

PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

14 November 2007

(week 46)

(confirmed)

Present:	Said Irandoust (<i>Chair</i>) Izel Dante Peter Haddawy Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai Sivanappan Kumar Ram Shrestha	Jayant Routray Khin Ni Ni Thein Md. Mustafa Saroar Rathsayam Tiyyarathtagam <i>Secretaries:</i> Karma Rana Renedith Calabdan
Apologies:	Indra M Pandey Jonathan Shaw	Sudip K Rakshit Vilas Wuwongse
Invited:	Patcharee Wangsakan	

PAC 07.11.01 Welcome and Apologies

The President welcomed all present to the meeting and apologies were received. Prof. Jayant Routray, the newly elected faculty representative was particularly welcomed to his first PAC meeting.

PAC 07.11.02 Approval of the PAC Agenda and Review of the Minutes of the PAC Meeting of 17 October 2007.

The minutes of the 17 October 2007 PAC meeting were confirmed.

Follow-up Actions:

1] Faculty Position at AIT for Distinguished Retired Faculty and Personalities

It was *agreed* that the concept paper for Distinguished Retired Faculty and Personalities be forwarded to the Academic Senate for a parallel discussion and input. The PAC at the last meeting likewise recommended that official feedback with regards to the proposed concept be submitted by the schools.

ISSUES FROM PRESIDENT

PAC 07.11.03 Progress on the new AIT Charter

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Thailand will issue a circular to members of the AIT Board of Trustees, that will provide further updates on the working group meeting which will take place on 22-23 November 2007, as well as details on the adoption and signing meeting scheduled on 20 December 2007.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Thailand, will be hosting a ceremony on 20 December 2007, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs premises, during which the new AIT Charter will be formally adopted and subsequently open for signature by authorized representatives of all members of the current AIT Board of Trustees as well as other interested countries and international entities.

It is planned to invite representatives of new member states and international entities currently not members of the AIT Board of Trustees, who have either expressed interest

in entering into partnerships with AIT or with whom AIT has already initiated various collaborations, for an introductory briefing meeting, so as to better familiarize them with some of AIT's new strategies and directions, and also processes that are being undertaken in relation to the new AIT Charter.

PAC 07.11.04 05 November 2007 Executive Committee (ExCom) Meeting

The President reported the highlights of the ExCom meeting held on 05 November 2007. The Chairman-approved report of the ExCom highlighting some of the major discussions and outcomes was received by PAC and will be made available to the community soon.

The Executive Committee at its 5 November 2007 meeting, has endorsed the President's proposal to allocate any surpluses that remain in the schools at the end of the year as follows: 20% to the Institute, 20% to the school, and 60% to the field of study for strategic investments or projects. The Executive Committee recommended that clear guidelines and criteria be set up by the administration for the basis of selecting such projects and to this end discussions on the setting up of a standing committee that will deliberate investment proposals from the central administration, schools, and units using their respective unit surplus, were discussed.

- **Setting-up of an Investment Committee**

In line with the above context PAC *recommended* that an AIT standing committee be set up at the soonest in order to examine and approve investment plans of the schools and central administration and ensure that these initiatives must fulfil the Institute and the schools' strategic plans. Investment plans and projects approved must increase the Institute or schools ability to increase revenues and will not be utilized as part of the operation expense.

The Terms of Reference of the standing committee should be formulated soon.

- **Workshop on Market Study Processes**

In relation to AIT's goal of making wise strategic investments, the President opined that new products/programs that the Institute will develop must be market or demand driven. This requires that AIT must have a relevant and deep market survey.

It was suggested to explore the possibility of conducting a workshop on market study processes, with expertise to be provided by the SOM faculty in the related field. <i>c/o VPAA</i>
--

- **Outcome of the President's Promotional Travels**

In follow-up to the request at the 05 November 2007 ExCom meeting to provide concrete outcomes of the President's overseas missions, an extensive report highlighting some of the concrete outcomes of the President's visits abroad has been prepared. The detailed reporting on the President's travel outcomes will be provided in the President's weekly letter, as well as for the purposes of the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees.

In submitting the report, the President emphasized at the outset that the outcomes reported, are a result of a series of processes and involves a lot of hard work, commitment and efforts on the part of the faculty, staff and administration with strong support provided by the Institute's partners. The intention in submitting the report is not for the President to take credit of the achievements and outcomes but to try to draw up a more specific listing of some of the activities undertaken and concrete outcomes of the organization as a whole.

PAC 07.11.05 Outcomes of Discussions on the ASEAN MDG Round Table

On 13 November, Dr. Hanifa D. Mezoui, Chief, Non-Governmental Organization Section, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Dr. Francois Loriot, Vice President of AIFOMD, and Center of Excellence for Millennium Development Goals(MDG) (Geneva and Mr. Nico Barito, Senior Fellow, UNITAR who is also a member of the Institute-level Advisory Board and the AIT Center in Indonesia Steering Committee, visited AIT and discussed with the AIT team the preparations for the “ASEAN Round Table on MDGs” which will be held at AIT for 2 days in late March 2008.

The objective of this Round Table is to generate substantive multidisciplinary and cross sectoral discussions to improve the implementation on MDGs, in order to achieve and meet the 2015 targets, through education and training tools and materials. The 2008 Round Table is an attempt to involve ASEAN participants more actively in MDG education and training. The possibility of creating a Regional Center of Excellence on MDGs will be discussed at this Round Table, as a tool and framework within which similar initiatives at the national and local levels can lead to creating centers of Excellence in all parts of ASEAN.

There will be 4 parallel workshops on the following MDGs: eradication of extreme poverty, promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women, ensuring environmentally sustainability and developing a global partnership for development.

The second and concluding day will include addresses and messages by the UN Secretary General, UNESCAP Executive Secretary, ASEAN Secretary General, Assistant Secretary General UNITAR, President of SEAMEO among others, and declaration and launching of the ASEAN Regional Center of Excellence for MDG training to be hosted at AIT. AIT will actively work with and engage a broad spectrum of academic institutions and partners in the region in promoting the MDGs under this initiative.

AIT has to identify programmes in AIT that falls under the 4 focal areas and that directly address the MDGs.

PAC 07.11.06 Consolidation of AIT Sida / SAREC Projects

The President met with Dr. Gity Behravan, Senior Research Advisor, Division for University Support and National Research Development-UNI, Department for Research Cooperation, SAREC, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and Dr. Robert Nygård, Research Advisor, Division of Natural Sciences for Sustainable Development, Sida /SAREC, during which the necessity of bringing all Sida / SAREC supported projects under one common umbrella at AIT was discussed, in order to bring about more synergies, through a bigger critical mass, better interactions and coordination in the ongoing and planned Sida / SAREC funded projects on energy, urban development, ARRPET etc.

It was recommended that AIT develops one big project to be funded by Sida / SAREC for 4 years starting from 2009, which will be further discussed with all those who are involved in the schools and other research groupings.

PAC 07.11.07 Service Agreement with Sodexho on Food Management Services at AIT Cafeteria

The President provided an update on the recent negotiations with Sodexho, the company which will take charge of the food management at the AIT cafeteria. No fixed rental will be charged to Sodexho, instead, 5% of the revenue will go to AIT if Sodexho passes 1 million Baht/month collections. It was initially agreed that the company will give an immediate investment of Baht 1.6 M. Sodexho now intends to provide an

immediate investment of Baht 400k and the remaining will be spread over the next 6 months. Sodexho operations will start from 02 January 2008.

The President requested H/IO to renegotiate that the Baht 1.6 M investment be made within the first 3 months.

PAC 07.11.08 New Phase of AIT-Mahidol University, Chulabhorn Research Institute Collaboration

The President reported on the outcome of his visit to CRI on 08 November 2007, together with Dr. Preeda Parkpian (EEM/SERD) to CRI. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the second phase (the first phase was during 1999-2005) of the collaboration between AIT, CRI, and Mahidol University on the post graduate education in Environmental Toxicology, Technology and Management. Modalities for cooperation into the 2nd phase have been jointly agreed, and the signing of the MoU was slated for 07 December 2007. Past issues were clarified in a very collegial manner which will help further strengthen the collaboration into the future.

PAC *recommended* that the last payment of 5M Baht in order to settle pending commitments of AIT for the first phase of the collaboration will be charged in the 2007 budget in order to avoid possible adverse effect on the performance of the new phase.

PAC 07.11.09 Nobel Peace Prize and Alternate Nobel Peace Prize (Norway)

The President presented to PAC members the idea of AIT to aim for the Nobel Peace Prize and also the Alternate Nobel Peace Prize (Norway), as suggested by some of the Institute's prominent supporters and friends. The President noted that equally interesting as the prize, will be the process itself on which the Institute will undertake if nominated. The deadline for nominations for Alternate Nobel Peace Prize is by the end of January 2007. AIT will need to prepare for the rationale which could be considered by potential nominators of AIT for the prize. PAC was in agreement that this goal will need a lot of reflection, brainstorming and cooperation within AIT. The suggestion of aiming for the prize in time for AIT's 50th anniversary was also noted.

PAC 07.11.10 Recognition of an AIT Alumnus

The President informed the meeting of the good news that an AIT alumnus Mr. Nguyen Quan (ET 89), was recently promoted to the position of Deputy Minister of Science and Technology, Government of Vietnam.

A congratulatory letter to be sent by the President's Office.

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

Finance and Audit

PAC 07.11.11 2007 Finances and 2008 Budget Updates

- 2007 10-month Financial Results and Progress on the 2008 Budget

The Head of Finance Office reported on the 2007 ten-month financial results which included the summary of 1] statements of revenues and expenditures for funds 10, 21, 23, 30 and 41; 2] ten-month results of 2007 vs. 2006; 3] 2007 10-month result vs. original 2007 budget and revised 2007 forecast; and 4] Budget 2008 overview. Consolidated Statement of Revenues and Expenditures of Schools and Units was also provided to the meeting.

Following consultations with the Schools and Units to the revisions for 2007 budget have been agreed and also finalized the 2008 budget. The President thanked the Schools and Units for the strong commitment and full support they have extended in both the exercises. The 10-month financial results for 2007 and the revised budget figures along with the proposed 2008 budget will be presented at the forthcoming meeting of the AIT Board of Trustees on 26 November 2007.

The financial performance of the Institute for 2007 looks very promising and the President encouraged everyone to maintain the same budgetary discipline that has been shown over the past 10 months of 2007.

- *Aging Account Receivables*

As agreed in 03 October 2007 PAC meeting, persons/units in charge of leading the recovery efforts of accounts receivables under specific funds are: 1] VPAA for fund 10 (students); 2] VPR for fund 30 (projects); and 3] Heads of concerned units for fund 21.

Other Matters

PAC 07.11.12 Case against a former AIT Student

The President informed the meeting that AIT is taking a legal process against a former student who has been sending letters with erroneous and malevolent content to AIT's partners as well as the media.

PAC 07.11.13 Siam City to Open a Field Office in AIT

Following the launch of the Siam City Bank (SCIB) and AIT Visa Platinum Credit Card, the SCIB will soon open a field office on campus, which will be located in the Arcade, Room C-143. The field office will provide customer service assistance and simple banking facilities to the AIT community.

PAC 07.11.14 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be announced in due course.