

SPECIAL EVENT

Inauguration Ceremony of the AIT Auditorium as “The Robert B. Banks Auditorium” / Milton E. Bender Lecture / Public Discussion

THE ASIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

is pleased to Host the Inaugural

H.E. Dr. Thanat Khoman Lecture Series

Sponsored by:

The John F. Kennedy Foundation of Thailand for Thai-American Friendship



The John F. Kennedy Foundation of Thailand for Thai-American Friendship is sponsoring a special lecture series in honor of H.E. Dr. Thanat Khoman, the late Chairman Emeritus of the AIT Board of Trustees and former Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Thailand. Dr. Adrian R. Chamberlain, former president of the Colorado State University (CSU), has been invited from the United States as the inaugural speaker for the lecture series. AIT is pleased to co-organize with Chulalongkorn University the Milton E. Bender Lecture at AIT on 20 February 2018, followed by the Thanat Khoman Lecture on 22 February 2018 in Bangkok. Professor Robert B. Banks served as the President of AIT from January 1977 to July 1982, succeeding the founding AIT President Prof. Milton E. Bender Jr. He is remembered for the important contributions he made towards the growth and development of AIT during his presidency. Prior to the start of the Milton E. Bender Lecture on 20 February 2018, AIT will have a special ceremony to inaugurate ‘The Robert B. Banks Auditorium’, also in light of the close bond former President Banks shared with President Bender.



RATIONALE / BACKGROUND

The United States of America played an instrumental role in the foundation of AIT – initially as the SEATO Graduate School of Engineering (SEATO-GSE) – and later served as a key guiding force for AIT’s overall development, as one of the region’s foremost international institutes of higher learning. Created in 1959 by Royal Decree of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the SEATO-GSE was the sole graduate school of engineering in the region. H.E. Dr. Thanat Khoman, the visionary Foreign Minister of Thailand, was also an instrumental figure in AIT’s history. The Thai statesman signed the acceptance of the School into Thailand, and later became the longest serving Chairman of the Board of Trustees of AIT. From the very beginning, it was a group of intrepid, bold and committed academicians from Colorado State University (CSU) who answered the call from the Government of the United States

to engineer a new kind of postgraduate institute in a far-away tropical land. CSU’s Professor Maurice Albertson accepted the challenge, and he invited Professor Thomas Evans, Dean of the College of Engineering of CSU, to join him on making the initial operational survey for the School in Bangkok. On March 27, 1961, less than two years after the official opening of the SEATO-GSE, the first graduation ceremony was held, and eight candidates were awarded their degree of Master of Engineering by Mr. William E. Morgan, President of Colorado State University, USA. Dean Evans eventually completed his tour of duty in June 1961 and returned to the United States. Later, in June 1963, Colorado State University sent Professor Milton E. Bender to take the helm of the School. On November 10, 1966, Professor Bender was elected as the first President of AIT.



PROGRAM

Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2018

Time: 1:00– 4:00pm

Venue: AIT Conference Center, Auditorium

The Event is streamed Live Online via the Internet



Ceremony:
1:00 PM - 1:30 PM

- **Inauguration Ceremony of the AIT Auditorium as “The Robert B. Banks Auditorium”**
- All guests are seated in the AIT Auditorium.
- Opening by Master of Ceremonies.
- **H.E. Dr. Subin Pinkayan**, AIT Chairman of the Board of Trustees, welcomes the Banks Family, Honored Keynote Speaker, Distinguished Discussion Panelists, Dignitaries and Special Guests.
- Multimedia Tribute for Former AIT President Robert B. Banks.
- **Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai**, President of Asian Institute of Technology, delivers the Dedication Remarks of the AIT Auditorium as the **“The Robert B. Banks Auditorium.”**
- AIT President invites the AIT Chairman to officially open **“The Robert B. Banks Auditorium”** by remotely unveiling the official commemorative plaque.
- Video Greetings from President Banks’ wife **Mrs. Gunta Banks** and her son, **Mr. Erik Banks**, to the audience in the auditorium and online via the internet.
- Former AIT President **Prof. Alastair M. North** delivers personal remarks about President Robert B. Banks.

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM **Master of Ceremonies Introduces Keynote Address Speaker**

Milton E. Bender Lecture

Dr. Adrian Ray Chamberlain, former President of the Colorado State University, is our esteemed inaugural Keynote Speaker for the Milton E. Bender Lecture named in honor of AIT’s first president.

Abstract

SEATO - GSE/ AIT – Beginnings and Visions for the Future

Dr. Chamberlain will reflect of the origins of the Asian Institute of Technology, beginning as the SEATO Graduate School of Engineering located on the campus of Chulalongkorn University, and the role of key historical people. The reasoning behind trying to create such an educational enterprise will be recounted. The role of engineers in a global technological society will be discussed and some needs of the profession will be noted. Some visions and points of view about the challenges and opportunities for the AIT for the next 20 years – in the context of a global economy, disaster-prone environment and rapidly growing urban populations – will be explored.



PROGRAM

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM **Public Discussion:**

Moderator: (TBC)

Panelists:

- **Dr. John D. Nelson**, Professor Emeritus, Colorado State University; Former CEO, Engineering Analytics, Inc.; Vice Chairperson, AIT Board of Trustees
- **Prof. Alastair M. North**, Former AIT President
- **Dr. Adrian Ray Chamberlain**, Former President, Colorado State University, United States of America
- **Dr. Anat Arbhahirama**, Director and Advisor to the Board of Directors, Bangkok Mass Transit System Public Company Limited; Vice Chairperson, AIT Board of Trustees

Final Remarks and Expression of Thanks

Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai, President, Asian Institute of Technology

3:30 PM - 4:00 PM **Refreshments in AIT Conference Center Lobby**

Please kindly register your participation through the below link.

Registration Link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1UZGI57fO6aPo3uUno_ApJzgC192w8kM3xhWGno1mBY/viewform?edit_requested=true

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