision.ait.asia>

Collaborative Master's and Diploma Program with SAITM

AIT has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the South Asian Institute of Technology and Medicine (SAITM), Sri Lanka, to launch a Collaborative International Master's and Diploma Program.



MoA signing with SAITM.

The Master's program will be conducted in two stages, with the students studying spending two semesters each at AIT and SAITM; with the thesis defence and graduation being held at AIT. An alternative distance learning module will also be offered to students. The MoA signing ceremony was held in Sri Lanka on 19 October 2016. Chairman Dr. Neville Fernando and Dean Prof. Sisuru Sendanayake represented SAITM; while Dean Prof. Voratas Kachitvichyanukul, Dr. Matthew N Daley, and Mr. Sanjeev Jayasinghe represented AIT.

MoU with NPU and Xidian University, Xi'an

AIT has signed two Memoranda of Understanding with Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU), and Xidian University, both based in Xi'an in Shaanxi Province, People's Republic of China.



MoU with NPU (top) and Xidian University.

The MoU with NPU was signed on 11 October 2016 during a visit of an AIT delegation during NPU's

Global Partner Week celebrations, where AIT was invited by AIT alumnus Prof. Zhang Wei, Chairman of the University Council, NPU. The MoU with Xidian University was signed with Dr. Xiaojing Zheng, President, Xidian University on 13 October 2016.

AIT students interact with IPCC leadership

AIT students interacted with senior leadership of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and participated in IPCC outreach activities during a two-day IPCC event organized at Bangkok on 14-15 October 2016.

Dr. Shobhakar Dhakal, Associate Professor of Energy from AIT, accompanied 13 AIT students hailing from eight countries at the IPCC event. Participating students from AIT included Ms. Raksa Sok (Cambodia) from Gender and Development Studies; Mr. Bui Phan Quoc Nghia (Vietnam) from Climate Change; Ms. Laphongngern Thepphavong (Laos), Mr. Raunak Thapa and Ms. Sharmin Rauf (Nepal) from MBA-Energy Business; Ms. Tooba Masood (Pakistan), Ms. Samidhi Wickremesinghe (Sri Lanka), Mr. Bhavin Pradhan and Mr. Pratik Karki (Nepal), Mr. Piriya Poakorkeatikul (Thailand), and Mr. Rohit C Unni (India) from Energy; and Mr. Rehan Haq and Ms. Sobia Asghar (Pakistan) from Natural Resource Man-



AIT students with Dr. Youba Sokona, IPCC Vice-Chair.

agement. Rehan, Sobia and Tooba are doctoral students, while the other students are pursuing a Master's program at AIT.

Blast from the Past

Editor:

Bajinder Pal Singh
bajinder@ait.asia

Designer:

Nadhika Mendhaka

Photos:

Paitoon Tinnapong
AIT Students' Union

For feedback, contact
Office of Media and
Communications
omco@ait.asia



STUDENT VILLAGE COMPLETED

A NEW concept of student accommodation has been introduced on campus with the recent completion of the **Student Village Housing Project**. The Village provides accommodation for 58 students in the form of 7 houses for single students (each accommodating 6 students), and 8 houses for married students and their families. Each house is a self-contained unit with a lounge area, kitchenette and bath facilities.

Built at a cost of almost US\$320,200, the Village is another donation from the **Royal Thai Government** which has made substantial contributions to the physical plant development of the Pathumthani campus.

Located in the southwest corner of the campus, adjacent to the Faculty Houses (donated by the New Zealand Government) on Halstead Drive, this village is the latest addition to the present complex of campus buildings. Plans for similar student villages are underway as AIT prepares itself for a projected peak enrolment of 800 students by 1985.

Chief engineer of the project was **Mr Chern Chin-Phin** of Waltzen Enterprises, a 1966 alumnus from AIT's Structural Division. Architect for this project was **Mr Mati Tungpanich** of Design & Development Consultants.

From AIT Review, January 1977

AIT Career Fair and Research Exhibition

2 November

Seminar: Design of Tall Buildings

7-12 November

GMSARN Conference

16-18 November



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