



Students from 32 countries welcomed at AIT Orientation

Four-hundred and eighty one students hailing from 32 countries were welcomed on the occasion of Orientation Day organized at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) on 4 August 2016. Congratulating the students on joining AIT, President Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai stated that the latest batch of students formed the largest cohort over the last five years.

Incoming students come from Asia, Africa, Europe, Oceania, and the Americas. Eight countries from Africa (Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Sudan, and Uganda); five from Europe (Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, and Portugal); and lone entries from Oceania (Fiji) and Americas (Trinidad

and Tobago) complement 17 countries from Asia in the August 2016 batch. Thai students form the largest group, followed by Myanmar, Sri Lanka, India, and Nepal. Forty-percent of the admitted students are females.

Addressing the students, President Worsak described six key characteristics of AIT — international perspective, regional orientation, multidisciplinary approach, cross-national solutions, relevant research, and politically neutral. He also postulated five “5 I’s” of AIT, namely innovation, international perspective, integration, industrial partnership and information technology.

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AIT can play a critical role in Thailand 4.0: Minister Suvit Maesincee

AIT can play a significant role in achieving the goal of “Thailand 4.0,” and the country will like to leverage AIT’s global network so that it can work towards sustainable development of Thailand and the region. These were the remarks of H.E. Dr. Suvit Maesincee, Deputy Minister of Commerce during his visit to AIT, where he delivered a special lecture on “Thailand 4.0” on 30 August 2016.

The Minister recommended a three-point action plan for AIT. “AIT should serve as a specialized institute that is focused on research,” Dr. Suvit said. This way, AIT can create a special place for itself and not com-



pete with traditional universities, who are trying to become comprehensive universities, he added. Secondly, AIT can take a lead role in improving the quality of life of people based on globally accepted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Thirdly, AIT should remain focused on core issues of academics and research. This could complement Thailand’s effort to tackle challenges of climate change, water management, forestry and challenges of ageing societies, he added. “AIT can play a critical part in making it (Thailand 4.0) happen,” Minister Suvit concluded. The Minister was accompanied by Dr. Verapong Chaiperm, Governor, Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (I-EA-T); and Patra Atcharaniwat, Trade Officer, Ministry of Commerce.

AIT President Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai stated that international orientation was a core strength of AIT, and he assured the Minister of AIT’s desire to contribute towards Thailand and the region. He added that AIT has benefited from Thailand’s generosity, and it would be glad to serve as an academic and research platform for the benefit of mankind.



H.E. Dr. Suvit Maesincee.

80 participants join CAP workshop

AIT was host to a two-day international workshop on Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) held on 23-24 August 2016. Organized jointly by AIT and Sahana Software Foundation, 80 participants from 20 countries attended the event. Co-sponsored by International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), OASIS Emergency Management, and World Meteorological Organization (WMO), this was the ninth such workshop to be organized.

Key speakers included Omar Abou-Samra of IFRC’s Global Disaster Preparedness Center (GDPC); Elysa Jones, Chair of the OASIS Emergency Management Technical Committee; Devin Balkind, President, Sahana Software Foundation; Samuel Muchemi of Public Weather Services (SO/PWS), WMO; Eliot Christian, former



Delegates at the CAP workshop.

chief architect of the WMO Information System and the Global Earth Observations System of Systems (GEOSS); and Nuwan Waidyanatha, Director, Sahana Software Foundation Board.

AIT to assume lead role in Aquamimicry Sustainable Shrimp farming venture



AIT team at the Aquamimicry workshop.

With shrimp farming in Thailand facing considerable challenges in recent years, AIT will be assuming a lead role in research and dissemination of aquamimicry technology.

“The technology has great potential, and AIT has invited farmers to establish a prototype demonstration project, where farmers can use AIT ponds and the Institute can serve as a knowledge partner,” AIT President Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai remarked. Dr. K R Salin of AIT, who is spearheading biofloc workshops in Thailand, remarked that aquamimicry has gained traction in recent months after the success of a few select farmers who were successful in reversing the losses suffered in traditional shrimp farming.

“In Aquamimicry, farmers combine sustainable and intensive farming, where they try and recreate natural biodiversity in artificial ponds,” Dr. Salin said. The workshop was jointly organized by Aquamimicry Aquaculture Alliance (AAA), AIT, Thai Organic Shrimp Group, Kasetsart University and Institution of Aquaculture (Singapore).

Bangchak Petroleum awards two scholarships, solicits AIT’s expertise

Bangchak Petroleum (BCP) has awarded two scholarships for students to pursue their Master’s degree at AIT. It has also sought AIT’s expertise to pursue its vision of “Evolving Greenovation,” an initiative intended to channel regular evolution of green innovative ideas.



Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai (left) with Mr. Chaiwat Kovavisarach.

Handing over the scholarship cheque to AIT on 25 August 2016, BCP President Mr. Chaiwat Kovavisarach, who is an AIT alumnus (Master’s in Industrial Engineering and Management, 1991), remarked that BCP wishes that their association with AIT goes beyond scholarships. This is the second tranche of two scholarships awarded by BCP to AIT students. Mr. Yodphot Wongrukmit, Senior Executive Vice President, Corporate Administration and Information Technology, BCP, also attended the ceremony.

WE Consultants grant 1 Million Baht scholarship for AIT student



WE Consultants handing over the cheque at AIT.

Wisit Engineering Consultants Limited (WE Consultants) has granted a 1 million Baht scholarship for a student to pursue a Master’s degree program in Structural Engineering at AIT. Managing Director of WE Consultants, Dr. Wisit U Pongsa announced this during his visit to AIT on 11 August 2016.

Dr. Wisit remarked that he was “pleased and honored to be a patron to an AIT student.” Stating that his entire career has revolved around engineering, Dr. Wisit added that the scholarship was his way of contributing to his profession. Dr. Wisit was accompanied by the Managing Director of WE International Consultants, Mr. Wirat Ratanawetchasit, an AIT alumnus from Structural Engineering (Master’s, 1997).

Dr P Abdul Salam awarded 2016 Thailand Frontier Researcher Award

Dr. P Abdul Salam has won the Thomson Reuters Thailand Frontier Researcher Award for 2016. The award was granted “in recognition of pioneering a new frontier in research, based on core papers comprising the world’s top 1% of Highly Cited Papers in the field of Engineering.”

Dr. Salam, who serves as Associate Professor in Energy field of study at AIT’s School of Environment, Resources and Development (SERD), received the award certificate during the Innovation Forum organized by Thomson Reuters and Office of Higher Education Commission (OHEC), Thailand on 25 August 2016. He also presented his research activities at AIT. The certificate was jointly awarded by the OHEC Secretary General Aporn Kanvong, and Arto Valio, Vice President, ASEAN & North Asia, Intellectual Property and Science, Thomson Reuters.



Dr. P Abdul Salam

Prof Lawrence Stephen Abeln joins as Dean, School of Management

Prof. Lawrence Stephen Abeln has joined as the new Dean of School of Management of AIT with effect from 1 August 2016. His appointment as Dean was endorsed by the AIT Board of Trustees at its meeting held on 14 July 2016.



Prof. Lawrence Stephen Abeln

Prof. Abeln received a Ph.D. in Management (Labor Economics) and M.Phil. in International Relations from Cambridge University, where he was a Rotary Foundation Scholar. He received his undergraduate degree from The University of Pennsylvania where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa and Magna Cum Laude. He has two decades of extensive academic leadership experience including at top 100 QS world-ranked universities including MIT, Cambridge, University of Texas Austin, Georgetown and Adelaide University. Prior to joining AIT, he was the Dean of School of Business at the University of Adelaide, Australia.

Examining sudden buildings collapse: DAF Seminar

Recall the 9-11 disaster when the Twin Towers collapsed after being struck by aeroplanes. Or the 22-storey 1968 Ronan Point Building in the United Kingdom which witnessed a



Prof. Sashi Kunnath

partial collapse following a gas explosion. Such situations have drawn increased attention in recent years, and they were the focus of AIT’s Sixth Distinguished Adjunct Faculty (DAF) Seminar delivered by Prof. Sashi Kunnath on 22 August 2016.

Titled “Progressive Collapse Analysis of Reinforced Concrete Frame Buildings following Sudden Column Loss,” Prof. Sashi’s lecture illustrated the mechanics of failure in structural building systems due to the sudden loss of a load-bearing element.

AIT Orientation: 4 August 2016



AIT excels in exchange, internship and scholarships programs

ERASMUS MUNDUS PANACEA: Three students, Thazin Oo and Thang San Muang from Myanmar, and Pham Minh Hang of Vietnam have just returned after spending 10 months as Erasmus Mundus Panacea exchange students from University of Turku (Finland), Uppsala University (Sweden), and University of Bologna (Spain).

K-WATER INTERNSHIP: Five AIT students, Tun Min Kyaw of Myanmar, Sachham Man Buddhacharya of Nepal, Rubaiyath Zaman Uttal of Bangladesh, Muhammad Danish of Pakistan, and Chanakarn Chanphu of Thailand, participated in K-Water internship program in South Korea where Danish won the best intern award.

OCHANOMIZU SUMMER PROGRAM: Six AIT students participated in the fortnight long Summer Program at Ochanomizu University, Japan. They included Md Fazlul Haque from Bangladesh, Milan Regmi from Nepal, Saroj Kumar from India, Shahab E Saqib from Pakistan, Ta Thi Hoa from Vietnam, and Vu Trung Dung from Vietnam.

KARG: The KARG (KWEF-AIT Research Grant) Award Ceremony was held at Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB), Indonesia, on 19 August 2016. Awardees from Thailand, Indonesia, and Vietnam, President of



1-3 Erasmus Mundus Panacea exchange students, 4. Summer Program at Ochanomizu University, 5. Internship program in South Korea, 6. KARG Award Ceremony at Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB), Indonesia, on 19th August, 2016.

KWEF (Kurita Water and Environment Foundation), International Committee members, invited professors and the Rector of ITB (Center) attended the event. For details, visit: <http://karg.ait.asia>.

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Blast from the Past

When former US President Jimmy Carter visited AIT.

FORMER US PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER VISITS AIT

Former US President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, visited the Institute on June 21. The Carters were accompanied by the Chairman of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, Mr. Agha Hassan Abedi.

Mr. Carter was in Bangkok as part of a promotional tour to generate worldwide awareness of the "Global 200", an assistance program for developing countries.

The former US President serves as Chairman of the "Global 200" project, with Mr. Abedi as Co-Chairman. The project has pledged a donation of Baht 1 million to support the Institute's educational activities.



While at AIT, Mr. Carter and his party toured various research sites and laboratories, including the Regional Experimental Center, the Regional Computer Center and the Laboratory of the Water Resources Engineering Division.

June 21, 1987

To Dr. Gajendra Singh

It was a pleasure to meet you today at AIT. I was very interested in visiting the Institute and only regret that I didn't have more time.

Thank you for the warm hospitality that was extended to us. The lunch was wonderful, and Rosalynn and I appreciate the thoughtful gifts. I hope you will have an opportunity to visit the Carter Presidential Center. We would be pleased to welcome you there.

With thanks and warm best wishes.

Sincerely,

JIMMY CARTER

From our June 1987 archives

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