



From left: Dr. Eden Y Woon, Dr. Subin Pinkayan and Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai.

DR EDEN Y WOON IS THE NEW PRESIDENT OF AIT

Dr. Eden Y Woon is the new president of the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT). A formal handing over of the baton of presidency was organized on 30 August 2018 at the Robert B Banks Auditorium in the presence of the members of the AIT Board of Trustees.

Dr. Woon was introduced by the Chairman of the AIT Presidential Search Committee Dr. Anat Arbhahirama, following which he delivered his acceptance remarks. Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Subin Pinkayan welcomed Dr. Woon and thanked outgoing President Prof. Worsak for his significant contributions to the Institute.

Dr. Woon received the AIT medallion from outgoing President Prof. Worsak, an emblem that is worn by the AIT President at the Institute's graduation ceremonies.

Prof. Worsak delivered remarks on "Overview of AIT's Past and Present," while Dr. Woon presented his thoughts on "Prospects for AIT's Future."

Dr. Eden Woon thanked the selection committee chair Dr. Anat, Board Chair Dr. Subin, and all Board members for appointing him to succeed a list of distinguished presidents who have previously led this prestigious institution.



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Students from 25 countries join AIT

The August 2018 batch of students at AIT saw 400 students from 25 countries joining the Institute, with host country Thailand being the home to a little over a quarter of the students. Welcoming the students at the Orientation Day program on 3 August 2018, President Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai remarked that AIT is a gateway for students to become global citizens. While in the past, the Institute was an agency for regional development, today it has emerged as a platform for global cooperation, he said.

In the latest batch, Europe is represented by France, Germany, Finland and Lithuania, North America is represented by Canada, Africa by Morocco, and Oceania by Papua New Guinea. Students from Asia come from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Thailand Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam.



Metropolitan Electricity Authority to depute 24 students to AIT

Metropolitan Electricity Authority (MEA) of Thailand will depute 24 students to AIT to pursue higher education in the fields of energy and information and communication technologies. This will include five master's and one doctoral student every year during the next four years.

This follows the signing of an agreement between Mr. Chaiyong Puapongsakorn, MEA Governor, and Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai, President, AIT. The agreement, which was signed on 24 August 2018 at the MEA headquarters in Bangkok, provides for academic studies and research collaboration.



Mr. Chaiyong Puapongsakorn (left) and Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai.

AIT hosts Bangkok Conference on Wildlife and Forest Crimes

AIT was host to a three-day “Bangkok Conference on Science, Technology, and Innovation for Addressing Wildlife and Forest Crimes and Attaining SDGs” from 28-30 August 2018. The conference witnessed participation from leading anti-wildlife trafficking experts and law enforcers from 30 countries in Africa, South Asia and the ASEAN region.

Felicitation messages were delivered by H.E. Bidya Devi Bhandari, President of the Republic of Nepal, and H.E. Mr. Malik Amin Aslam Khan, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Pakistan. Two days of deliberations was followed by a field trip to the Khao Yai National Park, which was organized by the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation.



President of Nepal delivering a video message for the Conference.

Students honored at Kurita Scholarship Award Ceremony

Recipients of the Kurita Scholarship 2018 Award were honored at an award ceremony organized at AIT on 24 August 2018. Mr. Toshiyuki Nakai, President of the Kurita Water and Environment Foundation (KWEF) handed over award certificates to Divakar Thapaliya of Nepal, and Withanage Buddhima Sharmane Siriweera of Sri Lanka.

While Divakar is a student of Water Engineering and Management at AIT's School of Engineering and Technology (SET), Withanage is a student of Natural Resources Management in the School of Environment, Resources and Development (SERD). Nurul Per-tiwi of Indonesia, who will also join NRM, is the third recipient of the 2018 award. Awardees from 2017, Oum Somaly, Raksme-y Ang, and Nandana Hewawasage Sajith Madhawa Premarathna, also attended the event.



From left: Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai, Ms. Withanage Buddhima Sharmane Siriweera, Mr. Divakar Thapaliya, and Mr. Toshiyuki Nakai.

CSI Chair Professorship for Prof Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai

Computers and Structures Inc (CSI) has proposed the establishment of a CSI Chair at AIT for Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai. Mr. Ashraf Habibullah, CSI President and CEO, committed an annual fund of \$30,000 for an initial period of two years, but perpetually renewable to support his future professional activities and research.

Prof. Worsak stated that he intends to use the fund to continue his professional activities and research for mankind, and added that he will not draw any salary from this fund. “This will facilitate my flexible-time professional engagement with AIT. This fund will help me re-engage with my professional and academic activities, once I am relieved of administrative responsibilities,” Prof. Worsak said.



File photo. From left: Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai, Mr. Ashraf Habibullah, H.E. Mr. Asim Iftikhar Ahmad (Ambassador of Pakistan to Thailand), and Dr. Naveed Anwar (Executive Director, AIT Solutions).

Prof Joyashree Roy joins AIT as Bangabandhu Chair Professor

Prof. Joyashree Roy has joined AIT as the Bangabandhu Chair Professor. The Bangabandhu Chair on Sustainable Energy was formally inaugurated on 15 March 2018 fol-



Prof. Joyashree Roy

lowing the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between AIT and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh.

Prior to joining AIT, Prof. Roy was serving in the Department of Economics, Jadavpur University, India. A Ph.D. from Jadavpur University, she has also been an Indian Council of Social Sciences Research (ICSSR) national fellow. and a Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, USA.

IPNI Scholar Award for AIT Student

AIT student Hayat Ullah has been awarded the 2017 International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) Scholar Award. Hayat Ullah received the award certificate



Mr. Hayat Ullah (left) and Dr. Thomas Oberthür.

from Dr. Thomas Oberthür, Director, IPNI (Southeast Asia Program) at a function organized at AIT on 9 August 2018.

Conferring the award, Dr. Thomas Oberthür complimented Hayat Ullah stating that the award is highly competitive as the submissions go through a rigorous review and selection process. Elaborating on IPNI, he stated that they are a science-based organization dedicated to the responsible management of plant nutrition. The “4R” framework at IPNI suggests application of the ‘right’ amount of nutrients at the ‘right’ time, at the ‘right’ place, and from the ‘right’ source.

Appreciation Day for AIT President and Team, and the Last Lecture

Appreciation Day for AIT President Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai and his team (27 August 2018) was a mix of serious business, messages and reminiscences, the last lecture by Prof. Worsak, informal greetings, dinner, and karaoke. What was envisaged as a small party gradually grew into a larger event, with the community gathering together to create a memorable occasion.

The event also saw the outgoing president deliver his last lecture titled “AIT as I know and the disruptive world,” Prof. Worsak traced the history of AIT from its founding days, as he spoke about institutional transformations, and concluded by saying: “Business as usual is dead, University as usual is dying.”

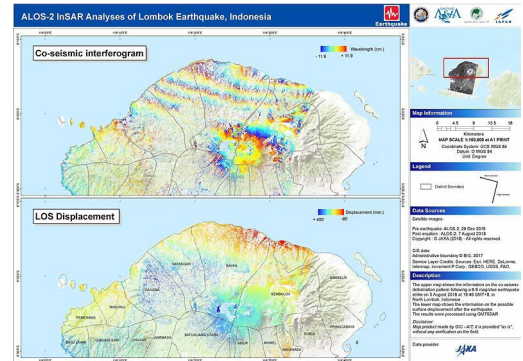


1-4 Group photographs, 5 Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai, 6 Board Chair Dr. Subin Pinkayon, 7 Executive Committee Chair Dr. Sahas Bunditkul, 8 President of AIT Alumni Association Ms. Maria Fe Nuestro Ferriols, 9 Representative of faculty members Prof. Pennung Warnitchai, 10 Executive Director of AIT Solutions, Dr. Naveed Anwar, 11 Representative of staff members Mr. Wanchai Sophonsakulrat, 12 President of AIT Students' Union Pauk Kyaing Sahn.

Disaster maps following Lombok earthquakes

The Geoinformatics Center at AIT has prepared change detection maps to help disaster rescue and relief operations following the Lombok earthquake in Indonesia. A Disaster Charter was activated on 6 August 2018 after the second earthquake of 6.9 earthquake struck the Indonesian island of Lombok.

AIT is the project manager for the Disaster Charter for Lombok, and this charter was activated after receiving a request from the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) on behalf of the National Institute of Aeronautics and Space (LAPAN), Indonesia.



Blast from the Past

Presidential Photo Gallery



Top row: Professor Thomas H. Evans*, Professor Robert Holcomb*, Professor Milton E. Bender, Jr.*, Professor Harold E. Hoelscher, Professor Robert B. Banks, and Professor Alastair M. North.

(* They served as Dean of SEATO Graduate School of Engineering. Prof. Bender was both Dean of SEATO Graduate School as well as President of AIT.

Bottom row: Professor Roger G. H. Downer, Professor Charas Suwanwela*, Professor Jean-Louis Armand, Professor Mario T. Tabucanon (#), Professor Said Irandoust, and Professor Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai.

(* Interim President (#) Acting President

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