



## 292 STUDENTS FROM 21 COUNTRIES HONORED IN AIT'S 130TH GRADUATION CEREMONY

Two-hundred and ninety-two students from 21 countries were awarded degrees and diplomas on the successful completion of their academic programs. The latest batch of graduates included students from Asia, Africa, Europe, Oceania, and North America.

India provided the largest cohort of graduates (61), followed by Myanmar and Thailand (53 each), Viet Nam (41), and Sri Lanka (21). One student each from Malawi and Spain represented award recipients from Africa and Europe respectively, while two students from Fiji and one from the United States represented Oceania and North America.



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## GRADUATION SPEECHES



AIT President **Dr. Eden Y. Woon** reminisced about his own student days, stating that Graduation days were some of the happiest moments of his life. “You will carry memories and knowledge from AIT as you join over 23,000 fellow graduates scattered all over the world, but you must keep on learning and remain curious,” Dr. Woon said. “Always ask why. Never take an answer from someone who says that is the way we have always done it. Always ask if things can be done better,” President Woon stressed. “In addition to the friendships, knowledge, and curiosity you take away from AIT, I hope you will take with you a sense of right and wrong, a sense of integrity,” President Woon said.



Delivering the Graduation Address, **Prof. Timothy W. Tong**, President, Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) stated that in light of complex global issues such as climate change, endemics, energy security, and other challenges that transcend national boundaries, universities are being called upon to be more socially relevant and responsible by nurturing students who will make positive changes to society. “Like AIT, we believe that it is our responsibility to undertake impactful research projects and create products and add practical value so that we can help improve lives,” he added.



The message by a Prominent Alumnus was delivered by **Dr. Marrut Manistitya**, Head of B2B, IT, and Mobile – Thailand & Indochina, Thai Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd., who outlined his journey from being an economist who studied engineering for his master’s to earning a doctorate in management. Exhorting students to question more, Dr. Marrut remarked: “My recipe is always to begin by asking Why?” Once this is settled, proceed to When, How, and What,” he said. Speaking about the arrival of disruptive technologies, Dr. Marrut asked students to create opportunities based on their vision and beliefs.



**Dr. Rehan Ul-Haque** of the Department of Development and Sustainability, School of Environment, Resources and Development, who delivered the Graduation Speech on behalf of all students, stressed that there is a time when a person morphs from student to individual, and how from a dreamer, that person becomes an achiever. Dr. Rehan quoted the philosopher Lao Tzu, who said: “When a student is ready, a teacher will appear.” When students entered AIT, teachers appeared, and today when they graduate, it is time to recall Lao Tzu’s second quote: “When a student is truly ready, the teacher will disappear.” Stating that AIT is a place that has much more than theses to offer, he asked fellow graduates to throw all bowlines, sail away from safe harbours, and explore their dreams.

## AIT 130th Graduation: 14 December 2018



## Royal Audience for President Woon

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn granted a royal audience to AIT President Dr. Eden Y Woon at the Sra Pathum Palace on 22 December 2018. President Woon informed the Princess about his assumption of responsibilities as the ninth president of AIT and his vision for the Institute going forward. He also reported on the Institute's forthcoming sixtieth-anniversary celebrations.

President Woon was accompanied by Mrs. Chalita Lertwinyu, Director of Office of Host Country Relations, AIT. Also accompanying them was Associate Prof. Dr. Khunying Sumonta Promboon, President of Chitralada Technology Institute (CDTI). Dr. Santanee Phasuk, Vice President of CDTI, Assistant Prof. Buarong Lewchalermwongse, Assistant to the President, and Assistant Prof. Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn, Former Dean, Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University. HRH Princess Sirindhorn also graciously hosted a luncheon for President Woon and the group.

The Princess and President Woon also discussed the impending



HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn (left) with Dr. Eden Y Woon (right).

ing cooperation between AIT and CDTI. The two institutes have just signed an MOU and are initiating cooperation in the fields of education as well as rural development. AIT will be working with CDTI to help develop human resources for CDTI. The two plan to expand their networks in Thailand as well as with other countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-region and globally beyond.

## Students Receive Certificates from Princess Sirindhorn

Forty-one AIT students were honored with a royal audience on 28 December 2018, when they receive a certificate from Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. They included recipients of the His Majesty King's Scholarships, Her Majesty Queen's Scholarships and Loom Nam Khong Pijai (GMS) Scholarships.

Twenty students from Thailand, 10 from Myanmar, five from Nepal, and one each from Afghanistan, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka went to Chitralada Palace to receive the certificates.



Recipients of the HM King's Scholarships (top), HM Queen's Scholarships and Loom Nam Khong Pijai (GMS) Scholarships pose at AIT Clock Tower

## MoU with Chitralada Technology Institute



Dr. Eden Woon (left) and Dr. Khunying Sumonta Promboon.

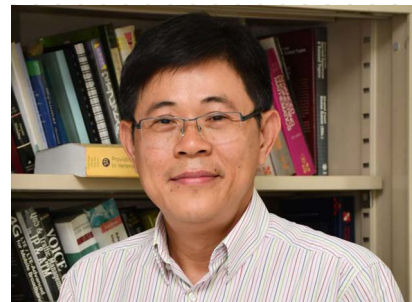
AIT has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Chitralada Technology Institute (CDTI) to promote research collaboration in the field of smart community, agriculture, environment, artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, and data analytics.

The MoU was signed by AIT President Dr. Eden Y Woon and Dr. Khunying Sumonta Promboon, President CDTI on 19 December 2018. AIT was represented by President Woon, Prof. Weerakorn Ongsakul, and Ms. Chalita Lertwinyu.

## Dr. Teerapat Sanguankotchakorn Appointed Member of Board of Governors of ThaiPBS

Dr. Teerapat Sanguankotchakorn has been appointed as a Member, Board of Governors of Thai Public Broadcasting Service (ThaiPBS).

A faculty member in the Department of Information and Communication Technology, at AIT's School of Engineering and Technology, Dr. Teerapat's appointment was officially announced in the Thai Royal Gazette on 13 December 2018. Established in 2008, The Thai Public Broadcasting Service, popularly known as Thai PBS, was Thailand's first public TV broadcaster. The Board of Governors is a policy-making body that lays out the strategic direction of Thai PBS and oversees its operations.



*Dr. Teerapat Sanguankotchakorn*

## Dr. Loc Thai Nguyen Promoted to the Rank of Associate Professor

Dr. Loc Thai Nguyen of School of Environment, Resources and Development has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor. His elevation was announced by President Dr. Eden Y Woon following the recommendations of the Faculty Evaluation Panel (FEP) and the SERD Professorial Board.

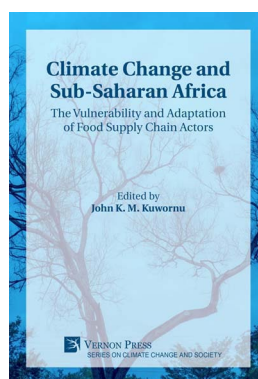
Dr. Loc Thai Nguyen joined AIT as an Assistant Professor in July 2014. His research encompasses the areas of non-thermal food processing technologies, mathematical modeling of foods and food processes, chemical sensors and biosensors for food safety application, and food waste recycling and utilization.



*Dr. Loc Thai Nguyen*

## Book on Climate Change and Sub-Saharan Africa

A book edited by AIT faculty member Dr. John K. M. Kuwornu titled "Climate Change and Sub-Saharan Africa: The Vulnerability and Adaptation of Food Supply Chain Actors" has been released. The publication addresses the issue of vulnerability, food supply chain, climate change and variability, adaptation strategies and resilience, finance options and the role of governmental support and international organizations. Published by Vernon Press, the 382-page publication is targeted towards students, lecturers, researchers, agribusinesses, marketing firms, agricultural institutions, climate change adaptation institutions, policymakers, and many others with an interest in agricultural development and the global food industry.



## Seminars and Conferences



**Asian  
Aquaculture**  
3-6 December  
2018



**Training:  
Disaster Risk  
Management  
and Governance**  
*Officials from  
Busia County,  
Kenya*  
7-14 December  
2018

## AIT Hosts International Cricket Matches for ICC

The AIT cricket grounds once again hosted an international cricket tournament with six teams playing seven matches under the Under-19 Cricket World Cup tournament organized by the International Cricket Council (ICC). From 7-17 December 2018, the lush AIT cricket grounds hosted teams from Bhutan, Hong Kong, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Thailand, reaffirming the status of AIT as a top venue for ICC matches in Thailand.



The Under-19 tournament is held every two years, and the cities of Bangkok and Chiang Mai were the venues for the 2018 edition of the tournament held in Thailand. Only two playgrounds in Bangkok, the Terdthai Cricket Ground and AIT were selected to hold cricket matches.

**COMING UP!**  
**AIT**  
**Orientation**  
**4 January 2019**

## AIT Blood Donation: 4 December 2018



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