

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students

After the flood water surged and swamped the campus from that day, this very Library was 2 meter under water for 2 months and its ground floor was totally devastated. It seemed rather a hopeless situation for the AIT Community then.

However, as they say **“every crisis comes with a golden opportunity”**. If it was not because of the big flood, this AIT library would have remained as it was, like it was designed and built over 40 years ago. There would have been little chance for the library to be modernized as we have in front of us today. There would not have been a warm participation of AITians, friends and partners to present this wonderful gift to our beloved AIT, to serve its current and future generations of international students. Their enthusiastic participation reaffirmed our faith in the AIT family, and strengthened our bonding as we started working towards a common cause.

It's been my belief that the unprecedented flood in 2011 happened for a good reason, as though, to save AIT and to give AIT a golden opportunity to 'reset' itself for a new life.

Ladies and gentlemen, today we are here to witness the 'soft opening' of our Modern Library, where multimedia, digital repositories, and wonders of modern technologies and interior design converge, to create a learning space and meeting places for scholarly discussion and intellectual reflection. We term the event today as a 'soft-opening' because we need a trial period to ensure that all the library systems work properly, as well as to complete the signage. So please kindly be patient and inform the library staff immediately if you find any omissions. The official opening of the library will be scheduled later this year.

One thing for sure, this modern library will not be possible without the overwhelming financial support of AIT's corporate partners, alumni, former faculty, present faculty, staff, students and friends, who have altogether donated over 80 million Baht in cash and kind. We are grateful for the strong support and encouragement of the International Advisory Committee, especially the Honorary Chair, HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

We should also recognize the dedication and hard work of the Campus Architect and her team, the Director of the AIT Library and her staff, the Director of Advancement and his staff, the Director of the Media and Communication Office and his staff, the ITServe Team, the Director of the External Relations, and others members of the Library Modernization Working Committee.

Finally, I sincerely hope that all members of AIT Community, especially the students, will enjoy and benefit from our Modern Library. Please take special care to keep our library clean and in good shape, so that this Modern Library can proudly serve as a show case of our campus.

As the author Elizabeth Kostova said: “It was good to walk into a library again, it smelled like home.”

Ladies and gentlemen, I now declare the AIT Library soft-opened to serve you all. Welcome home!