ZANTEWSTETTER

Asian Institute of Technology

AUGUST 2018





AIT-TIGER LEONG CAMP EMERGES AS A PREMIER CAMP FOR YOUNG LEADERS

From a small group of students drawn from Southeast Asia to students from 13 countries ranging from Russia and Kyrgyz Republic to China and India, the AIT-Tiger Leong International Innovation and Leadership Camp has now emerged as a premier camp for aspiring leaders.

"We had applicants from North and South America, and entry has become increasingly competitive," says Dr. Naveed Anwar, Executive Director of AIT Solutions. AIT President Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai who had envisioned the camp as a training ground for global leaders remarked: "AIT is a neutral platform, and we seek to produce global leaders." We work on issues that no single country can solve on its own, he said, adding that participants should utilize this opportunity to create friendships and networks from all over the globe.

Twenty-seven participants who attended the third iteration of the camp came from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyz Republic, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Russia, Thailand and Viet Nam. The camp was held from 16-26 July 2018.

See also Page 4, 5 >>



INSIDE...

Recent News / Happenings at AIT	2, 4
People / Seminars / Workshops	3
Photo Gallery	5
Backpage	6

50 Scholarships from Thailand's Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives



The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of the Royal Thai Government has announced the launch of a new scholarship program for its employees to pursue Master's and Doctoral programs at AIT. Fifty employees (25 each for Master's and Doctoral students) will be granted scholarships over the next five years (2018-2022).

The official announcement was made following the meeting of the Thai cabinet on 3 July 2018. Col. Athisith Chainuwat, Assistant Spokesperson of the Office of the Prime Minister, stated that the scholarships will be awarded for studies in engineering, environment, and management. A sum of 61.80 million Baht has been allocated for a period of five years. Scholarship recipients will have to return to work in the Ministry following their education.

AIT hosts Asia Region meeting of International Association for the Study of the Commons



(From left): Prof. Ganesh Shivakoti, Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai, and Prof. John Pulhin of the University of the Philippines.

AIT hosted the International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC) Asian Region meeting from 13-16 July 2018, where leading academics and practitioners deliberated on issues related to governance of key natural resources.

"The Asia Region biennial

meeting is being held after a gap of 14 years, and after the first meeting in Chiang Mai (Thailand) in 2004, it is AIT that is now hosting the second meeting," said Prof. Ganesh Shivakoti, Director of the Ostrom Center for the Advanced Study of Natural Resources Governance (OCeAN), which is hosted at AIT's School of Environment, Resources and Development. Speaking at the inaugural meeting, Prof. Shivakoti reminisced the contributions of Nobel laureate late Elinor Ostrom, after whom the OCeAN Center is named.

Agreement with Green Technology Center, Korea



Dr. In-Hwan Oh and Dr. Shobhakar Dhakal.

AIT has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Green Technology Center Korea (GTC-K). Signed by GTC-K President Dr. In-Hwan Oh and AIT President, Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai, the agreement exchange ceremony took

place during the meeting of the Global Advisory Board of GTC-K in Seoul on 18 July 2018.

AIT was represented by Dr. Shobhakar Dhakal, Head, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change, School of Environment, Development, and Resources, AIT. Issues deliberated at the meet included strategies to cooperate with organizations like Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), Green Climate Fund (GCF), Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), and AIT.

AIT alumna appointed new IEAT Governor



AIT alumna, Dr. Somchint Pilouk, who received Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Engineering and Management in 2017, has been appointed the new Governor of the Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (IEAT). She replaces Dr. Veerapong Chaiperm, who is also an AIT alumnus.

The appointment is reflective of the stellar achievements of AIT alumni, where an outgoing AIT alumnus has been succeeded by another AIT graduate. Dr. Somchint, who also delivered the outstanding graduate message on behalf of doctoral students during the December 2017 graduation, was previously serving as Deputy Governor (Special Project), IEAT.

AIT alumnus appointed Governor, PWA



AIT alumnus Nopparat Maythaveekulchai has been appointed Governor of Provincial Waterworks Authority (PWA) of Thailand. His appointment was approved by the Thai Cabinet in its meeting on 24 July 2018. He will be the 14th Governor of PWA.

He has earlier served in numerous serious positions in Thailand including as President, Thailand Convention & Exhibition Bureau (TCEB). A graduate in Electrical Engineering, he completed his International Executive MBA Program from AIT in 2003.

Naoya Tsukamoto joins as Director, RRC.AP



Mr. Naoya Tsukamoto has joined as the new Director of the Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRC.AP) at AIT. He succeeds Mr. Osamu Mizuno, who has completed his tenure.

Mr. Tsukamoto obtained his B.Sc. at University of Tokyo, and M.Sc. in Environmental Engineering at Johns Hopkins University. Prior to joining AIT, he was serving at the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS).

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS



NRM Mini Workshop on Google Earth Engine and Drone Applications

9 July 2018



Seminar on Achievement of Sustainable Production: SDG Perspective

Dr. Farhad Zulfiqar

12 July 2018



Special Seminar: Zhejiang University, PRC

23 July 2018

Two hundred participants throng Free Open Source Software for Geoinfomatics Thailand 2018

Over two hundred participants thronged the Free Open Source Software for GeoInfomatics (FOSS4G) Thailand 2018 organized at AIT on 23-24 July 2018, where participants were exposed to the latest software as well as solutions in the field of Geoinformatics and Geospatial applications.

Dr. Sarawut Ninsawat of Remote Sensing and Geographical Information Systems, AIT, spoke about the evolution of FOSS4G, and narrated the advantages and challenges faced by practitioners. The four freedoms — freedom to run any software program for any purpose, the freedom to study and adapt the software, the freedom to distribute, and the freedom to improve programs and release your own versions are key elements in FOSS4G, Dr. Sarawut added.



Participants try a virtual reality headset at FOSS4G.

20 teams pitch their ideas at Innovative Market Place

Twenty student teams pitched their ideas before experts at Innovative Market Place — an idea competition organized by AIT Solutions. "The contest is aimed at harnessing creative ideas that can provide innovative solutions to global issues by using green and clean technologies, particularly those that have not yet been commercialized," remarked Dr. Naveed Anwar, Executive Director of

AIT Solutions. Supported by Dr. Bindu N. Lohani, Member, AIT Board of Trustees and Former Vice-President, Asian Development Bank, the contest saw 20 teams compete against each other.

Ideas were sought under four thematic areas — waste management (reduction/recycling), safer built environment, climate change, and smart cities.



Idea Competition at AIT.



Prize winners of Innovative Market Place.

AIT-Tiger Leong International Innovation & Leadership Camp 16-26 July 2018



Innovative Market Place: Idea Competition 25-26 July 2018



AUGUST 2018 www.ait.as

Maiden batch of Kurita Scholars return after internship

The first batch of three Kurita scholars, Ms. Oum Somaly, Mr. Raksmey Ang, and Mr. Nandana Hewawasage Sajith Madhawa Premarathna returned to AIT after their week-long internship with Kurita in Japan. This is a part of the Kurita Water and Environment Foundation (KWEF) scholarship program, where KWEF has granted three full scholarships to students to pursue a Master's degree program at AIT.

While Madhawa, who is from Sri Lanka, studies in Environmental Engineering and Management (EEM), Oum from Cambodia is pursuing her Master's in Natural Resources Management. Raksmey, who is studying Water Engineering and Management (WEM), is from Cambodia. All three students had an opportunity to meet with Mr. Toshiyuki Nakai, President of Kurita Water and Environment Foundation.



Mr. Nandana Hewawasage Sajith Madhawa Premarathna, Ms. Oum Somaly, and Mr. Raksmey Ang.

COMING UP!
Orientation

Blast from the Past



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