



Dinner hosted by AIT Alumni Association for Taiwan Premier.



Taiwan Premier H.E. Dr. Mao Chi-kuo (left) with Prof. Worsak Kanok Nukulchai.

Taiwan Premier reminisces AIT, supports AIT Entrance Gate as a Gift to his Alma Mater

Premier of Taiwan H.E. Dr. Mao Chi-kuo, AIT Alumnus of 1975 class, reminisced on his student days and long association with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) during a dinner reception organized on 21 March 2015 in Taiwan. He also announced his support for AIT alumni in Taiwan in sponsoring and creating a new AIT entrance gate, as well as the proposal to offer student scholarships and faculty secondment from Taiwan. AIT Hall of Fame member Mr. George Shi-Yi Chen will chair the task force on the new AIT gate.

Meeting with Dr. Subin Pinkayan, Chairman, AIT Board



Premier addressing the delegates. Seated next to him is Mr. George Shi-Yi Chen (left) and Dr. Subin Pinkayan (right).

of Trustees, and AIT President Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai, the Premier reiterated his pride at being an AIT alumnus. Recalling how he was interviewed and selected to study at AIT, Dr. Mao said: “The multinational environment at AIT helped shape my life both professionally and personally.”

Dr. Subin reiterated his vision of a sustainable AIT, and updated him on the niche programs that AIT plans to offer. Prof. Worsak highlighted his plans to revamp AIT’s infrastructure and to modernize the AIT Library.



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President Worsak awarded Honorary Doctorate by SHIATS

AIT President Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai was awarded an Honorary Doctorate (Honoris Causa) at the 10th Convocation of Sam Higginbottom Institute of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences (SHIATS), Allahabad, India. The degree was conferred on 18 March 2015 by H.E. Mr. Ram Naik, Governor of Uttar Pradesh, India.



Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai (extreme right) being awarded Honorary Doctorate by H.E. Mr. Ram Naik (center).

The citation announcing the award of Honoris Causa reads: “For his

wisdom and dedication, as a scholar and top administrator of an in-

ternational institute with the noble goal to foster international cooperation in this Asian Century, Sam Higginbottom Institute of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences (SHIATS) is proud to name Professor Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai - Honoris Causa Doctor of Science (D.Sc.).” The entire citation can be read at this link:

<http://www.ait.ac.th/news-and-events/2015/news/citation.worsak.pdf>

AIT alumna honored with US Secretary of State’s International Women of Courage Award



May Sabe Phyu (third from left) at the White House with the US First Lady Michelle Obama.

AIT alumna Ms. May Sabe Phyu, was among the 10 select women awarded the 2015 Secretary of State’s International Women of Courage Award. She was awarded by Deputy Secretary Heather Higginbottom at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C., on 6 March 2015. Later, Ms. Phyu and other winners also met the US First Lady Michelle Obama.

May Sabe Phyu, who hails from Myanmar, was a recipient of the Japanese government scholarship to pursue her Master’s degree at AIT. She graduated with a Master’s in Gender Studies in May 2011.

Source: Official White House Photo by Chuck Kennedy

K-Water President visits AIT, discusses water center and network

The President of Korea Water Resources Corporation (K-Water), Mr. Gyewoon Choi, mooted a three-way collaboration between academic, industry and professionals during his visit to AIT on 3



Mr. Gyewoon Choi

March 2015. Mr. Choi stated that four water-related issues are currently under focus—flooding, drought, water quality, and futuristic water issues related to climate change.

Discussing the establishment of a water center and network, Mr. Choi stated that K-Water was keen to have a professional water-related institute, and K-Water was discussing the issue with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and other organizations, including AIT.

AIT Library Modernization Fundraising Campaign crosses 40 Million Baht

The Library Modernization Fundraising Campaign crossed 40 million Baht as major donations from alumni, corporates and individual donors pushed the campaign total to over 80 per cent of its goal of 50 million Baht, earlier in March.

Following the announcement in February of a donation of 1 Million Baht by HRH Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, other illustrious donors have followed suit.

Those who have contributed 1 Million Baht include Dr. Subin Pinkayan, Chairman of AIT Board of Trustees; Dr. Prasert Pataramai, member of AIT Hall of Fame; Prof. Worsak Kanok Nukulchai, AIT President ; Mr. Charoen Jaturasil (SEC '86); Dr. Rafiul Ahad and Mrs. Frances Kasala Ahad (CA '80); Dr. Chainarong Na Lamphun (WRE '80); Dr. Phannachet Na Lamphun (ICT '2012), Dr. Pornlapas Na Lamphun (SOM '2012) and Mr. Rathawit

Na Lamphum (MBA '2015); and AIT Alumni Association (Thailand chapter).

Corporates who have donated 1 Million THB or more include Siam Cement Group (SCG) (via Mr. Chavalit Ekabut - IME '82) with 10 Million Baht. Thai Pipe Industry Co., Ltd. (via Dr. Yanyong Phataralaoha - IEM '86), Intouch Holdings PCL (via Mr. Somprasong Boonyachai - IEM '81), and Bangchak Petroleum PCL (via Mr Chaiwat Covavisarach - IEM '91) have donated 2 Million Baht each. Amata Corporation PCL (via Mr. Vikrom Kromadit) has donated 1 Million Baht.

The entire list of donors is available at this link: http://www.modernlibrary.ait.asia/supporters/list_of_donors

Photo Gallery of some of the donations in March 2015



1. Pakistan Students Association (PSA) donation of 15,700 Baht. 2. Dr. Chainarong Na Lamphun (1 Million Baht) 3. Dr. Phannachet Na Lamphun, Dr. Pornlapas Na Lamphun, and Mr. Rathawit Na Lamphun (1 Million Baht) 4. Mr. Charoen Jaturasil (1 Million Baht). 5. Amata Corporation (1 Million Baht). 6. Ms. Ailee Loh (976,101 Baht)

Mitsubishi Rayon provides diploma program scholarship for staffer

Japan's Mitsubishi Rayon Co., Ltd. (MRC) will send one of its employees to earn a one-year diploma in the Environmental Engineering Management (EEM) program at AIT starting in August 2015. The scholarship will cover tuition fees, accommodation and all associated expenses for the selected student, and is valued at 560,000 Baht.

MRC's scholarship was made possible by agreements inked on 12 March 2015. Signing on behalf of Mitsubishi Rayon was Yasuo Yanagi, Director, Aqua Technology Administration Department, MRC.



Mitsubishi visitors at AIT's EEM laboratory.

AIT is an important partner: UNESCO-IHE Vice Rector

"AIT is an important partner for us, and we are eager to intensify our collaboration". This was the sentiment expressed by Prof. Stefan Uhlenbrook, Vice-Rector, Academic and Student Affairs, UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, at AIT on 20 March 2015.

Appreciating the partnership with AIT, Prof. Stefan remarked that AIT is a regional institute in Asia enjoying a global reach. He added that out of the four joint degree programs offered by UNESCO-IHE, three were being offered with AIT. Later, Prof. Stefan delivered a lecture on "Water-Spider in the Water-Energy-Food Nexus" to AIT students of Water Engineering and Management (WEM) field of study.



Prof. Stefan Uhlenbrook with AIT students.

AIT Distinguished Research Awards announced



Dr. Sangam Shrestha (left) and Prof. N. T. Kim Oanh.

Prof. N. T. Kim Oanh and Dr. Sangam Shrestha have been awarded the "AIT Distinguished Research Awards 2014" under the Senior Research Leader and Junior Research Leader respective categories. Both will receive a full doctoral scholarship and will be presented a certificate of recognition at the May 2015 AIT Graduation Ceremony.

Prof. Kim Oanh lecture in the Environmental Engineering and Management field of study at AIT's School of Environment, Resources and Development (SERD), while Dr. Shrestha is a faculty member in the Water Engineering and Management (WEM) field of study at the School of Engineering and Technology (SET).

Dr. Peeyush Soni promoted to the rank of Associate Professor



Dr. Peeyush Soni

Dr. Peeyush Soni has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor in the School of Environment, Resources and Development (SERD). This was announced by AIT President Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai on 16 March 2015 following positive recommendations of the Faculty Evaluation Panel (FEP) and the SERD Professorial Board.

Dr. Soni joined AIT as an Assistant Professor in June 2012. Prior to this, he held the Senior Instructor/Instructor positions from September 2010 to May 2012. Dr. Soni obtained both his Master of Engineering (Agriculture) and Doctor of Engineering (Agriculture) degrees from AIT in 2003 and 2006, respectively. He earned his Bachelor of Engineering from the College of Technology and Engineering, Udaipur (India) Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, (MPUAT), Rajasthan, India in 2001.

Team AIT students are 2015 debating champs at FAO

A three-member team of students representing AIT once again grabbed 1st prize at the annual forestry policy debate competition organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Bangkok, Thailand.



Mr. Hiroyuki Konuma (left) with the winning AIT team.

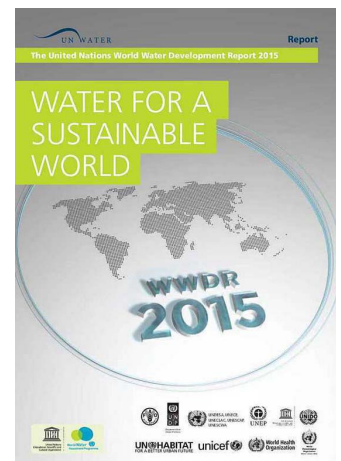
AIT's international graduate students won

top honors on 20 March 2015 by debating on the proposition: "That climate change means we should spend more money on protecting forests." The team included Ms. Katika Punbuatoom from Thailand, and Ms. Sumitra KC and Pradeep Baral from Nepal. All three are students of Natural Resources Management (NRM). Sumitra KC was also awarded "Best Speaker" at the debate. The judges were Mr. Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, FAO; Ms. Caroline Liou, Communication Manager, RECOFTC; Ms Keiko Nomura, UN-REDD Programme Officer, UNEP; and Mr. Patrick Durst, Senior Forestry Officer, FAO.

AIT faculty member contributes to UN World Water Development Report

Dr. Sangam Shrestha, an Associate Professor in Water Engineering and Management (WEM), has contributed a book chapter in the recently released United Nations World Water Development Report 2015.

The 2015 edition of the United Nations World Water Development Report (WWDR 2015), titled "Water for a Sustainable World", was launched at the official celebration of the World Water Day, on 20 March 2015 in New Delhi, India.



WWDR 2015 book cover.

AIT students present their work in France



Mr. Aung Ye Htut (left) and Mr. I Putu Santikayasa.

Two AIT students, Mr. Aung Ye Htut (Myanmar) and Mr. I Putu Santikayasa (Indonesia) presented their work at the ASEAN-EU Science Technology and Innovation Days (STI Days) organized in Paris, France from 16-20 March 2015. Both students

were recipients of the best paper award.

While Mr. Aung presented his paper on “Uncertainties in SWAT extreme flow simulation under climate change of the Bago River Basin in Myanmar,” Mr. Putu presented his findings on “Climate change impacts on hydrology and rice production in Northeast of Thailand.”



Geeta Bhatrai Bastakoti

An AIT doctoral student Geeta Bhatrai Bastakoti, who received the Climate Food and Farming Research Network (CLIFF) Fellowship Award 2015 to attend

the inception workshop and Conference on “Climate Smart Agriculture” organised at Montpellier, France, also presented her ongoing research on “Gender Implications of Food Security and Climatic Variability in Nepal.”

News You Can Use

Dummy police will catch traffic offenders red-handed

Dummy police will catch traffic offenders red-handed next month

KITTIPOONG MANEERIT
NAWAPORN KINKHAJON
THE NATION

STARTING from next month, dummy traffic officers on some of Bangkok's roads will officially become “smart”, as they will be able to catch violators red-handed via a newly introduced tech system.

The so-called “Smart Jai Choei” system can detect a vehicle that changes lanes in a zone where it is forbidden to do so – and then issue a traffic ticket within a minute.

As the system will catch violators red-handed by recording their traffic offences in still photos or moving pictures, there will be solid evidence to back up the issuance of tickets.

“We will officially introduce the system to Bangkok's Suttisarn area first,” Deputy Metropolitan Police commissioner Pol Maj-Gen Adul Narongseak announced at a press conference yesterday.

Developed through collaboration between the Thailand Research Fund, the Traffic Police Division and several other agencies, “Smart Jai Choei” has worked perfectly well during its ongoing trial period in the Suttisarn area.

Traffic police therefore believe the system is ready for actual use from next month. “The new system can reduce the workload of the police and also promote respect of traffic rules,” Adul said.

“In the future, the system will be

able to detect other traffic rule-breaking activities such as speeding, parking in unauthorised zones or riding a motorcycle without wearing a helmet,” he added.

Research project leader Worarak Budsayarn from Narasuan University explained that the system worked by detecting vehicles that trespass over the bold line to change lanes in restricted areas, and then capturing a high-quality picture and video clip for the police as evidence of the offence. “The system works using two separate parts. The first part is the automatic vehicle detection and analysis system, and the second is the automatic ticket-issuing system,” she said, demonstrating the processes involved.

The automatic vehicle detection and analysis system can detect the vehicle's licence plate by using a sensor to locate and read the licence number in the picture, and can also identify the brand, colour and type of the offending vehicle, she said.

“The automatic traffic ticket-issuing system undertakes two tasks. First, it will analyse the pictures from all detection systems with the Traffic Police Division vehicle-licence database, and then issue the traffic ticket. After the police check the ticket's accuracy, the traffic ticket will be sent to the vehicle owner's address,” she explained. If an offender does not pay within 60 days, their vehicle licence plate will be suspended, said the researcher.

“Dummy police will catch traffic offenders red-handed next month” is an article in The Nation (Thailand). The system was developed by Dr. Mongkol Ekpanyapong of AIT. This development was mentioned by numerous newspapers and media houses in Thailand.

It can be read at this link: <http://www.nationmultimedia.com/national/Dummy-police-will-catch-traffic-offenders-red-hand-30256694.html>

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AIT
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Editor:
Bajinder Pal Singh
bajinder@ait.asia

Designer:
Nadhika Mendhaka

Photos:
Paitoon Tinnapong

For feedback, contact
Media and Communications
Unit at AIT
mcu@ait.asia



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