

**Remarks by
H.E. Mr. Kasit Piromya, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand
At the Adoption and Signing Ceremony of
The New Charter of the Asian Institute of Technology
Bangkok, 25 August 2010**



**Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentleman,**

Welcome to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Today, I have the honour to organize this Adoption and Signing Ceremony of the new Charter of the Asian Institute of Technology. Your presence is most appreciated.

Just over 50 years ago, the Asian Institute of Technology was established here in Thailand as the Graduate School of Engineering. Its mission was to serve as the region's leading institution of higher learning, professional training and research to support economic and social development. From the beginning, the AIT took on an international, independent and non-political character and have actively sought partners in Asia and beyond.

With the continuous support and contributions from its members, the AIT is, today, recognized as a centre of excellence research and knowledge in Southeast Asia. It continues to contribute to the region's dynamism and prosperity. Its role will be even more important as our growing economy is ever more reliant on our capacity to harness knowledge and creativity. Thailand takes great pride in being the AIT's host country, and has for more than half a century contributed to its growth and development, together with other donor countries, to serve the peoples of Asia and beyond.



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But times have changed, and the AIT needs to change as well. We realized some time ago that, for the AIT to further prosper and continue to contribute to our economic growth, the AIT has to be able to operate effectively, with the flexibility to search for and cooperate with new partners and stake-holders, and with a reach that has to be not only regional but also global.

For this reason, the AIT's Board of Trustees have decided to embark on the drafting of a new charter, one which will make the AIT a true international organization, in order to better serve the needs of its partners and stakeholders, especially the students.

The process of drafting the new Charter began over three years ago in December 2006, and concluded with the endorsement by the interested states in February last year. I wish to acknowledge, and thank, the efforts of the Working Group on Amendments of the draft new AIT Charter for preparing this final text and bringing the process to its conclusion.

**Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentleman,**

Today I am pleased to announce that the Royal Thai Government fully endorses the new Charter and will undertake necessary steps in accordance with the provisions of our Constitution in order to become a founding member of the new Charter. I am therefore attending this ceremony to adopt and sign the new Charter. This Charter will be open for signature for one year from today, and it will become effective when the fifth country deposits its instrument of ratification with the Royal Thai Government.

Now, should there be no objection to the final text of the new Charter, I declare it adopted.

**Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentleman,**

On this auspicious moment, I, on behalf of the Royal Thai Government, will sign the new AIT Charter, Thereafter, may I invite the distinguished representatives who are authorized by their Governments to affix their signatures on this Charter by country alphabetical order.

Thank you.



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