



## CANADA KEEN TO TURN A PAGE, REJUVENATE LINKAGE WITH AIT

“Today should mark a change and a turning of a page in our relations with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT).” Stating this, Canadian Ambassador to Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos, H.E. Ms. Donica Pottie described her maiden visit to AIT on 2 June 2017 as an opportunity to catch up with the past, and work towards creating a collaboration in the future.

Stressing that Canada has enjoyed a “long-standing relationship with AIT,” the Ambassador said she was keen to explore ways in which the two can work together in the emerging global environment. “We are looking at areas to collaborate and explore things we can do to support AIT,” she remarked. There is a global rethink on development assistance, and Canada is focussing on regional programs rather than bilateral programs, she added.

Welcoming the Ambassador, AIT President Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai spoke of the deep relations that AIT had enjoyed with Canada. Thanking the Ambassador for her encouraging remarks, Prof. Worsak informed

the visiting Canadian delegation that former AIT President Prof. Roger G. H. Downer (who assumed office in August 1996) joined AIT from the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada. Canadian support led to the establishment of the Human Settlements Development (HSD) Division at AIT in 1977, as well as the development of Habitech Technology in the mid-1980s, Prof. Worsak said. He also mentioned that in 2015, support from Canada’s Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) had helped 30 Afghan students to study water resources at AIT.



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## AIT teams up with TCELS on IP management

AIT has partnered with the Thailand Center of Excellence for Life Sciences (TCELS) for technology transfer and intellectual property management. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by TCELS and AIT on 13 June 2017 by the CEO of TCELS, Dr. Nares Damrongchai, and AIT President, Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Nares stated that the partnership with AIT marks the beginning of a relationship and that TCELS hopes to work with AIT on a long-term basis. “We will partner with AIT on communication and licensing, and work closely with researchers at AIT, providing them with linkages and ensuring that more innovative projects emerge out of Thailand,” Dr. Nares said. Dr. Nares stated that the cooperation between TCELS and AIT will include support in technology transfer, licensing and commercialization. TCELS will also help in establishing a technology transfer office, and in training AIT researchers.



*From left: Dr. Nares Damrongchai, Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai and Dr. Thammarat Koottatep interacting with the media after signing the MoU.*

Prof. Worsak thanked TCELS for the initiative in providing an interface between the academia and the industry. The AIT President stated that universities and research organizations are often unable to commercialize their research work, since they tend to concentrate on basic research, and this partnership will benefit both organizations.

## Eight-Japan Engineering Consultants announces additional scholarship for AIT

Eight-Japan Engineering Consultants (E-JEC), Japan has announced the grant of a scholarship for a student to pursue a Master’s degree at AIT. The scholarship will be open to qualified appli-

cants from Myanmar, Sri Lanka or the Philippines, to study either Geotechnical Engineering or Structural Engineering.



*From left: Mr. Akira Hagiwara, Mr. Taisuke Odera, and Ms. Narumon Thongkhaw.*

This is in addition to the scholarship announced by E-JEC in 2014, which was targeted at students enrolled in either Structural Engineering or Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation and Management. Since then, one E-JEC scholarship recipient has already graduated from AIT in 2017. The new scholarship is an additional provision to the earlier Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) that was initially signed by the AIT President Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai, and E-JEC President, Mr. Yuji Kotani in September 2014.

## AIT produces dynamic emergency response maps for Sri Lanka floods

AIT's Geoinformatics Center (GIC) has prepared dynamic emergency response maps in response to the Sri Lanka floods that affected 15 districts in the island nation. The data viewer combines satellite imagery with real-life photo-

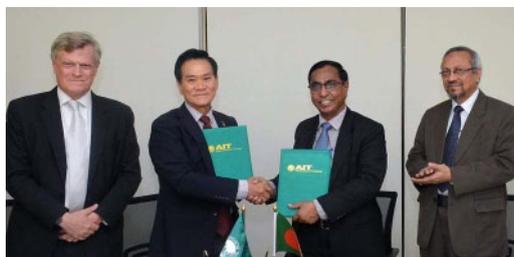
graphs and incorporates river water levels, with data on loss and fatalities to provide an overview of the extent of the floods.

While traditional disaster maps are static and are often solely based on satellite data and its interpretation, this emergency data viewer enables a more powerful and dynamic visual interpretation adding value for disaster relief and emergency responders. "Traditional maps are often restricted in their usability since they provide static information, while the combination of imagery, flood levels, and ground-level information vastly enhances the usability of this data viewer," says Dr. Manzul Kumar Hazarika, Director (Project Operations), Geoinformatics Center, AIT.



## AIT to provide customized professional training to Power Grid Company of Bangladesh

AIT will provide high-quality customized professional development courses for officers of the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Limited



From left: Dr. Jonathan Shaw, Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai, Mr. Masum Al-Beruni and Mr. Mohammed Shafiqullah.

(PGCB), focusing on capacity building of professionals in areas related to the power sector.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on 9 June 2017 between PGCB's Managing Director, Mr. Masum Al-Beruni, and AIT President, Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai, envisages an annual intake of 40-60 professionals from PGCB for various capacity building and training programs offered by AIT Extension. Mr. Al-Beruni was accompanied by Mr. Mohammed Shafiqullah, Executive Director (HRM), and Md. Zahirul Islam, Manager (Training Power and Energy). PGCB is the sole electric power transmission company in Bangladesh. Executive Director of AIT Extension, Dr. Jonathan Shaw stated that AIT will offer 4-6 courses before the end of this year.

## AIT develops river health assessment framework



Researchers at AIT have developed a community-scale framework for river health assessment to assess the health of rivers in the Mekong River Basin. The framework is being implemented in the Songkhram catchment in Northeast Thailand to assess the health of the Songkhram River.

Earlier in June 2017, the AIT team handed over river health assessment equipment to five schools in the region. Supported by the CGIAR Research Program on Water, Land and Ecosystems (WLE), the project is led by Prof. Mukand S Babel, Dr. Victor R. Shinde, Dr. Oleg Shipin, Dr. Sangam Shrestha, Ms. Anyamanee Onsomkrit, and Ms. Asali Peiris of AIT. Project partners include Thai Water Partnership and the Pollution Control Department of Thailand.

## AIT alumnus appointed Deputy Minister of Construction in Myanmar



*File photo: Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai (left) with Mr. Kyaw Linn during the signing of MoA in June 2015.*

AIT alumnus Kyaw Linn has been appointed Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Construction, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar. He was appointed on 5 June 2017. Prior to the ministerial appointment, Kyaw Linn was serving as Permanent Secretary and Head of Public Works in Myanmar, with the responsibility of construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, airfields, and buildings.

Mr. Kyaw Linn graduated with a Professional Master's in Construction Engineering and Infrastructure Management from AIT's School of Engineering & Technology (SET) in 2015. He had enrolled in the Professional Master's Program in Project Management which was delivered in Myanmar, and which is a custom-made program created for Ministry of Construction, Government of Myanmar.

Mr. Kyaw Linn has been actively engaged with AIT. In April 2015, he signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on behalf of Myanmar's Ministry of Construction for launching a one-year Professional Master's Degree Program on Project Management in Construction in Myanmar, with the aim to train Myanmar professionals to play a leading role in the international construction industry.

## Dr Sutat Weesakul appointed Director, Hydro and Agro Informatics Institute

Dr. Sutat Weesakul has been appointed Director, Hydro and Agro Informatics Institute (HAI) in the Ministry of Science and Technology, Thailand.



*Dr. Sutat Weesakul*

An affiliated faculty member in Water Engineering and Management (WEM), Dr.

Sutat is an AIT alumnus (Master's 1982, Doctorate 1987). A recipient of the Best Teaching Award (2004) for teaching the course on Coastal Zone Management, he continues to guide Master and Doctoral students at AIT. His research interests include numerical modeling, urban drainage, physical modeling, coastal engineering, and coastal zone management.

## AIT alumnus appointed Vice Chancellor

AIT alumnus Dr. Devendran Subhakar (Master's in Energy, 1983) has been appointed Vice Chancellor of Vellore Institute of Technology VIT-AP, Amravati, India. Dr. Subhakar was earlier serving as Dean of Academics and Director of Software Development at VIT, Vellore.



*Dr. Devendran Subhakar*

He has also been associated with the Agency for Non-conventional Energy and Rural Technology (AN-ERT), Thiruvananthapuram, Department of Power, Kerala, and as a scientist in Central Power Research Institute (CPRI). He completed his Ph. D. in the area of Renewable Energy (Solar Thermal) from IIT-Madras.

## GeoS4S International Summer School concludes



Fifty-one participants from 20 nationalities participated in the two-week long GeoServices-4-Sustainability (GeoS4S) international summer camp which concluded at AIT on 2 June 2017. Organized in Thailand by a consortium of 10 universities from Europe, China, and Thailand, the camp was held between 22 May-2 June 2017.

Welcoming the participants, project leaders Prof. Nitin Kumar Tripathi of AIT, and Dr. Shahnawaz of the University of Salzburg stated that the camp was designed to enhance geospatial competencies of participants. Interfaculty Department of Geoinformatics – Z\_GIS, University of Salzburg, Austria is the coordinating in-

stitution for the project, with AIT being a partner institution. Partner institutions include Palacky University, Olomouc, Czech Republic; University of Sustainable Development, Eberswalde, Germany; Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Nanjing Normal University, Nanjing, Wuhan University, Wuhan, and Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography – CAS, Urumqi from China; AIT, Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai, and King Mongkut's University of Technology, Thonburi. UNIGIS International Association and Geospatial Media and Communications in Netherlands and GeoInformatics International (Thailand) are associate partners.

## Blood Donation Camp: 8 June 2017



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# Blast from the Past

30 years ago, when AIT received the USAID and the National Research Council Award



## AIT REVIEW

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### Science and Technology for Development Award



From left, President North, US Ambassador W. Brown, Dr. Anat Arbhahirama, Dr. Chao na Sylvant, and Dr. Subin Pinkayan, at a congratulatory party held by AIT Thai alumni on August 21.

President North is photographed with Mr. Victor Rabinowitch, Director of the Committee for International Security and Arms Control, National Academy of Science.

AIT and eight other organizations were presented with special awards by USAID and the National Research Council, USA, in recognition of their significant contributions to science and technology over the past 25 years. AIT President Alastair North received the award on behalf of the Institute. He was accompanied at the award ceremony held on June 22 in Washington, D.C. by Prof. Pisidhi Karasudhi, a faculty member of the Structural Engineering and Construction Division.

In his speech, President North paid tribute to "all the people who have made the Institute what it is today. . ." In particular he cited Mr. Pote Sarasin and Dr. Milton Bender.

The presentation of the eight awards was the centerpiece of a symposium, "The Role of Science and Technology in Development," which was held to commemorate USAID's 25th anniversary.

While the awards themselves were non-monetary, they provided an important developmental benefit by encouraging continued attention to the significant role of institutions in the development process.

\* Pote Sarasin, former Secretary-General of SEATO who proposed the idea of a regional graduate school of engineering to be sponsored by SEATO. The SEATO Graduate School of Engineering was the predecessor of AIT.

\* Milton Bender, former Dean of the SEATO Graduate School of Engineering and first President of AIT.

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