

**Senior Research Leader Category**  
**Associate Professor Thammarat Koottatep**  
**AIT School of Environment, Resources and Development**

Assoc Prof Koottatep, is an internationally recognized authority on wastewater treatment technology and management. His major scholarly contributions includes publishing around 50 refereed international journal papers, 2 books, and 9 book chapters. He has 1 Thai patent to his credit and several pending. He jointly developed a professional master degree program in Water Technology and Management with a colleague, mentored 16 doctoral students (6 graduated). The number and value of funded projects he secured is very significant, including 56 research and training grants, and most notably, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation grants that are worth more than USD 6 million. Because of the innovative nature and the potential impacts that it would bring, this latter project on “Decentralized Wastewater Management in Developing Countries: Design, Operation and Monitoring” has attracted much media attention, local and international, which has brought visibility and fame to AIT. He has contributed significantly to capacity building in wastewater management Thailand and abroad, including capacity strengthening for policy makers. He is a member of a number of local and international professional societies, and has contributed actively to the organization of international conferences and workshops. His proposed future research on Zero net Sanitation provided by the innovative integration of solar-powered and algal-based oxidation processes in a solar septic tank offers a perfect system that could be operated off the power grid. Its effluent could be safely reused at affordable costs for users in developing countries. This significantly contributes towards optimizing the costs for installation, operation and maintenance which could eventually gain a high impact for AIT’s research. Assoc Prof Koottatep is voted the winner of the Research Leader Award on the basis of his innovative and practical approach to research, his focus, and his ability to obtain funding and implement large-scale research projects. He has also been very successful in providing extensive media exposure, global visibility, making him to be the most deserving candidate to be voted the winner of Research Leader Award.

**Junior Research Leader Category**  
**Associate Professor Kunnawee Kanitpong**  
**AIT School of Engineering and Technology**

Assoc Prof Kunnawee Kanitpong is a recognized expert on transportation engineering, focusing on road traffic safety. Her contribution to human resources development is quite significant: being the coordinator of Transport Engineering field of study, having graduated 5 doctoral and 46 master students, and currently supervising 6 doctoral and 8 master students. She has authored over 36 international journal papers. Her strength lies in her ability to secure funded projects (21 in total), and nearly all of which sponsored by government agencies, NGOs, international organizations, and companies. Additionally she serves the Thai public sector in many capacities, such as Assistant Secretary to Minister of Transport, members of several committees/ subcommittees appointed by the Thai government. She has also been serving the World Bank as a technical consultant. This indicates the industry-relevant nature of her research

and the social impact of her research and consultancy efforts. Her proposed future research on the estimation of vulnerable road users' accident costs in the ASEAN economic community by the Willingness-to-Pay Method (WTP) is a different approach from traditional ways and provides a platform for the evaluation of road safety interventions in cost – benefit analysis. With an estimation of the value of fatality risk reduction measured by what an individual is willing to pay for, reflecting both loss of income and welfare for the remainder of his/her life. This provides a novel approach to analyze and determine the cost of vulnerable road users accidents in ASEAN Countries by using the Willingness-to-Pay (WTP) combined with the Contingent Valuation (CV) approach. Assoc Prof Kunnawee Kanitpong's wider recognition of her expertise in the professional community and her superior performance in terms of social impacts derived from her research and consultancy efforts makes her to be the most deserving candidate to be voted the winner of the Young Researcher Award.