



AIT
Asian Institute of Technology



Asian Institute of Technology

ADOPTION AND SIGNING CEREMONY

THE NEW ASIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY CHARTER

Wednesday, 25 August 2010

Vites Samosorn Room
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand

SPEECH OF APPRECIATION

H.E. Dr. Tej Bunnag
Chairman of the Board



Excellency Foreign Minister

Excellencies

Members of the AIT Board of Trustees

Honored members of international organizations, and

Non-governmental organization representatives

Members of the media

Colleagues, Friends

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the entire community of the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), I would like to thank His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for hosting today's event. AIT is highly honored by the Foreign Minister's presence today, representing the Government of Thailand, at the adoption and signing ceremony of the new Charter of the AIT. The Foreign Minister has been a friend and supporter of the AIT for nearly four decades.

The new Charter of the Asian Institute of Technology is a landmark document. It renews the long trusted partnership that exists between the Institute and its stakeholders, respective governments and international organizations. This intergovernmental Charter is the product of a very laborious and challenging, but also very constructive, process of consultations and negotiations between the participating bodies over the past four years or so.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand for its able chairmanship of the Intergovernmental Working Group which started work on the new AIT Charter in 2007. Our gratitude goes also to the participating governments and international organizations for their valuable contributions to the negotiation on the text in the joint sessions which have culminated in today's historic event.

This is a highly significant development in the five decade long history of AIT. It marks another stage in the fulfillment of the dream of AIT's founding fathers. I am delighted that three of the original founders of AIT, **Thailand**, the host country, **Pakistan** and **the Philippines**, or four counting **Bangladesh** are joined today by **Cambodia**, **India**, **Japan**, **Nepal**, **Seychelles**, **Sri Lanka**, **Sweden**, **Timor Leste** and the **United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)** as the founding signatories of the new AIT Charter. Other governments and international organizations would have been able to sign today had their representatives been able to obtain full powers in time, but they will



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sign in the next few months and in the year to come and join the others in becoming stakeholders and partners in a truly international institute of higher learning serving Asia and the world.

Thank you very much.