



AIT
Asian Institute of Technology

Installation as Professor

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Prof. Pennung Warnitchai

Thank you very much Prof. Kumar, VPAA for your kind introduction.

I was instructed to give a short speech. So it will be not a long one. Do not worry.

Nearly 30 years ago, when I just finished my Master-degree study program at the University of Tokyo, I told myself that I had enough—no more academic study, no more research study. Then I returned to Thailand and worked in a construction project as a bridge engineer. It was the construction project of a long-span cable-stayed bridge in Bangkok. After spending 2 years in the project, I had learned a lot ... about construction technology, engineering practices, and project management ...and of course I enjoyed that very much. But finally I came to a surprise conclusion that “Research Study” in university is more interesting and more challenging for me.

Since that time until today, I still feel the same way.

As you all know, at AIT we all do “research”. Students, professors, research staffs, and sometimes even secretaries are forced to do research as well.

To me, the objective of ‘doing research’ is not to produce many research papers.

The main objective is to find new ideas & new understandings that will lead to ‘positive changes’ in our society, in our life.

So, making research papers is NOT the final target for me. In fact, the fun part is just beginning after that. I believe, we need to TRANSLATE our research findings into Actions or into Positive Changes.

The ‘positive changes’ could be changes in professional practices, changes in national policies, changes in regulations, changes in public understandings.

I have already spent 20 years of my career life at AIT in translating my research findings into actions. Some are quite successful, some fail. But I can assure you that it is quite fun to do so. I have received many positive feedbacks from the society. I have seen many positive changes. And I have got many supports for my research study from many sources. These make me more busy with more challenging research questions.

Some of us here may overlook this issue. The issue of "Translating Research Findings into Actions"

I am hoping that my short speech will be able to persuade you to pay more attention to this important issue.

That is all for this short speech.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.