

Screenshot of the Indonesia Earthquake and Tsunami Portal

AIT REACHES OUT TO INDONESIA

The Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) took the lead immediately following the 2018 Sulawesi earthquake and tsunami, with the Geoinformatics Center (GIC) assuming the role of Project Manager under the International Disaster Charter.

The satellite data generated by AIT and partner organizations was used by local governments and armed forces to conduct emergency rescue and relief operations. It also helped experts arrive at an initial

estimate of close to 5,000 buildings and structures having suffered major damage, particularly in Palu (the estimate has now passed 8,000). Emergency maps prepared by AIT and partners were widely disseminated on over 30 news portals and websites.

Additionally, a web-based GIS platform for the Sulawesi earthquake and tsunami was also created by GIC (<http://arcg.is/15uObi>), which provided satellite data and analytics as well as an assessment of damage to buildings and infrastructure along with field data.

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Annual Shunji Murai Annual Lecture Inaugurated



Prof. Shunji Murai

An annual Shunji Murai Lecture has been inaugurated by AIT. Led by the Geoinformatics Center (GIC), an event held on October 12, 2018 honored Prof. Murai for his achievements as a teacher, scientist, and researcher as well as his contributions to AIT. Dr. Manzul Hazarika, Executive Director, GIC, welcomed Prof. Murai and thanked him for the outstanding role he played in establishing the Geoinformatics Center.

Prof. Murai delivered a talk on “Recent Advances in Earthquake Predictions: A Reality Now,” in which he elaborated on advances made in the field of earthquake prediction. Prof. Murai showed that while traditional prediction methods have not been very successful, remote sensing, and particularly Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) can provide the tools needed to assist in earthquake prediction.

Prof. Pennung Warnitchai delivered a talk on “Earthquake Risk Assessment and its Reduction in the Asian Region,” while Dr. Sukit Viseshsin spoke about “Geo-Smart Cities” and Dr. Aya Yamamoto about “Recent Research and Development Activities and Solution Services in RESTEC”.

Unveiling AI and our Future Society

Dr. Qiang Yang of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) unveiled the contours of how our future society will be led by Artificial Intelligence (AI) in a talk delivered at AIT on 17 October 2018. A chair professor in the Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) Department at HKUST, Dr. Yang was the founding director of the Big Data Institute and Huawei’s Noah’s Ark Research Lab.



Dr. Qiang Yang

Dr. Yang spoke about the three key elements of AIT: high-dimensional representation (features), closed-loop algorithms, and AI infrastructure. He also interacted with students and experts in another seminar on “Advances in Transfer Learning.”

Dr. Yang, along with President Eden Y. Woon, and Prof. Matthew Dailey, Head, Department of Information and Communication Technologies, were also interviewed by the Bangkok Post (available at: <https://bit.ly/2OdvEHh>).

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Analysts advise widespread AI use

Benefits made clear for Thailand's key economic sectors in AIT lecture, writes Suchit Leesa-nguansuk

Thailand should embrace more artificial intelligence (AI) in key economic sectors such as marketing, finance and agriculture to prepare workforces for the future, experts say.

Qiang Yang, head of the computer science and engineering department at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, said AI could improve powerful computing and help people analyse big data faster and with more accuracy.

The professor was in Thailand recently for a lecture on AI held by the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT).

Mr Yang said Thailand can leverage AI in many sectors, agriculture particularly. By making satellite images, weather forecasts and applying databases to support farm zoning.

For digital marketing and advertising, AI can help locate target groups more accurately, such as finding big spenders with ample purchasing power for new luxury cars. The success of Baidu, China's largest search engine, has been attributed to the adoption of AI, he said.

AI can also sort data from online shopping and offline or physical retail shops to get insight into users.

Mr Yang said AI is also used widely in medical treatment to help diagnose patients after receiving CT scans. He said the uptake of AI in the healthcare industry may not be fast since the industry still depends largely on a human workforce that is reluctant to have machines replace them.

In fact, AIT has done brilliant work in medicine, he said, noting that Stanford University

skilled for users if people input only partial information or incomplete data. This will be vital for the legal system in the future, when AI will be ubiquitous, he said.

Mr Yang said he was working on a research project called “Federated Transfer Learning” that creates a data sharing platform that does not breach personal data protection laws or the EU’s General Data Protection Regulation. He plans to make the project open source by the end of this year.

AIT AI CENTRE IN 2019

At the same event, AIT president Eden Woon said the school is scheduled to set up an AI centre boasting advanced technologies, AI, the Internet of Things and robotics to work with local communities, non-government organisations, the government and companies to improve AIT’s scientists and engineers.

With Thailand 4.0 and FEC around the corner, the establishment of an AI centre will benefit the country, he said.

Matthew Dailey from the information communication and technology department at AIT, said AI is promising, with many applications, but Thailand still lacks the capability to adopt these technologies compared with Singapore, Japan, South Korea and China.

The AI centre is meant to help AIT collaborate with experts and other fields to solve problems and build innovative products in key areas where AIT has expertise, such as energy and smart grids, using AI to prevent system disruption and fix problems.

NEW JOB OPPORTUNITY

While AI may replace some workforces, it will eventually create new skilled workers, such as data labellers, where humans make label for objects or pictures to train machines for image recognition.

Skilled people who understand automated self-driving vehicles and insurance policies will also be required while in the security industry, well-trained security guards that can manage security cameras empowered by AI will be needed in the future.

“In the future, humans will work alongside AI, but right now there is still vagueness as to which jobs or areas should be operated by humans or machines,” said Mr Yang.

He warned that AI can be a double-edged

Inter-institutional Agreement Signed with Vilnius Gediminas Technical University

An Erasmus+ Inter-institutional Agreement has been signed by AIT and Lithuania's Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (VGTU). The partnership was formalized on October 25, 2018 during the Erasmus+ International Mobility visit by Dr. Asta Radzevičienė, Vice-Rector for Strategic Partnerships at VGTU. Dr. Radzevičienė met with senior AIT officials, including President Eden Y. Woon.

The agreement provides for cooperation in the exchange of students and staff on Erasmus+ programs. Subject areas covered under the program include economics, business and administration, management and administration, environment (building energetics), information and communication technologies, and mechanics (mechatronics in all common areas). AIT hosted Dr. Radzevičienė from October 22 to 26, during which she delivered two seminar-style lectures in the School of Management on "SMEs Internationalization: Bright Future versus Risks" and also held discussions on bilateral academic cooperation with AIT.



Dr. Eden Y. Woon (left) and Dr. Asta Radzevičienė.

Bright Future versus Risks" and also held discussions on bilateral academic cooperation with AIT.



Mr. Chawalit Tippawanich

Alumnus Appointed President and CEO

AIT alumnus Mr. Chawalit Tippawanich has been appointed President and CEO of Global Power Synergy Public Company (GPSC). He graduated from AIT with a Master's in Industrial Engineering in 1995 from the (then) School of Advanced Technologies. Mr. Chawalit was appointed to his new post on October 1, 2018. He also serves as Executive Vice President of PTT Public Company Limited.

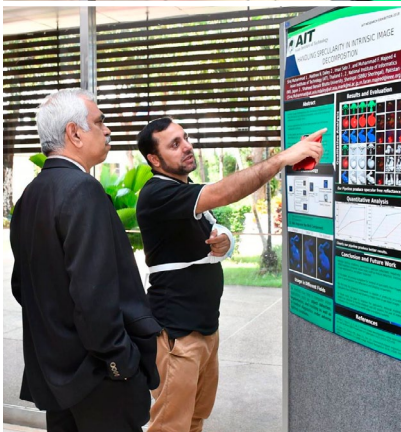


Dr. Imran Khan

Alumnus Appointed Pro-Vice Chancellor

AIT alumnus Dr. Imran Khan has been appointed Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of Engineering and Technology, Mardan, in Pakistan's Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Province. Dr. Imran Khan graduated with a Master's and Ph.D. in Telecommunications in 2007 and 2010, respectively.

AIT Career Fair and Research Exhibition



Twenty-four companies and organizations participated in the AIT Career Fair organized on 31 October 2018, with nine companies coming to AIT for the first time. Besides the Career Fair, a Students' Research Exhibition was also organized. Job interviews and internship opportunities were also available for students.



> Workshop on In-Pond Raceway System (IPRS) Technology

By US Soybean Export Council and AIT

5 October 2018



< Seminar on Geoinformatics for Relief Practice: Tham Luang Cave Rescue

By Dr. Somsak Wathanaprida, Director of Environment Geology Section, Department of Mineral Resources (Thailand), Mr. Chanist Prasetbunakul of GIS Co. Ltd., and Mr. Songkorn Siangsuebchart of GIS Co.Ltd. and PhD student at AIT

10 October 2018

> Workshop on Capacity Building & Knowledge Sharing: Climate Change Downscaling and Hydrological Modelling & Time Series Analysis of Hydroclimate and Fisheries

By Arizona State University and AIT

15 October 2018



> Conference: Gender and Aquaculture Fisheries 2018

By AIT and Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries Section (GAFS) of Asian Fisheries Society

18-21 October 2018



< Seminar on “The Future of Tourism Education”

By Dr. Thitikan Satchabut

22 October 2018



< Seminar on Development of low cost sensing technology for biological activity monitoring

By Dr. Soichiro Tsuda, Osaka University



< SmartCom 2018 -The 5th International Workshop on Smart Wireless Communications

By IEICE Technical Committee on Smart Radio (SR), IEICE Technical Committee on Radio Communication Systems (RCS), and AIT

30-31 October 2018



< Practical Approach on Erasmus + Capacity Building in Higher Education

By Dr. Andrei Szuder

30 October 2018

AIT events for Indonesian Earthquake and Tsunami victims

Two events were organized for the victims of the Indonesia earthquake and tsunami. This included an event led by the AIT Indonesian Students Association and the AIT Students' Union. Organized on 11 November, it featured a food fair, photo and video exhibition, and a musical performance. Charity football matches were held on 21 October 2018, where, despite the rains, eight teams from Bangkok and Pathum Thani competed against each other.



Meet the Students' Union Team



The new AIT Students' Union team.
This year, the SU President is Pauk Kyaing Sahn, (Back row, middle) who hails from Myanmar.

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