

## PRESIDENT WOON UNVEILS SIX STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS FOR AIT



In his inaugural address to the community, President Eden Y Woon unveiled his vision for the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) as it moves beyond 60 years. “AIT needs to be a relevant, respected, global, and well-known technological and entrepreneurial institute serving Asia and the world,” President Woon told a packed house at AIT’s Robert B. Banks Auditorium on 5 September 2018.

The maiden public speech for the AIT family after assuming the AIT Presidency on 1 September 2018 was an occasion for the President to share his strategic vision and introduce himself. Peppered with experiences of his own personal journey from the military to diplomacy, business and academia, he outlined the future trajectory for the institute.

A mathematician by training, Dr. Woon had coined an algebraic prescription for six strategic areas for AIT —  $I^2E^2S^2$  (Innovation, International, Enterprises, Entrepreneurship, Stakeholders, and Support).

While the mathematician in Dr. Woon provided a mathematical expression for AIT, his stress on engagement with the Belt and Road Initiative was based on his experience in China affairs (30 years). A stint in diplomacy (12 years), academia (22 years), and business (18 years) notwithstanding, it was his military experience (22 years) that provided the bedrock of the concluding portion of his talk. “We need a sense of pride, integrity, accountability, responsibility, and good governance. Together we can do it”, Dr. Woon concluded. More details at this link: <https://www.ait.ac.th/2018/09/president-woon-unveils-six-strategic-focus-areas-ait/>.



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## A new look Korea house is inaugurated

Korea House — the focal point of co-curricular activities and campus life at AIT has a new look. The renovated Korea House was jointly inaugurated by the Ambassador of Korea to Thailand, H.E. Mr. Noh Kwang-il and AIT President Dr. Eden Y Woon on 28 September 2018.



The landmark building was initially

opened to the public in 1982, courtesy of a donation by the Korean Traders Scholarship Foundation. Ambassador Noh Kwang-il, while inaugurating the facility expressed his de-

light at the event, and assured AIT of support for future activities and endeavours. President Woon expressed his gratitude to the embassy and the donors for their support, adding that facilities like Korea House epitomize campus life. Mr. Sanjeev Jayasinghe, Director, Office of Advancement highlighted the fundraising campaign for the Korea House renovation.

## AIT signs multi-party agreement for Smart City projects in Khon Kaen

AIT has signed a multi-party agreement with five municipalities, and the College of Local Administration of Khon Kaen University for furthering the smart city initiative of Khon Kaen city. The multi-stakeholder agreement includes the municipalities of Khon Kaen and Sila Town; and sub-district municipalities of Muang Kao, Samran, and Tha Phra.

The MoU was signed on 21 September 2018 by AIT President Dr. Eden Y Woon, Mayor of Khon Kaen Municipality Mr. Teerasak Teekayuphan, and Dean of College of Local Administration of Khon Kaen University Dr. Supawatakanorn Wongthanasu. Signatories of the MoU also include the Mayor of Sila Town Municipality, Yodying Janthanaphim; Mayor of Muang Kao sub-district municipality, Viti Tongsohit; and Mayor of Tha Phra sub-district municipality, Pisut Anutaraangkul.

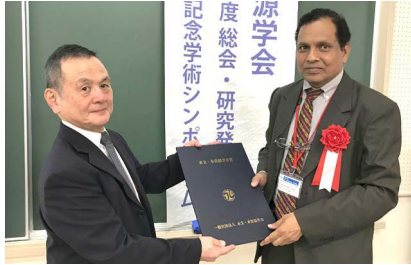
Mr. Teerasak Teekayuphan, Mayor of Khon Kaen Municipality, thanked AIT stating that it was an honor to collaborate with a renowned institution like the Asian



*Dr. Eden Y Woon (left) with Mr. Teerasak Teekayuphan.*

Institute of Technology. Welcoming the delegates, AIT President Dr. Eden Y Woon appreciated that Khon Kaen had chosen AIT as a partner. He mentioned that the MoU will hold a special place for him, since this was the first agreement that he was signing as President of AIT. The project is led by Dr. Naveed Anwar, Executive Director, AIT Solutions.

## Prof Babel honored with Japan Society of Hydrology and Water Resources International Award



Mr. Tsugihiko Watanabe (left) with Professor Mukand Singh Babel.

Professor Mukand Singh Babel of Water Engineering and Management has been honored with the Japan Society of Hydrology and Water Resources (JSHWR) International Award. He was bestowed this honor by Professor Tsugihiko Watanabe, President of JSHWR at the general assembly meeting of

the Society held on 13 September 2018 at Mie University, Tsu City, Mie, Japan.

The event coincided with the 30th anniversary of the founding of JSHWR, and concurrent with the holding of a symposium titled “Beyond 2020 - Future of Water Management, Water Business, and Water Research.”

## AIT helps create first comprehensive disaster risk database for Uttarakhand province in India



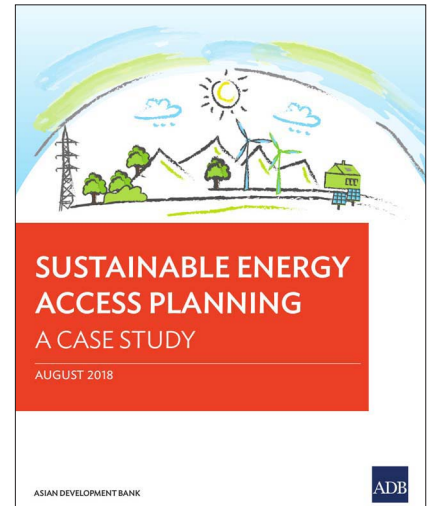
Launch of Disaster Risk Database.

A disaster risk database jointly created by AIT along with other international partners was unveiled by the Finance Minister of the Indian province of Uttarakhand Mr. Prakash Pant at an

event organized in city of Dehradun on 12 September 2018.

AIT worked with DHI (Singapore) and ERN (Mexico) to create an integrated disaster risk database that covers earthquakes, landslides, floods, and industrial disasters. The World Bank funded 'Uttarakhand Disaster Recovery Project' followed the 2013 cloudburst which caused significant loss of life and property in the province. Dr. Manzul Hazarika, Director of Geoinformatics Center, AIT, who led the efforts on behalf of AIT, stated that this was the first comprehensive disaster risk database for Uttarakhand.

## ADB publishes case study on Sustainable Energy Access Planning by Prof Ram Shrestha



A new publication by Emeritus Professor Ram M Shrestha on “Sustainable Energy Access Planning - A Case Study” has been published by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The study is focused on detailed analyses of options for providing cleaner energy access to households in Pyuthan District, one of the economically poor districts of Nepal. The case study presents a comprehensive application of the ADB’s Sustainable Energy Access Planning (SEAP) framework developed earlier under the leadership of Prof. Shrestha.

In the foreword Dr. Yongping Zhai, Chair, Energy Sector Group, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB says: “The case study demonstrates how the SEAP framework can be used by energy planners to develop strategies for providing universal energy access to households using clean energy.”

## AIT Cultural Show: September 2018



Photos Courtesy: AIT Students' Union (Niel Madav, Soe Maung Maung Oo, Mustafa Sadee Sabereen Towhid, Bishal Raj Paudyal, and Sai Venkatesh).

## PROFESSORS EMERITI

The AIT Board of Trustees, in its meeting on 30 August 2018 conferred the title of Professor Emeritus on five distinguished professors. The title Emeritus Professor is conferred on AIT full Professors on retirement after continuous distinguished service. The award of the title is conferred to those who have achieved outstanding international professional status and have made significant academic contributions to the Institute through teaching, publications and professional work.



**Professor Prinya Nutalaya**

Professor for 17 years, and faculty member for 25 years



**Professor Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai**

Professor for 29 years, and faculty member for 40 years



**Professor Jayant Kumar Routray**

Professor for 12 years, and faculty member for 29 years



**Professor Nguyen Thi Kim Oanh**

Professor for 9 years, and faculty member for 21 years



**Professor Ajit Annachatre**

Professor for 14 years, and faculty member for 24 years

## Promotions

### Professors



**Dr. Matthew N. Dailey** joined AIT as an Assistant Professor in April 2006, and he was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor in March 2012. He serves as Head, Department of In-

formation and Communication Technologies at AIT's School of Engineering and Technology.



**Dr. Thammarat Koottatep** joined AIT as an Assistant Professor in September 2002 and he was promoted to the position of Associate Professor in April 2011. He serves in the Department of Energy, Environment and

Climate Change in the School of Environment, Resources and Development.



**Dr. Noppadol Phien-Wej** joined AIT as an Assistant Professor in May 1987, and he was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor in 1992. He is affiliated with Geotechnical and Earth

Resources Engineering and Geosystem Exploration and Petroleum Geoengineering in the School of Engineering and Technology.

### Associate Professor



**Dr. Attaphongse Taparugssanagorn** joined AIT in August 2015 as an Assistant Professor, and he is affiliated with the telecommunications program in the Department of

Information and Communication Technologies in the School of Engineering and Technology.

## Seminars/ Workshops/ Conferences/ Events



Training on Developing Project Proposals for Submission to the Green Climate Fund-Vision to Concept  
**3 September**



Horizontal Learning Event on Establishing Standards for Performance Test for Decentralised Wastewater Treatments  
**3 September**



Blood Donation Camp  
**5 September**



Seminar on 'The Effects of ICT on Grocery Shopping and Travel Behavior' by Dr. Tri Basuki Joewono  
**7 September**



Conference on Innovations in Food Ingredients and Food Safety  
**12-13 September**



GeoServices-4-Sustainability (GeoS4S) Forum for Geospatial Education  
**13-14 September**



Elsevier Atlas Award For December 2017

Doctoral student Rajan Parajuli, his advisor Dr. Philippe Doneys and President Dr. Eden Y Woon were honored by Elsevier  
**28 September**

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