



“SURVIVAL OF THE BEST ADAPTABLE”: PRESIDENT WORSAK’S MANTRA FOR GRADUATING STUDENTS

Four hundred and sixty students hailing from 21 countries received their degrees at the 129th graduation. The largest cohort of graduating students came from Sri Lanka (128), followed by Thailand (93) and Myanmar (80). Three continents, Asia, Africa and Europe were represented by the graduating students. Graduates came from Viet Nam (41), India (30), Nepal (21), Afghanistan (17), Bangladesh (9), Pakistan (8), Indonesia (7), Cambodia (6), Bhutan (5), Philippines (4), China, France, and Japan (2), Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lao PDR and Maldives (1).

Graduation speeches were delivered by Professor Gautam Dasgupta of Columbia University, and Dr. Sumet Tantivejkul, Secretary General, Chaipattana Foundation;

while the prominent alumnus speeches were delivered by Professor Soe W. Myint of Arizona State University and Ms. Areewan Haorangsi, Secretary General, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT).

Delivering his graduation address, President Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai spoke about the cataclysmic changes that have never been witnessed before, and which are now posing a threat to our present educational system. Rapidity of technological changes, which is referred as “technological singularity” implies that in order to survive universities must prepare themselves for a new world. In this scenario, the Darwinian adage of “Survival of the fittest” may well give way to “Survival of the Best Adaptable,” Prof. Worsak remarked.

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AIT President Designate Dr Eden Y Woon



Dr. Eden Y Woon

The AIT Board of Trustees has unanimously approved the AIT Presidential Search Committee (PSC) recommendation to appoint Dr. Eden Y Woon as the next AIT President, effective 1 September 2018.

Dr. Woon is currently Vice Chairman of Alba Group Asia. He is also the Special Advisor to the Shaw Foundation, a Hong Kong-based charity organization.

Dr. Woon has served as Vice-President for Institutional Advancement at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) from 2010-2017. He has been on the Council of the Open University of Hong Kong for the past six years, and has served as a member of the Advisory Board of the University of Iowa Business School. In the late-'70s and early-'80s, he was on the Mathematics faculty of the US Air Force Academy for six years, becoming an Associate Professor. Dr. Woon received his BA degree (Phi Beta Kappa) from the University of Iowa, and his MA, MS, and PhD degrees, all in Mathematics, from the University of Washington in Seattle.

Dr. Woon has also served as Vice President for Starbucks Coffee Company in China, Managing Director of Toys R Us China, and Managing Director of Li & Fung Group Office in China. He was the CEO of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce from 1997-2006. Prior to that Dr. Woon was Executive Director of the Seattle-based Washington State China Relations Council (1994-1997).

AIT alumnus appointed Minister in Viet Nam



Dang Hoang An

Dang Hoang An, an AIT alumnus has been appointed as Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade in Viet Nam. Prior to his elevation as Minister, he was serving as General Director of Electricity Viet Nam (EVN). He was appointed by Prime Minister Nguyễn Xuân Phúc, and his elevation became effective from 15 May 2018.

Dang Hoang An (spelt Đặng Hoàng An in Vietnamese) graduated with a Master's in Electric Power System Management from AIT in 1997, and an MBA under the International Executive MBA Program in 2004. He obtained his Bachelor's in Electrical System Engineering from the University of Electrical Machines Plzen (Czech Republic) in 1988.

Prof ATM Nurul Amin felicitated with Emeritus Professor honor at Graduation



Professor ATM Nurul Amin was honored at AIT's 129th Graduation following the conferment of the title of Emeritus Professor. Earlier, the AIT Board of Trustees had approved the award of the title of Emeritus Professor to Professor Amin at its meeting held on 11 January 2018.

Professor Amin was honored with the Emeritus Professor Certificate at the Graduation by AIT President Professor Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai and H.E. Mr. Pradap Pibulsonggram, Vice Chairperson of AIT Executive Committee. Professor Amin had obtained his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada, in 1982, and he joined AIT as an Assistant Professor in 1987. He was promoted to the rank of Professor in 1998, and served as a Professor at AIT for 10 years, and as a full-time faculty member for 21 years.

AIT 129th Graduation: 18 May 2018



SATEL and DNWP Advanced Telecommunications Laboratory to be established at AIT

A “SATEL and DNWP Advanced Telecommunications Laboratory” will be established at AIT. SATEL Oy and Dedicated Network Partners (DNWP) will sponsor radio technology and transmission equipment to establish this new laboratory in the Telecommunications Program in the Department of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

A Memorandum of Understanding to establish the laboratory was signed by Mr. Janne Kankaanpaa, Sales Manager, SATEL Oy, and Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai, President, AIT, on 15 May 2018. AIT will also develop and new laboratory course along with SATEL and DNWP to help students gain experience in advanced standardized equipment.



Mr. Janne Kankaanpaa (left) with Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai.

Partnership agreements with ZJU and ZIFF, China



Agreement signing in China with ZJU and ZIFF.



AIT has two two agreements with Chinese institutions, namedly the College of Education, Zhejiang University, and Zhejiang Institute of Freshwater Fisheries (ZIFF). The agreements were signed by AIT during the visit of President Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai to China.

The first agreement was signed by President Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai with Professor GU Jianmin, Dean, College of Education, ZJU, for facilitating a student exchange program. “We also would like to invite the faculty and students of AIT to visit us some time to

get a better understanding of each other and promote the cooperation in the future,” said Zhou Lijun, Deputy Dean of College of Education.

The second agreement was signed between AIT and the Zhejiang Institute of Freshwater Fisheries (ZIFF). The MoU, signed by Gu Zhimin, Director of the Provincial Freshwater Institute, and Professor. Worsak, provides for mutual exchange of researchers for short-term study, joint research on cooperation, and joint training of international graduate students.

AIT to renew cooperation with HEC



File photo: AIT delegation with H.E. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman.

AIT will renew its cooperation agreement with the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan, and it will also help the country in internationalization of its faculty members. The renewal of partnership will enable HEC to resume scholarships for qualified Pakistani students to enroll at AIT, especially for doctoral degrees.

Following a visit of a high-powered delegation led by President Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai to Pakistan, where he proposed a three-pronged game changing relationship between HEC and AIT, HEC has already included AIT in its list of institutions eligible for scholarship. Prof. Worsak had proposed a renewal of relationship between the two, as well as joint research activities will be explored between AIT and selected universities in Pakistan. Significantly, the AIT President also proposed that Pakistan could depute its faculty members to AIT, which could provide them with global exposure and help in internationalization of academic institutions in Pakistan. The AIT delegation held wide ranging meetings with the H.E. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman, Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, and HEC officials, including the then HEC Chairman, Professor Mukhtar Ahmed.

AIT Develops Framework for River Health Assessment in the Mekong



AIT has developed an “Operational Framework for River Health Assessment in the Mekong River Basin.” The project was conducted over a period of three years and the final product was presented in the workshop at the Pollution Control Department of Thailand on 21 May 2018.

Led by Prof. Mukand Singh Babel of AIT, the project was supported by CGIAR’s Water Land and Ecosystem (WLE) Greater Mekong Program. It provides a holistic river health assessment framework that is capable of addressing a variety of dimensions of river health. Two such assessment frameworks were developed, both at the community as well as basin level. The workshop was organized by AIT along with the “Pollution Control Department (PCD)” and Thai Water Partnership (TWP).

Dr Mongkol Ekpanyapong receives TRF 2017 Prominent Research Award



Dr. Mongkol Ekpanyapong is among the 14 recipients of the Thailand Research Foundation (TRF) 2017 Prominent Research Award. He received the award from Air Chief Mar. Prachin Chantong, Deputy Prime Minister

of Thailand, on 23 May 2018.

Dr. Mongkol was felicitated for his research on “Smart Police Mannequin with the Automatic Traffic Violation Tickets Issuing,” where he designed a system for automatic generation of tickets for traffic violation. It incorporates Artificial Intelligence, image processing, and machine learning. The smart police mannequin has been placed at 19 locations in Bangkok and two locations in Phuket. The system has an accuracy of 80 per cent, and it has reduced the issuing time of traffic violation tickets from five to one minute.

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