



Irاندoust - Leadership Based on Mutual Respect, Openness, and Compromise



In his first presidential address to the AIT community, the newly-appointed AIT President, Prof. Said Irاندoust (left), conveyed the message that his leadership will be based on mutual respect, openness, and compromise.

In his first presidential address to the AIT community, the newly-appointed AIT President, Professor Said Irاندoust, conveyed the message that his leadership will be based on mutual respect, openness, and compromise. The address was held at the AIT Conference Center on 8 July 2005.

President Irاندoust set out his platform for a leadership based on collective understanding and competency for dealing with the organization's tasks and based on strategic long-term planning. He elaborated: "As someone once said, 'People do not plan to fail, they simply fail to plan'. I will try my best to avoid being egocentric,

(See Page.3)



Suddenly, the summer break is over, and the campus is full of students again. Welcome to the first *AIT Newsletter* of the new semester! Some 650 students have embarked on their graduate degree programs this week. We hope that the contents of this issue of the AIT Newsletter give a fairly good flavor of AIT to them – as this is the first issue for more than a month, it is unusually packed with content.

But there is a lot more news out there, and what we get to cover is really only a small part of the many stories AIT students, faculty and staff have to tell about their lives, their work, themselves. Over the next few weeks, we hope that you will start to see a different AIT being presented to the community and to the world. So let me take this opportunity to invite everybody to contribute.

So to AIT's faculty: we want to hear about your research, what is exciting you professionally (and maybe personally), and we want the world to know. To students: we will be getting to know you very soon, and finding every opportunity to tell the world about the kind of person who chooses to come and study at AIT. Enjoy reading.

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In this ISSUE



1 Cover Story

- Irandoust - Leadership Based on Mutual Respect, Openness, and Compromise

6 Events

- H.E. Professor Xu Guanhua Visits AIT
- President Irandoust Welcomes August 2005 Batch
- AITCV Co-sponsors Photography Exhibition in Hanoi

9 Conferences & Seminars

- First AIT -Royal Thai Government Joint Research Public Seminar
- CIDA-AIT Partnership Activities

11 Partnerships

- AIT to Partner with Austratrian Universities for Dual Masters Degree Programs
- AIT Formalizes Cooperation with Shivaji University
- The Bridge Fund Initiates Collaboration with AIT

18 Developments

- Tiger Motor Co., Ltd. Donates Electrical Car

19 Welcome

- AIT Welcomes Dr. Yoshitaka Kato

22 Acheivements

- AIT Alumna Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize 2005

24 Miscellaneous

- What's going on
- Chat around campus



(l-r) Mr. Anil Rajbhandari, Prof. Chongrak Polprasert, Prof. Said Irandoust, Prof. Dennes Bergado, and Mr. Mohammad Solim Ullah.

(from Page.1)

or selfish, and will try hard to allow others to grow by giving colleagues and students responsibilities. I will try my best to work for increasing the happiness at AIT by acting for development of cultural and mutual respect and trust, communication, presence and encouraging participation. I am also in favor of flexible, simple and transparent structures and leadership.

“I am in favor of boundary-less, team-oriented, organizational structure, people-oriented and outcome-oriented structures. I

will work for a system with a minimal administration of the highest possible quality, in order to allocate as many as possible of our resources to core activities, namely research, education, and outreach activities”.

Before his address, Professor Irandoust was formally greeted with welcome messages from the Faculty Representative Prof. Dennes T. Bergado, a representative of the Employees Committee, Mr. Anil Rajbhandari, and Mr. Mohammad Solim Ullah, representing the Student

Union.

As President of AIT, Prof. Irandoust will work for clear shared values, a strong feeling of belonging, a sense of community, caring and trust. “I will always welcome dialogues, debates, conversations, and will work for openness for ideas. As a chemist, I have a desire for experimentation and risk-taking where mistakes can occur, but these are seen as feedback and inputs for development. I will work for increased capacity within AIT to continuously learn, adapt, and change. Developing new ideas for the best of our institute is the responsibility of everyone, including students”.

He will, Prof. Irandoust told the AIT community, work with them to raise standards of teaching and research so as to meet global standards, and will work to strengthen AIT’s interaction with industry and the region in order to better and more rapidly identify emergent



fields of knowledge of high relevance for Asia. ‘AIT towards Excellence’ will be the key words of the Institute.

Study and research about and for the world with mankind’s needs at the center is among the most important goals in academic life, Prof. Irandoust noted. “Mankind’s problems today are global and we must, therefore, have an international perspective in all university activities. For me, personally, research in higher education is not only about increasing competency within some knowledge fields. It is also about cultural differences as a source of a potential for

creation, innovation, critical thinking and development. The university for me is a place where the diversity among us is not seen and is not treated as a source of danger and tension among people. It is a place where all kinds of problems are solved by debate, by communication, discussion and conversation. It is a place where our big, complex, diverse, and beautiful

world is not simplified into pure black and white, good and bad, rich and poor, developing and developed countries, resident and non-resident countries, Muslims and non-Muslims, us and them. It is a place where we are trained to respect the fundamental human rights,”

Prof. Irandoust said. After his address, Prof. Irandoust answered questions involving various issues such as the balancing of centralized and decentralized administration and the support for each school’s own strategic planning and priorities.

The final question, from SOM doctoral student Salil Sen, concerned his hobbies.



Prof. Irandoust informed the community that he is particularly interested in people, loves meeting people and discussing things with them, and taking stock of their backgrounds and experiences. It turns out he also loves soccer and has a passion for oriental rugs – deeply appreciating the ways in which they blend art, color, form, design, social meanings, culture, science, technology, and engineering.

Finally, in response to a vote of thanks by Professor Chongrak, Prof. Irandoust empha-

sized that he is here to serve the community of AIT, “not the other way around. My duty is to serve our students, faculty, and staff. That will be my concept. The central administration, or the office of President, is

here to serve the community of AIT, support our staff, faculty and students. In order to do that, I need feedback from you continuously. I need your active participation, openness, experiences, and your help”.



H.E. Professor Xu Guanhua Visits AIT

His Excellency Professor Xu Guanhua, Minister of Science and Technology, People's Republic of China (PRC), recently visited AIT, and met with AIT President Professor Said Irandoust. The purpose of the visit on 29 July 2005 was to strengthen the partnership between AIT and PRC.

AIT conferred the degree of Doctor of Technology (*honoris causa*) on H.E. Prof. Xu at a ceremony in Beijing on 15 May 2005.

H. E. Prof. Xu expressed his happiness at being able to visit AIT, and indicated that he would do all that he could to promote AIT in China, with the help of the Ministry of Education. He invited President Irandoust to visit China to further discuss ways to explore partnership with AIT, particularly in research and other academic activities. The AIT Deans also had the opportunity to express their interest and request support from the



AIT President Professor Said Irandoust and Dr. Xiaoyong Chen welcome H.E. Prof. Xu Guanhua to AIT.

Minister for joint research and collaborations in their respective Schools. After the meeting with the President and Deans in the Administration Building, the delegation was given a tour of facilities in the Remote Sensing and

GIS Field of Study, including the Geoinformatics Center. H.E. Prof. Xu has played a key role in advancing relations between AIT and China, first in his capacity as Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences,



President Irandoust (7th from right) introduces AIT Deans and staff to H.E. Prof. Xu. Present at the meeting (from the left of the President) were Prof. Chongrak Polprasert, Dean SERD and Acting Dean SCE; Prof. Himangshu Paul representing Dr. M. Nazrul Islam, Acting Dean SOM; Dr. Tess del Rosario, Acting Dean AIT Extension; Mr. Sanjeev Jayasinghe, Director of Promotions; Dr. Xiaoyong Chen, SAT and Dr. Yang Yi, SERD.



The delegation from the Ministry of Science and Technology, People's Republic of China included (l-r) Mr. Li Xiong, Secretary for the Minister; Mr. Jin Xiaoming, Director General of Department of International Cooperation; Mr. Xing Jijun, Director of the Division of Asia & Africa; and Mr. Wang Xiao, Official of the Division of Asia & Africa. The delegation was accompanied by Mr. Mao Guoqing, First Secretary and Mr. Chen Qi, Third Secretary of the Embassy of P R China.

through provision of experts to the Institute within the framework of the MoU between AIT and the State Science and Technology Commission, and later in his capacity as Vice Minister of the Commission in 1995, which subsequently became the Ministry of Science and Technology in 1998, and during his current appoint-

ment as the Minister of Science and Technology since 2001.

Under the leadership of Prof. Xu, the Ministry of Science and Technology extended the partnership between China and AIT to various science and technology institutions in China and in the region. As Minister of Science and Technology

since April 2001, Prof. Xu has been promoting China's scientific and technological development and improving its international competitiveness by increasing R&D input, accelerating the building of the national innovation system and formulating a national strategy for the development of science and technology.



President Irandoust gives a lapel pin with the flags of AIT and the People's Republic of China to H. E. Prof. Xu, Minister as a token of AIT's friendship with China.



President Irandoust shows a model of the AIT campus to H.E. Prof. Xu. Also present are Prof. Himangshu Paul, SOM (right) and Dr. Xiaoyong Chen, SAT (2nd right)

President Irandoust Welcomes August 2005 Batch



A good education, President Said Irandoust told 650 incoming students last Thursday, is “one that prepares students to answer questions we haven’t even thought of...” AIT, he elaborated, hopes to instill in them that sort of exciting creativity – “that energizing sense of your role in creating a socially just future. We hope that our programmes and activities here will assist you in achieving your goals and becoming successful in life.

“As President of AIT, Asian Institute of Technology, I am very pleased on behalf of everyone at AIT to welcome all of you – new students, family, and friends to our campus, and to a day

which is devoted especially to you and to your questions about AIT. You are entering the AIT community, within which you will be spending the next few years of your lives. I hope that you will find them to be challenging, productive, and enjoyable. AIT, President Irandoust said, is for people who ask: why not change the world? “Put yet another way — people just like you! As the world changes, and as technology changes, AIT is the place where those changes are tracked, where those changes are created,

and where students get to be a part of it all.

AIT’s fundamental base for is its emphasis on diversity. “We work to ensure that students from a wide variety of backgrounds, of intellectual and social interests, of cultures, and nations feel comfortable here. We know by experience how essential diversity is in the 21st century. The most creative and innovative nations are those with a vast diversity of peoples, cultures, backgrounds, thought, languages — all combining to give a nation a competitive advan-

tage. We believe that to truly be a global player — one must have a global vision. Where best to start that but during the very important study years at AIT.

In addition to diversity, President Irandoust also touched on the importance of other core values of AIT: mutual respect, valuing competences, learning how to learn, taking advantage of opportunities, sharing, working collaboratively, and commitment.

“As President of AIT, I want you to know that AIT is committed: we are committed to excellence in all that we do; we are committed to excellence in teaching, learning and research and we are committed to community, for this is what we are.”

AIT, the President concluded, will help you find the direction of that change. “For as we like to say: ‘Why not change the world?’ And so, I challenge you, change your world. Welcome to the AIT community”.

First AIT-Royal Thai Government Joint Research Public Seminar

The First AIT-Royal Thai Government (RTG) Joint-Research Public Seminar will take place on Monday 8 August 2005 from 0900 to 1700 hrs at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) to disseminate the results of joint research projects conducted between AIT and state universities in Thailand.

Altogether 31 papers will be presented in English at the seminar under three themes: Computers and Information Technologies, Technology for Living Environments and Management of Resources and Development.

Since 2002, the Royal Thai Government has granted annual funding, through the Office of the Education Council, to AIT to conduct joint research projects with state universities and research institutions in Thailand. The aim is to promote joint research and academic activities which will subsequently create possible long-term linkages between individual faculty members of AIT and our partner institutes in Thailand. These projects are also expected to serve as catalysts for further joint ventures into larger-scale research that will directly benefit Thailand and the region.

The public seminar has been organized to disseminate findings of research conducted in the FY 2002 and FY 2003 joint research to a wider public. These joint research projects are mostly in the field of technology and technology development, with the potential in a long run to benefit and enhance Thailand’s competitiveness. The audience is expected to include academicians, researchers, government officials, industrialists and potential end-users of the research outputs. Admission is free, but required advanced reservation.

The seminar was open to the public. Admission was free. More information is available at www.rtg.ait.ac.th.

AIT to Partner with Australian Universities for Dual Masters Degree Programs

AIT plans to enter into dual masters degree programs with several leading Australian universities. A recent AIT mission to Australia held fruitful discussions with the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Deakin University, University of Wollongong and the University of Sydney.

The delegation comprised Prof. Chongrak Polprasert, Dean SERD and Acting Dean SCE, Prof. Athapol Noomhorm, Food Engineering and Bioprocess Technology Field of Study, School of Environment, Resources and Development, Mr. Sanjeev Jayasinghe, Director of Promotions, and Mr. Kyaw Soe Hlaing, Alumni Relations Officer.

The mission team's goal was to promote AIT in Australia and to promote alumni relations activities with AITAA Australia Chapter. The delegation held meetings from June 20 to 28 at the Universities of



Seated (l-r): Mr. Ian H. Fraser, Academic Development Coordinator, School of Applied Sciences, RMIT Univ.; Assoc. Prof. Margaret Deighton, Program Leader- Master of Biotechnology, RMIT Univ.; Assoc. Prof. Trevor Stevenson, Project Manager Food Science, RMIT Univ. and Prof. Chongrak Polprasert, Dean SERD and Acting Dean SCE, AIT.

Standing (l-r): Assoc. Prof. Roger Hadgraft, Teaching & Learning Director, School of Civil & Chemical Engineering, RMIT Univ.; Mr. Damian Barry, Manager, University Business Development, RMIT Univ.; Prof. Peter J. Coloe, Head of School of Applied Sciences, RMIT Univ.; Mr. Sanjeev Jayasinghe, Director of Promotions, AIT and Prof. Athapol Noomhorm, FEBS/SERD, AIT.

Melbourne, Geelong, Wollongong and Sydney as well as with the AITAA Australia Chapter.

On 20 June, the AIT delegation held a meeting with Prof. Peter Coloe, Head of the School of Applied Sciences at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) and senior RMIT officials at its City Campus in Melbourne.

At the meeting, discus-

sions focused on the two institutes launching a dual masters degrees program. This would initially be in two fields – food engineering and bioprocess technology. Students in the program would spend their first year doing coursework at one of the partners, and move to the other partner for further course work and research.

The masters program would be carried out on a



(l-r): Mr. Kyaw Soe Hlaing, Alumni Relations Officer, AIT; Dr. Sithamparappillai Jeyaseelan, Senior Lecturer, Deakin Univ.; Mr. Glen Meehan, International Marketing Manager, Deakin Univ.; Dr. Ian Collings, Director, International and Collaborative Programs, Deakin Univ.; Mr. Sanjeev Jayasinghe, Director of Promotions, AIT; Prof. Eric Meadows, Pro Vice-Chancellor (International), Deakin Univ.; Prof. Chongrak Polprasert, Dean SERD and Acting Dean SCE, AIT; Dr. Kanagaratnam Baskara (EE'88), Head of School, School of Engineering and Technology, Deakin Univ.; and Prof. Athapol Noomhorm, FEBT FoS/SERD, AIT.

fee-paying basis, with students paying the respective tuition fees to AIT and RMIT. The parties agreed to pursue a general MoU between AIT and RMIT at the institutional level, which can then be followed up by an articulation agreement at the school and field levels.

The initial goal is to recruit at least two masters students to each institute. A general MoU will be signed shortly, and an articulation agreement made by 31 August to launch student recruitment activities in Thailand, China and possibly

Vietnam in October for a January 2006 intake. In the same afternoon, Prof. Chongrak, Prof. Athapol and Mr. Hlaing visited the laboratories of the School of Applied Sciences at RMIT University's Bundoora Campus, while Mr. Jayasinghe visited the Business and International Office at City Campus. In the morning of 21 June, the AIT delegation had a round up meeting with Prof. Peter Coloe and senior officials of RMIT University and discussed a time frame for the implementation process.

In the late afternoon of 21 June, the AIT delegation visited Deakin University at the university's Toorak Campus in Melbourne. They met with Prof. Eric Meadows, Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) and senior colleagues of the university. Discussions centered on a dual masters degree program, similar to the one with RMIT, between AIT and Deakin, initially focusing on water and environmental engineering. As with RMIT, a general MoU between AIT and Deakin will be pursued at the university level and will be followed up by an articulation agreement at school and field levels.

On 21 June, an alumni dinner was hosted by Dr. Kanagaratnam Baskara (EE 1988), Head of Deakin University's School of Engineering and Technology, and attended by AIT alumni working as faculty at Deakin University's Geelong Campus.

In the morning of 22 June, the AIT delegation had a detailed discussion with Dr. Kanagaratnam Baskara (EE



(l-r): Dr. Hagare Bhimappa Dharmappa (EE'91) (Principal of Sterling College, Sydney), Senior Lecturer, Environmental Engineering, School of Civil, Mining & Environmental Engineering, UOW; Mr. Bill Damachis, International Manager, Faculties of Informatics & Engineering, UOW; Assoc. Prof. Muttucumaru Sivakumar (EV'76), Discipline Advisor (Leader) of Environmental Engineering, School of Civil, Mining and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, UOW; Prof. Rob Castle, Pro Vice Chancellor (Academic), UOW; Mr. Sanjeev Jayasinghe, Director of Promotions, AIT; Prof. Chongrak Polprasert, Dean SERD and Acting Dean SCE, AIT; Prof. Athapol Noomhorm, FEBT FoS/SERD, AIT; Mr. Anand Thakur (EV'87), President of AIT Alumni Association-Australia Chapter and Managing Director of EcoLogic Pty Ltd.

1988) and senior officials of the School of Engineering and Technology. A general MoU will be pursued by mid-September and a student recruitment road show be held by end of October for January 2006 intake. Initially the water and environmental engineering fields will be focused and will be followed up by other fields such as Mechatronics, Telecommunications etc.

On 23 June 2005, Prof.

Chris Cook, Dean of Faculty of Engineering, University of Wollongong hosted a luncheon for the AIT delegation. In the afternoon, the AIT delegation held a meeting with Professor Rob Castle, Pro Vice Chancellor (Academic) of University of Wollongong and its senior officials. Discussions focused on an AIT-UOW dual masters degree program to be implemented under the current AIT-UOW general MoU which is

valid up to 15 October 2009.

In the same afternoon, the AIT delegation held detailed discussions with Prof. Chris Cook, Dean of Faculty of Engineering, Prof. Brian Uy, Head of School of Civil, Mining and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, and senior officials of Faculty of Engineering, Deakin University. The initiative was raised by Dr. Muttucumaru Sivakumar (EV 1976), Discipline Advisor (Leader) of Environmental Engineering, School of Civil, Mining and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, UOW, and Dr. Hagare Bhimappa Dharmappa (EE 1991) Senior Lecturer, Environmental Engineering, School of Civil, Mining & Environmental Engineering, UOW. Detailed discussion focused on a dual masters degree program in environmental engineering. An articulation agreement will be followed up by the end of July or early August and student recruitment road show will take place in September an expansion to other fields such as civil engineering was also

discussed, and this could be made once the initial program has proved successful.

At the dinner hosted by Dr. Dharmappa, the AIT delegation held a meeting with Mr. Anand Thakur (EE 1987), President of AITAA Australia Chapter, and Managing Director, Ecology Pty Ltd., Mr. Bennett Bandalan Tesara (IEM 1987), former President of AITAA Australia Chapter and Project Controller, Thomson Marconi Sonar, and Ms. Shirley Rowena A. Tesara, publication editor of AITAA Australia Chapter and Senior Analyst/Programmer, Retail Strategic Business Unit, Vero Insurance Limited.

On 27 June, Mr. Jayasinghe met with Mr. Andrew Little, Executive Director of Education and Development, and Mr. Gary Greig, Director of Academic Development, Australian College of Applied Psychology. ACAP has branches in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne as well as off-shore programs in Singapore and Malaysia. ACAP is a higher education provider delivering accredited program from certificate to masters

level in counseling, psychotherapy, psychology, social sciences, people management and leadership.

Discussions focused on the possibility of ACAP conducting a program in cooperation with the AIT Extension or SOM knowing the company's good reputation in organizing a conference at AIT on leadership issues, cross-cultural management etc. Also there are possibilities for ACAP faculty who will be involved in the delivery of AIT Institute wide courses in fields such as counseling, communication, people management and leadership, and approaches to cultural diversity, etc. Further correspondence will be maintained with a view to jointly work out the programs mentioned above.

On 28 June, joined forces with founding AIT School of Management faculty Dr. Krishnamurthy Ramanathan (IEM 1979 & 1982), presently a Senior Lecturer with the School of Management at University of Western Sydney. Dr. Ramanathan set up meetings with Prof. Ross Chapman, Associate Dean (Research), College of Law

and Business, and Dr. Terry Sloan, concerning the preparation of an MoU between the UWS College of Law and Business and SOM. It was felt that a dual two-year MBA degree might be beneficial to prospective Asian students. Prof. Chapman will prepare a paper on a joint collaboration with AIT, to be presented to the Pro Vice Chancellor (International). In return, SOM will prepare the initial concept paper on the proposed dual degree program.

With the support of the Australian Education International in Bangkok, and the proactive response of the AIT Alumni Association Australian Chapter President and its Executive Committee Members the mission appears to have been a fruitful one. Special thanks go to Mr. Ian Fraser, Academic Development Coordinator, School of Applied Sciences, RMIT University, Dr Baskaran (EE 1988), Dr. S. Jeyaseelan (EE 1983), Dr. Sivakumar (EV 1976), Dr. Dharmappa (EE 1991) and Dr. Ramanathan (IEM 1979 & 1982) for their kind support during the AIT mission to Australia.

AIT Formalizes Cooperation with Shivaji University



At the MoU signing, (l-r) are: Mr. Sanjeev Jayasinghe, Director of Promotions, AIT; Dr. Nazrul Islam, Acting Dean SOM; Prof. Vilas Salokhe of SERD; Prof. M. M. Salunkhe, Vice Chancellor of Shivaji University, Kolhapur; Prof. Said Irandoust, AIT President; Prof. Chongrak Polprasert, Dean SERD and Acting Dean SCE; and Dr. Jonathan Shaw, Program Director, AIT Extension.

On 6 July 2005, AIT and Shivaji University, Kolhapur, India, established a cooperation program to develop human resource and build institutional capacity through a Memorandum of Understanding signed by Prof. Said Irandoust, AIT President, and Prof. M. M. Salunkhe, Vice Chancellor of Shivaji University (SU), Kolhapur, India.

The five-year cooperation program

will promote institutional linkage between SU and AIT, and provide a framework for higher education opportunities for staff members of SU and other avenues for possible collaboration.

The program includes Collaborative Research Programs; Student Exchange Programs; Faculty Exchange Programs; and other forms of cooperation. According to the cooperation, AIT and SU will jointly identify specific fields to conduct collaborative research programs of mutual interest and beneficial to both

institutions. SU faculty and students will further join the exchange programs. AIT and SU will share the information on each other's programs and activities as well.

Shivaji University, established in 1962, has some 200,000 students studying in 194 affiliated colleges and recognized institutes. The university offers study programs in 10 major Faculties – Arts & Fine Arts, Societal Science, Science, Commerce, Education, Law, Medicine, Ayurvedic Homeopathy Education, Engineering and Technology.

CIDA-AIT Partnership Activities



(l-r): Dr. Neth Barom, Vice Rector, RUPP; Dr. Ranjith Perera, SEA-UEMA Project Director; H.E. Dr Mok Mareth, Minister of Environment, Cambodia; Prof. ATM Nurul Amin, representing AIT; Mr. Somphone Phanousith, WEP, Lao PDR

The CIDA-AIT Partnership, through the Southeast Asia Urban Environmental Management Applications (SEA-UEMA) project, recently conducted an International Conference on Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) in Southeast Asian Cities.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and AIT have a 'contribution' agreement on urban environmental management. This is in the form of the SEA-UEMA project, which is facilitated by the

Urban Environmental Management Field of Study, and aims to improve urban environmental management (UEM) policies and good practices in the region.

The conference, held in Siem Reap from July 5 to 7, 2005, was organized in collaboration with the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP) and the Waste Econ Program (WEP) of Canada, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam. H.E. Dr. Mok Mareth, the Cambodian Minister of Environment inaugurated the Conference after Dr. Neth Barom, Vice

Rector of RUPP, had welcomed participants.

The first keynote address by Hon. Trac Thai Sieng, Vice Governor of Phnom Penh municipality, highlighted the socio-economic management and community participation aspects of ISWM. The second keynote address by Prof. C. Visvanathan of AIT focused on the mechanical-biological treatment of solid waste to enhance resource recovery and to minimize environmental impacts on the ecosystem and reduce health risks.

Over 100 people attended the conference, at which 34 papers were presented by authors from diverse domains – academia and research, environmental technology and management, and national and local governments. The issues discussed in the plenary and parallel sessions covered regional perspectives and experiences related to composting and resource recovery, energy generation, experiences from SEA countries and community



Hon. Trac Thai Sieng delivers his keynote address on Quality Environment

relation to SWM were discussed at the Conference. The conference was preceded by a Professional Training Program (PTP) on ISWM

participation.

Other issues of concern highlighted during the conference were economic and financial aspects, waste minimization, clean technology, community/municipality level solid waste management, environmental impact assessment and audit systems, standards, hazardous wastes and landfilling. As a crosscutting theme of the project, gender issues in

on July 4-5 for participants primarily involved in project activities or belonging to the project's sub-sector networks. The training program was a platform for sharing experiences and lessons learned from each of the SEA countries. More than 50 participants and resource persons including the members of host organizations attended the Training which culminated in a joint field trip

with the participants of the conference to observe SWM practice in primary school and waste facilities at the Angkor complex. All the training participants attended the conference which concluded in the early afternoon of 7 July.

The SEA-UEMA Project organized its third event, the Second Annual Sub-sector Networks Meeting, in collaboration with RUPP, its facilitating partner, on July 8. Prior to the event, a partners' consultative meeting was held to discuss strategies for networks planning. The Networks Meeting reviewed plans and strategies to expand the existing network to more focus cities and to participate in extensive action research, demonstration and pilot projects, and share lessons learned. It emphasized ways to build a wider network on water and sanitation, solid waste and air pollution. The presence of a large number of AIT alumni in the network meeting enabled a meeting of the alumni to discuss areas of cooperation for a better and improved environment in the region.



Prof. C. Visvanathan delivers his keynote address, focusing on pre-treatment of solid waste before disposal for resource recovery and reduction of environmental impacts

The Bridge Fund Initiates Collaboration with AIT

The Bridge Fund has commenced its cooperation with AIT. Three Tibetan students from China will be coming to AIT for their masters degree program on Government of France funding.

On 27 July 2005, Ms. Monica Garry, the Executive Director of The Bridge Fund, USA met with AIT President Said Irandoust. She expressed her gratitude to Dr. Yang Yi of SERD for helping to frame the selection criteria of potential applicants during their meeting in Beijing together with Ms Siv Leng Chhuor, First Secretary at the French Embassy in Beijing, China on July 8, 2005.

In the meeting, the President was joined by Prof. Chongrak Polprasert, Dean SERD and Acting Dean SCE; Dr. Yang Yi; Dr. Chen Xiaogong, SAT; and Mr. Tenzin Rabgyal, Office of the President.

The Bridge Fund (TBF) (www.bridgefund.org) is a non-profit and nonpolitical



Ms. Monica Garry, Executive Director of the Bridge Fund, and President Said Irandoust, discuss the collaboration

charitable organization registered in the State of California, USA, and as a project of the Philanthropic Collaborative, Inc. (TPC) Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Inc. (RPA) in New York, USA. The Bridge Fund was established in 1996 by a distinguished group of Asians, Americans and Europeans in response to needs expressed by Tibetan communities in China.

AIT and TBF signed an agreement in November 2004 to jointly develop projects and activities related to higher education, research, training and capacity building initiatives that would support and promote environmental conservation, sustainable economic growth and social and cultural development in the Tibetan Autonomous Prefectures and Counties in the Provinces of Gansu,



(l-r): Dr. Chen Xiaogong, Ms. Monica Garry, President Irandoust, Prof. Chongrak Polprasert and Dr. Yang Yi

Sichuan, Qinghai and Yunnan and the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) of China.

Ms. Garry's visit was also aimed at exploring further collaboration between AIT and TBF. There is a good possibility of sending more qualified students, including TBF staff, to AIT for masters degree programs and short term training courses.

Ms. Garry also visited the ACRORS building, where she was briefed by Dr. Lal Samarakoon, Director of ACRORS, and the Language Center, in order to learn about the various activities of the LC in addressing the language skills of AIT students. LC Director Matt Laszewski discussed with Ms. Garry several possibilities for assisting the Tibetan scholars in their studies at AIT. Ms. Garry later met with intERLab Director Prof. Kanchana Kanchanasut to learn more about AIT's Internet Education and Research Laboratory.

Tiger Motor Co., Ltd. Donates Electrical Car



On 30 June, Tiger Motor Co., Ltd donated Quad Elektra-s, a four-wheeled electric car (with 800Wx2 power and maximum speed of 38 km/h) to the Mechatronics field of study in the School of Advanced Technologies. The electric car, worth THB 88,000, will be used as a platform for the Intelligent Vehicle project in SAT. Tiger Motor Co., Ltd manufactures Tiger motorcycles, electrical cars, and the Chaiyo Tricycle used at the APEX summit in Bangkok.

The donation was presented by Mr. Piti Manomaiphul, Managing Director of Tiger Motor Co., Ltd. to Dr. Manukid Parnichkun of Mechatronics FoS.

The Intelligent Vehicle project is being carried out by AIT, as the project coordinator, with preliminary funding by NECTEC, and participation by 11 other universities and institutes. It involves developing an intelligent vehicle which can move by itself without a driver. Passengers need only provide the destination coordinates (latitude and longitude), and the vehicle will plan the path, navigate, and move autonomously.

AIT Welcomes Dr. Yoshitaka Kato

Dr. Yoshitaka Kato joined the School of Civil Engineering in May 2005 as a Visiting Assistant Professor for a period of two years. He is seconded to AIT by the International Center for Urban Safety Engineering, Institute of Industrial Science of the University of Tokyo, where he is an Assistant Professor, and where he also serves as Coordinator of the Regional Network Office for Urban Safety. The AIT Newsletter talked to him about his work and research experiences.



Yoshitaka Kato has something in common with Bill Gates. Like the software billionaire, he quit his studies at his country's leading university before graduating. Unlike the software mogul, Dr Kato had at least completed his bachelors degree. "While I was studying for my masters degree, I was offered a position as a Research Associate at the Construction Composite Material

Engineering Laboratory, the Institute of Industrial Science at the University of Tokyo, where I worked for five years from 1995-2000.

"My main assignment there was evaluating the durability performance of concrete structure, especially the development of the numerical simulation model of mass transportation of concrete considering spatial properties of composite materials. The modeling

helps predict the actual situation of concrete's deterioration such as the penetration of carbonation and chloride ion (salt), which causes the reinforcing bar to corrode.

Dr. Kato received his Bachelor of Engineering degree in 1994 from the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Tokyo (UT). During his undergraduate studies, he focused on concrete mate-

rial, particularly modeling of concrete's strength development. "I developed a prediction model for the development of concrete strength, based on the chemical reaction of the cement. When we set a mixed proportion of cement, we can predict the concrete compressive strength anytime. The prediction model can be used to construct the actual concrete's structure," Dr. Kato explained.

After graduation, he started his masters in the same Department at UT. But after 15 months, he opted to gain work experience instead.

Working at the Institute of Industrial Science, Dr. Kato provided technical and equipment support to 20-30 students and researchers from private companies who are members of the laboratory. Dr. Kato continued his studies in the Department of Civil Engineering and received his Ph.D. in 1999.

After he had completed



his PhD, he joined the Construction Management Division, Research Center for Land and Construction Management, National Institute for Land and Infrastructure Management. His research focus completely changed. "I had the opportunity to learn about construction management. My research team and I tried to develop how to evaluate new construction technologies to be applied in actual construction to reduce the cost and time.

"In Japan, contractors or universities try to develop new technologies for construction industry, but government officials rarely apply these new technolo-

gies for fear of danger and can't determine whether to use them or not. My research here was to evaluate and systemize how to apply these new technologies so that the govern-

ment officials can easily use them, which will improve the construction industry," Dr. Kato said.

Two years later, Dr. Kato went back to work for the Institute of Industrial Science as an Assistant Professor, teaching the course 'Diagnosis Engineering for Concrete Structures'. He also taught another course – 'Physical Chemistry of Concrete' – which he taught with his professor.

Dr. Kato's research targeted how to maintain the concrete structure – how to utilize the non-destructive test to evaluate the quality of concrete; and the deterioration of concrete structure caused by environmental

conditions. “I tried to simulate the environmental impact to the concrete structure. As the first step to simulate it, my student at the University of Tokyo tried to simulate rainfall by determining the amount of moisture on the concrete surface and the amount of water’s penetration into the concrete. In order to obtain accuracy of deterioration, we tried to do numerical simulation of the amount of the rainfall to find out how much water from rainfall can penetrate into the concrete. My research determined how much amount of the rainfall can cause corrosion and how much it can deteriorate concrete structure. Moisture content of concrete can create several deterioration factors of concrete structure such as carbonation and corrosion of the reinforcing bar,” Dr. Kato added.

At AIT, besides teaching Dr. Kato has to coordinate projects under the Regional Network Office for Urban

Safety (RNUS). He plans to concentrate his research project on the maintenance of concrete structures. “In Thailand, there are a large number of concrete structures, and some parts are already deteriorated. I would like to inspect these structures by diagnosing a system for concrete structure based on visual inspection and will start to develop such a system. Once developing the system, it will be easy to diagnose the concrete structure. Several samples of the deteriorated concrete structures will be installed into this diagnosis system so that the users can easily compare the system’s samples and actual deterioration appearance of concrete structure. I will try to develop such a system to relate the system with the actual structure in order to diagnose the actual structure. The system will be the database of deteriorated concrete structure in

Thailand”.

Dr. Kato is not new to AIT. He came here last year as a Visiting Assistant Professor for three months. At that time, he visited universities and institutes in Thailand, introducing himself and his research interests with the Thai researchers. In the coming semester, Dr. Kato will offer the course ‘Advanced Concrete Structures’.

How does he find living and working in Thailand? “I have found that everybody in Thailand is so familiar with me. They always smile at me even though they don’t know me. Their smiles are very nice. It’s very comfortable for me to be in this country, which is my first impression of Thailand. Of course, it’s a little bit too hot during the afternoon, but the rest of the day is quite convenient and comfortable for me”.

Dr. Kato said his hobby is his research, on which he is focusing himself. He also likes doing a spot of window shopping in downtown Bangkok during the weekend.

AITCV Co-sponsors Photography Exhibition in Hanoi

AITCV recently co-sponsored an exhibition of photographs in Hanoi showing the impact on successive generations of Vietnamese of defoliants such as Agent Orange and dioxin used during the war with the United States.

Seventy photographs showed the damage done by the chemical sprayed on the country to remove the vegetation cover used so effectively by the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces. The poignant photographs, taken throughout the country by Viet Nam News Agency (VNA) photographers, show the courage and determination of the victims and their families in facing up to and overcoming their adversity.

The five-day exhibition, titled 'The Pain of Agent Orange/Dioxin', was organised by VNA. VNA's deputy director, Nguyen Duy Cuong, explained the motiva-

tion behind the exhibition: "In showing their very moving images, the photographers do not intend to widen the painful legacy of the war." Instead, "Their pictures are a call for more love and support from the community. They embody a burning desire to see miracles for the victims who struggle so hard, sometimes hopelessly, day by day."

The almost 80 million liters of defoliant sprayed on Vietnam had disabled and disfigured almost 3 million people directly exposed to the chemicals. Thousands had died and thousands knew their days were numbered because of the consequential afflictions.

Former Vietnam Vice President Nguyen Thi Binh, who chairs The Viet Nam Council for Children, Viet Nam Association for Dioxin-Agent Orange Victims Vice

Chairman Nguyen Trong Nhan and child victims of Agent Orange

attended the opening. So did VNA's general director, Le Quoc Trung, who handed over to the association a donation by VNA's employees of VND 15 million.

Nhan said the exhibition would help kick-start a series of activities for Dioxin-Agent Orange Victims' Day, August 10.

The photographs show the enormous strength of many Agent Orange victims in the way they had built their lives. They had been selected from hundreds taken over many years. Donations are welcome during the exhibition.

At the opening ceremony, donors contributed a total of VND 42.5 million (US\$2,700) for the Agent Orange/dioxin victims.

Vietnam News Service

*AIT Alumna
Nominated for
the Nobel Peace
Prize 2005*



coordinators. In October, the international project team selected the 1000 women from over 2000 in 153 countries. Of the 1000 woman

Ms. Binda Pandey, an alumna of the Gender and Development Studies FoS (GDS 2002) is one of nine Nepali women among the 1000 women who have been collectively nominated as a ‘single candidate’ for the Nobel Peace Prize 2005. Ms. Pandey, who presently serves as Deputy Secretary General of the General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions, was a thesis advisee of Dr. Kyoko Kusakabe. Her thesis title was “Women Workers’ Rights in Male Dominated and Female Dominated Garment Factories: A Case Study in Nepal”.

The nomination in Nepal was announced on 29 June 2005, at a press conference jointly organized by Sancharika Samuha, Strii Sakti, Tewa and Center for Women and Politics, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Most of the nominees are working at the rural and grassroots levels, and work on the promotion of non-violent responses to conflict situations and structural injustices. Four of the nine Nepali nominees are women rights activists while Ms. Pandey is a workers’ rights activist.

During 2004, nominees were sought from across the globe with the help of 20

nominees, 157 have been nominated from the South Asian region, the highest of any region in the world. Besides the nine nominees from Nepal, there are 16 from Bangladesh, 29 from Pakistan, 12 from Sri Lanka and 91 from India.

Kamla Bhasin, one of the 20 coordinators of the “1000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize 2005” selection committee representing South Asia, said “The idea of collective nomination of women for the Nobel Prize was initiated to mark 100 years of the first woman recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, Bertha von Suttner.”

The project intends to make women's efforts visible to counter injustice, discrimination, oppression and violence. For this reason, a large variety of women's peace strategies will be documented and disseminated through text, sound, images, biographies and films.

"The documentation aims to demonstrate the diverse and creative strategies of constructive conflict management. It is expected that awarding the Nobel Peace Prize to 1,000 women will enhance the recognition and honor accorded to the efforts of women throughout the world," she concluded.

Also nominated is the Venerable Dhammananda (Dr. Chatsuman Kabilsingh), the first Thai woman ordained as a monk.

Baroness Bertha Sophie Felicita von Suttner:
nobelprize.org/peace/laureates/1905/

1000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize 2005:
www.1000peacewomen.org/

What's going on

Executive MBA Program in Human Resources Management

The School of Management (SOM), with students and faculty from 30 countries and extensive exchange programs with business schools in the USA, Europe and Asia, invites applications from candidates in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam for its Executive MBA Program in Human Resources Management.

Women in particular are encouraged to apply. Full scholarships from the Swedish International Cooperation Development Agency (Sida) are available for qualified applicants.

For more information, please go to www.som.ait.ac.th/acpr/emba_hrm/emba_hrm or contact the Program Secretariat by email (kluaymai@ait.ac.th), phone (+66-2-524-6375)

or fax (+66-2-524-5667).

Application forms can be downloaded from www.ait.ac.th/AIT/admissions/

Deadline for applications is 30 September 2005.

Completed AIT application forms must be sent to the Admissions and Scholarships Office, AIT, PO Box 4, Klong Luang, Pathum Thani 12120. Fax. (66-2) 524-6326. Email: admissions@ait.ac.th

CSIM Seminar

On Tuesday, 16 August 2005, SAT's Computer Science and Information Management Field of Study will organize a seminar on "Accelerating the Relevance Vector Machine via Data Partitioning". The seminar will be conducted by Dr. Armin Shmilovici (www.ise.bgu.ac.il/faculty/armin/) of the Faculty of Engineering Sciences at

What's going on

Ben-Gurion University in the Negev, Israel. The seminar runs from 1400 hrs in the CS Building, Room CS-209.

Abstract

The Relevance Vector Machine (RVM) is a method for training sparse generalized linear models, and its accuracy is comparable to other machine learning techniques. For a dataset of size N , the runtime complexity of the RVM is $O(N^3)$ and its space complexity is $O(N^2)$ which makes it too expensive for moderately sized problems. We suggest three different algorithms which partition the dataset into manageable chunks. Our experiments on benchmark datasets indicate that the partition algorithms can significantly reduce the complexity of the RVM while retaining the attractive attributes of the original solution.

CSIM students are

encouraged to attend.

Others are most welcome.

For further information, contact Professor Peter Haddawy (Ext. 5705)

Ninth International Conference on Inspection Appraisal Repairs & Maintenance of Structures

The 9th International Conference on Inspection Appraisal Repairs & Maintenance of Structures will be held from 19-21 October 2005 at Fuzhou University in Fuzhou, China. Organized by Central South University and Fuzhou University in China, the conference aims to provide a forum for exchange of expertise and experience among researchers, practitioners and administrators on this important subject in today's highly urbanized world.

Some of the topics to be presented at the conference are: inspection, testing and

appraisal methods for structures; structural/bridge health monitoring and system identification; application of smart materials and control systems; damage detection and protection for damaged/deteriorated structures; condition monitoring, destructive and nondestructive evaluation; seismic evaluation and retrofitting of structures; instrumentation and sensors for structural appraisal.

The registration fee is USD 425. The conference fee includes attendance at all keynote and technical sessions, a copy of the Proceedings, lunch and refreshment, and the conference kit. Participants paying the full registration fee of USD 425 will receive an invitation to the conference dinner. All fees can be made payable to CI-PREMIER PTE LTD.

Send or fax the registration form (available at PSSU

What's going on

Office) to the Conference Secretariat, CI-PREMIER PTE LTD, 150 Orchard Road #07-14, Orchard Plaza, Singapore 238841.

For further information, please visit www.cipremier.com, or contact the organizers by email (cipremie@singnet.com.sg), phone (+65-6733-2922) or fax (+65-6235-3530).

Business English Courses at TU

The English Department of the Faculty of Liberal Arts at Thammasat University, Tha Prachan campus, is offering Business English Courses. There are two groups:

Group 1: From 13 September – 24 November 2005 (to be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1800-2030 hrs.)

Group 2: From 17

September – 19 November 2005 (to be held on Saturdays from 0900-1600 hrs.)

The courses offered are Listening-Speaking in Business; Brightening-Up Your English; TOEIC Preparation; International English Language Testing System (IELTS); Basic Business Correspondence; Reading in Business; English for Tourism; English for Hotel Personnel; English for Secretaries; and Translating in Business. Each course fee is between 3800-4000 Baht.

Interested persons can apply at Room 107, first floor, Liberal Arts Faculty Building. or at the Secretariat Room, English Department, first floor, English Language Center Building, Thammasat University, Tha Prachan. For further information, please phone (02-613-2651-2, 02-613-2608,

02-613-2675, 02-221-7623, 02-224-1389) or check the English Department's website (www.english.arts.tu.ac.th)

Elsevier's Free Trial Access to Scopus at AIT Library

Elsevier has recently granted AIT a free trial access to Scopus, the world's largest abstract and index database. Scopus covers articles from 14,000 peer-reviewed titles from more than 400 international publishers going back to the mid-1960s.

For more information, please go to www.library.ac.th. Click "Trial Databases" and then select Scopus.

Scopus is available to AIT community until 31 December 2005.

Chat around campus



Pictured (l-r): Dr. Pennung Warnitchai, SCE; Prof. Surapon Nitikraipot, TU Rector; AIT President Prof. Said Irandoust; Dr. Virote Boonyapinyo, Dean of Faculty of Engineering and a TU counterpart for the Wind Tunnel Laboratory; and a TU faculty colleague.



On 26 July 2005, AIT President, **Prof. Said Irandoust**, accompanied by **Dr. Pennung Warnitchai** of SCE, made a courtesy call to **Prof. Surapon Nitikraipot**, the Rector of Thammasat University, to introduce himself to AIT's prestigious

neighbor and partner. President Irandoust also met **Professor Taweep Chaisomphob**, TU Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, and Associate Professor **Dr. Siriporn Khampalikit**, Vice-Rector, General Administration, discussing future collaboration between AIT and TU.

Prof. Surapon then led the AIT President on a tour of TU campus which ended at the Wind Tunnel Laboratory, a laboratory jointly established by AIT and TU for civil engineering research work by faculty and students from the two institutes on wind effects on bridges and structures such as long-span bridges, tall buildings, and other wind sensitive structures.

Congratulations to **Dr. Yang Yi**, Associate Professor and FoS Coordinator for Aquaculture and Aquatic Resources Management in



Dr. Yang Yi

SERD. Dr Yang has been reappointed by the Asian Fisheries Society (AFS) as a council member, and has also been newly appointed as an editorial board member of the *Asian Fisheries Science Journal*.

AFS is a professional society of aquaculture and fisheries experts, whose secretariat is based in Quezon City, Philippines. Currently, Society member-

ship comprises over 2,800 scientists (full members), primarily from Asia, as well as many persons (associates) and organizations (institutional and sustaining members) from 75 countries and territories. The society also issues a quarterly publication called *Asian Fisheries Science Journal*.

The *AIT Newsletter's* thoughts this week are with AIT Extension's **Niramol Ponvilai**, whose mother, Mrs Xaisri Chappanapongse, passed away last Friday morning. Our condolences to **Khun Taew** and her family. We would also like to express our deepest sorrow to the family of Thongchub Jitrarom, a former staff member of AIT Conference Center, who passed away on 15 July 2005. **Mrs. Thongchub** is the mother of **Khun Vanida Jitrarom**, who also works at AITCC.

