



## 4 LESSONS FOR GRADUATES FROM DISTINGUISHED 60TH ANNIVERSARY GRADUATION SPEAKER

***Be ready when an opportunity presents itself. Take calculated risks, especially when you are still young. Know thyself and have a vision. Finally, be a leader, not a follower.*** These four lessons were offered by Prof. Tony F. Chan, President of the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), Saudi Arabia, at the 131st graduation of AIT held on 17 May 2019. Offering lessons based on his personal experiences, when he, as a student opted for the newly emerging field of computer sciences, Prof. Chan quoted the example of Jeff Bezos who left a lucrative Wall Street job to start Amazon.

Prof. Chan highlighted four significant changes in the operating environment of universities: globalization, changing expectations, technological disruption, and the emergence of innovation and entrepreneurship.

Universities will have to chart their own individual course in order to respond to these challenges, Prof. Chan said, as

he enumerated four possible ways of responding: devising a global and international strategy, creating a balance between its long-term mission of creating knowledge and short-term societal expectations, encouraging technology and knowledge transfer, and creating an environment conducive to innovation and nurturing talent. “The case in point for AIT, in particular, is that Thailand and much of Southeast Asia are on China’s Belt and Road. How will it leverage this initiative?” Prof. Chan remarked.

Congratulating graduates, President Dr. Eden Y. Woon stated that the motto of the Institute’s sixtieth-anniversary is “Transforming AIT.” Exhorting students to embark on a path of lifelong learning and transformation, Dr. Woon stated that “any living organization or human being must transform or face irrelevance. In the same way, you have to constantly learn and transform yourselves,” just as AIT realized that if you do not continuously renew yourself, you will soon become irrelevant, Dr. Woon said.

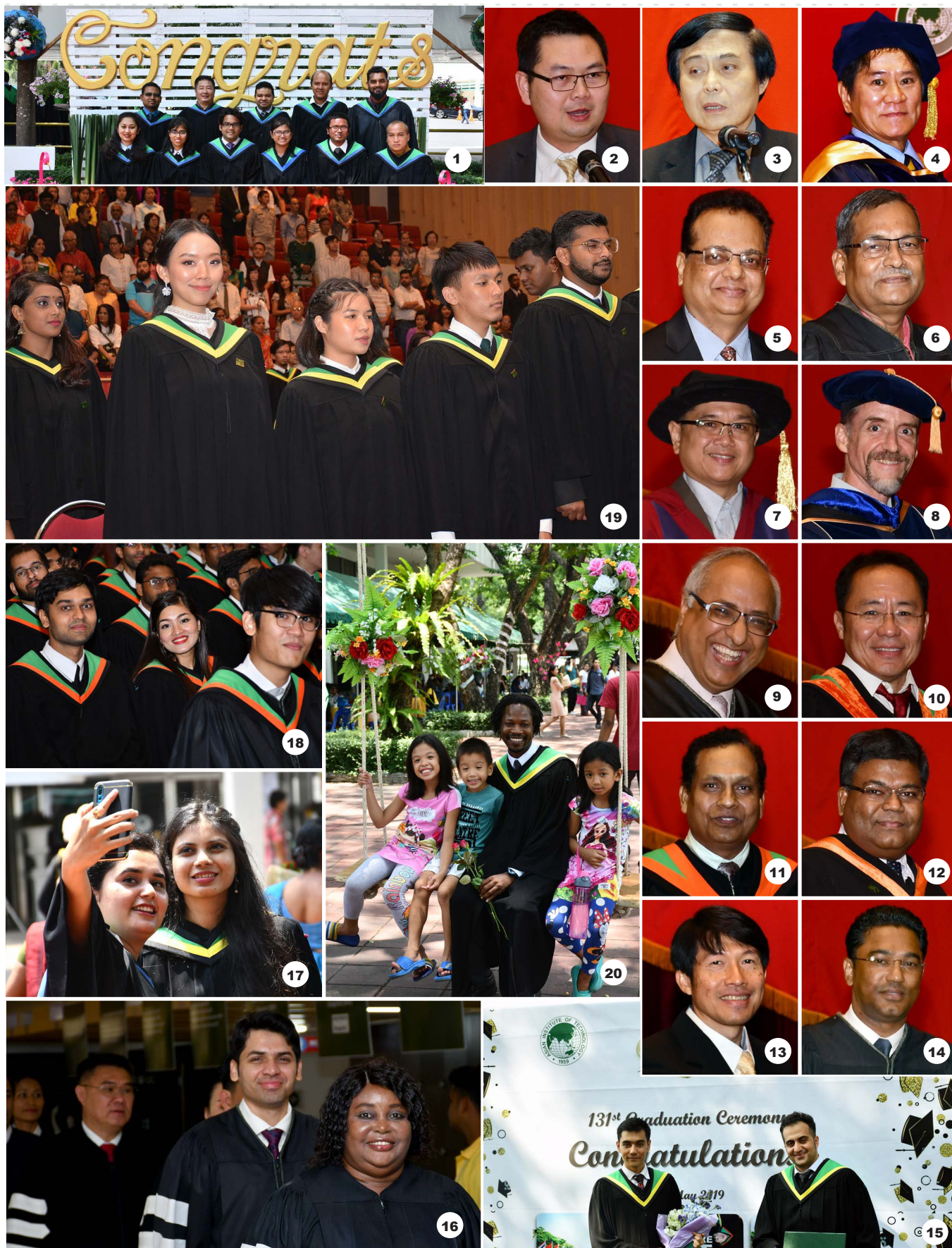


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## 408 Students from 27 Countries Spanning 5 Continents Graduate



1, 15-19 Scenes from AIT's Graduation, 2. Dr. Torsak Lertsrisakulrat 3. Mr. Sanchai Thiewprasertkul 4. Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai 5. Prof. Ajit P. Annachhatre 6. Prof. Jayant Kumar Routray 7. Prof. Bonaventura H. W. Hadikusumo 8. Prof. Matthew N. Dailey 9. Prof. Shobhakar Dhakal 10. Prof. Thammarat Koottatep 11. Prof. Mukand Singh Babel 12. Dr. P. Abdul Salam 13. Prof. Manukid Parnichkun, 14. Dr. Sangam Shrestha



## AIT Scales Up to the Next Level of Knowledge Management with the Launch of AIT Share

AIT is scaling up to the next level in knowledge sharing with the launch of AIT Share, an e-Learning platform aimed at educators, executives, students, or anyone interested in furthering their knowledge. The new platform, which comes with the slogan “Knowledge Worth Sharing,” allows participants to acquire new knowledge, improve their skills, take certificate courses, and obtain professional masters-level degrees.

Recounting the AIT Share journey was Dr. Naveed Anwar, AIT's Vice President for Knowledge Management, who spearheaded the initiative. “We began by creating an offline learning platform for the Ministry of Construction in Myanmar, where we offered e-courses and merged these with classroom-based instruction,” Dr. Naveed revealed. “This hybrid model was then replicated for the Sri Lanka Ports Authority, and over time, we created the fully-fledged knowledge portal that is being launched today,” he added. During this time, AIT Solutions, which was previously headed by Dr. Naveed, also created a Knowledge Lab as well as the AIT Smart Learning Lab.



From left: Dr. Naveed Anwar; Dr. Subin Pinkayan, and Dr. Eden Y Woon launching AIT Share.

AIT Share was jointly inaugurated on 24 May 2019 by Dr. Subin Pinkayan, Chair of the AIT Board of Trustees, and Dr. Eden Y. Woon, President of AIT.

## SCG Collaborates with AIT to Unveil Thailand’s First Reinvented Toilet

Thailand’s first toilet, the “SCG Reinvented Toilet” has been unveiled in Bangkok. The toilet includes an integrated waste treatment system that can disinfect waste and separate liquids and solids with a 100% efficiency. Pilot units of the SCG Reinvented Toilet have been installed in a public space located right next to the Khlong Phlabphla Canal in Rama IX, Bangkok.

The SCG Reinvented Toilet was developed by Chemicals Business, SCG in collaboration with AIT in an effort to improve basic sanitation for communities and contribute to environmental sustainability. Initial development of the toilet was funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Pilot units of the toilet were installed for public use on 3 May 2019 in Bangkok. The self-contained toilet helps ensure safe waste disposal, prevents harmful pathogens from being released into rivers and reduces the spread of infectious diseases. The invention also makes it possible to recover useful resources from solid waste and use them as soil conditioners.

Cholanat Yanaranop, President of Chemicals Business, SCG, stressed that the SCG Reinvented Toilet is the product of a collaboration between Chemicals Business, SCG and AIT.



Inauguration of SCG Reinvented Toilet

## AIT Re-establishing its Brand in Europe President Visits 11 Universities

President Eden Woon this month led a two-week AIT international cooperation mission to five countries across Europe. From May 2-14, the president engaged with university leaders for bilateral cooperation at eleven distinguished universities in the United Kingdom, France, Lithuania, Estonia and Romania, signing academic cooperation agreements at four institutions, laying the groundwork for future collaboration, expanding exchange destinations for our students from Asia, and speaking at two international conferences.

Memorandums of Understanding and Academic Agreements for student and faculty exchange, workshops and training, research and double degree program cooperation were signed at France's Emlyon Business School and Skema Business School, Lithuania's Vilnius Gediminas Technical University and the University Politehnica of Bucharest in Romania.

The European cooperation mission was a catalyst to re-establish AIT internationally by actively positioning the AIT brand name on the continent and forging high-end transnational agreements. At each university, President Woon laid out his plans for dramatically increasing AIT's global imprint and injecting across-the-board innovation and entrepreneurship.

The AIT president found receptive senior-level ears to his new positioning message of "Social Impact with Innovation." European university leaders expressed collective inter-



Agreement signing with 1. Emlyon Business School, 2. Skema Business School, 3. Vilnius Gediminas Technical University and 4. University Politehnica of Bucharest.

est in his offer of direct collaboration in areas of common strength and complementary collaboration in areas where the partner university's leading-edge innovation or advanced knowledge and technology could enhance AIT's core strengths in the social impact arena in Asia.

In Glasgow, Scotland, Prof. Sir Jim McDonald, Principal and Vice Chancellor of the University of Strathclyde on May 3 welcomed President Woon and affirmed his interest to identify complementary modes of leading-edge cooperation in areas of common interest through faculty-to-faculty workshop and via the UK's Global Challenges Research Fund. Moving to England, the same held true at visits to the University of Sussex, the world-leading Institute of Development Studies (IDS), and Brunel University London.

In France, at Lyon's The Institut National des Sciences Appliquées (INSA), President Prof. Eric Maurincommé agreed to form a partnership in line with President Woon's vision. At a private meeting in Paris with Mr. Eric Labaye, President of École Polytechnique, the AIT president proposed bespoke student exchanges and experiential learning cooperation. In Tallinn, Estonia, AIT also visited TalTech and the University of Tartu. Both universities expressed a desire to formalize MOU partnerships and Erasmus+ Inter-institute agreements.

On the final leg of the journey, President Woon addressed the 7th Asia-Europe Foundation Rector's Conference held from May 11-14 in Bucharest, Romania. AIT's mission and work mirrors the current global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), he stressed.



## SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS



### Seminar on Inequality and Development in Developing Asia

Prof. Donald Low, Hong Kong University of Science & Technology (HKUST)

3 May 2019



### South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE) Summer School in Environmental and Resource Economics

5-19 May 2019



### Talk: Plastic Waste Reduction to Prevent Marine Litter

Mr. Paradorn Chulajata, Chairman of Plastic Industry Club

8 May 2019



### Special Seminar Series on Space Technology

Dr. Shinichi Nakamura, Space Tracking and Communication Center, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) Tsukuba Space Center

23-24 May 2019

## AIT Alumnus Appointed Acting Minister of Higher Education in Afghanistan



AIT alumnus Mr. Abdul Tawab Bala Karzai has been appointed Acting Minister of Higher Education in Afghanistan. Mr. Bala Karzai was a student in Water

Engineering and Management (WEM) from 2008-2010. After graduating, he joined Kandahar University where he served as Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

Before this appointment, Mr. Bala Karzai served as Deputy Minister for Academic Affairs. It is in this capacity that he visited AIT in February 2018.

## Mary Fran Myers Gender and Disaster Award to Bernadette Resurrección



The 2019 Mary Fran Myers Gender and Disaster Award has been awarded to Dr. Bernadette Resurrección, former faculty member of AIT and currently Distinguished Adjunct Faculty at AIT. Named after Mary Fran Myers, the codirector of the

Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado, the award recognizes disaster professionals who promote research on gender issues in disasters and emergency management. Dr. Bernadette Resurrección is currently working as a Senior Research Fellow with the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) Asia Center. Highlighting AIT, the award citation notes: "During her 13 years at AIT, Resurrección designed cutting-edge courses on gender, environment, and natural resource management."

## AIT Publication Presents a New Paradigm for Sanitation 4.0

A book by AIT authors posits a new paradigm for Sanitation 4.0. Focusing on regenerative sanitation and described by the authors as the next era in sanitation management, the new book by Prof. Thammarat Koottatep, Dr. Peter Emmanuel Cooley, and Prof. Chongrak Polprasert calls for a change in narrative and a rethinking of sanitation towards more progressive trajectories such as resource recovery and reuse rather than just amelioration.

Titled "Regenerative Sanitation: A New Paradigm For Sanitation 4.0," the 350-page book was published by International Water Association Publications.

While Prof. Thammarat and Prof. Chongrak serve at AIT, at the time of writing, Dr. Peter Emmanuel Cooley of the IHE Delft Institute of Water Education in the Netherlands was working in Environmental Engineering and Management at AIT.



*Prof. Chongrak Polprasert (left) and Prof. Thammarat Koottatep (right) presenting their book to Ms. Watcharin Intha, Director, AIT Library.*

## Geoinformatics Center Celebrates 20 Years



**Editor:**  
Bajinder Pal Singh  
bajinder@ait.ac.th  
**Designer:**  
Nadhika Mendhaka  
**Photos:**  
Paitoon Tinnapong  
Samphat Semathong

For feedback, contact  
Office of Public Affairs  
opa@ait.ac.th



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