



From left: H.E. Saida Muna Tasneem, Prof. Kazuo Yamamoto, and H.E. Ismat Ara Sadique.

BANGLADESH MINISTER INAUGURATES 100TH ADVANCED COURSE ON ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The 100th Advanced Course on Administration and Development (ACAD) delivered at AIT was inaugurated by the Minister of State of Public Administration, Bangladesh, H.E. Ismat Ara Sadique on 26 October 2015. Inaugurating the program, the minister stated that AIT is known as one of the best institutes, and such courses provide an opportunity to government officials and civil servants to learn and adapt to new developments.

The minister was introduced by H.E. Saida Muna Tasneem, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Thailand, who remarked that Bangladesh is the top country in

sending its civil servants to AIT for international training courses. Describing AIT Extension as the fourth pillar of AIT, the ambassador added that she has proposed a chair professorship from Bangladesh for AIT. This proposal has been approved by the Bangladesh prime minister, the ambassador added — an achievement which earned praise from the visiting minister. AIT’s Vice President for Resource Development, Prof. Kazuo Yamamoto, and Executive Director of AIT Extension, Dr. Jonathan Shaw thanked the Minister for gracing the occasion at AIT.



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AIT discusses EU-ASEAN Collaboration on Mekong Water Sustainable Cities



Discussion of EU-ASEAN collaboration.

Senior officials of the Thai government deliberated on the EU-ASEAN Collaboration on Mekong Water Sustainable Cities in an interaction with AIT on 30 October 2015. Dr. Manop Sittidech, Minister Counsellor, and Director, Office of Science and Technology, Royal Thai Embassy, Brussels, Belgium; and Dr. Pierrick Fillon-Ashida, Senior Policy Officer, Directorate for International Affairs (Asia Unit) discussed the contribution of AIT in various projects being conducted with ASEAN countries.

Deliberating on upcoming calls for projects, the two delegates spoke about EU bilateral cooperation and EU programs in the region.

AIT co hosts meeting with UNESCO-IHE on Online Course



Dr. Damir Brdjanovic

UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education and AIT discussed the modalities of developing an online course on Fecal Sludge Management at a five-day program held at Bangkok from 26-30 October 2015. The certificate online learning module will be offered to public who are interest in fundamentals of fecal sludge management with considerations of planning, design, and implementation aspects.

Leading the team were Dr. Damir Brdjanovic, Professor of Sanitary Engineering, UNESCO-IHE, Dr. Roshan Shrestha, Senior Program Officer, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Dr. Thammarat Koottatep of Environmental Engineering and Management (EEM), AIT. The five-day event included 65 participants from nine universities and institutes from Southeast Asia, South Asia, Africa and South America. A parallel event on ‘Stimulating Local Innovation on Sanitation for the Urban Poor in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia was also organized.

AIT President at OECD’s World Science and Technology Forum

AIT President Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai delivered a keynote speech on “Science Education and Human Resource Development” at the World Science and Technology Forum (WSTF), which was a prelude event to the OECD Ministerial Meeting held at Daejeon, Korea. Prof. Worsak was personally invited by H.E. Choi Yanghee, Minister of Science, ICT and Future Planning, Republic of Korea, to speak on the theme of “Creating Our Common Future through Science, Technology, and Innovation.”



Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai at WSTF.

The AIT President shared his ideas on how AIT can offer a neutral platform to address transnational challenges through multidisciplinary research. At the same event AIT’s Vice President, Prof. Kasuo Yamamoto spoke on “Mitigation and Adaptation on Frequent Drought and Water Shortage.”

AIT co hosts River and Wetland Watch Volunteering Programme



Participants at the River Volunteering Program.

AIT, World Wildlife Fund-Thailand (WWF-Thailand), and Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) jointly hosted a “River and Wetland Watch Volunteering Programme” in Nakhon Phanom Province, Thailand on 17-18 October 2015.

According to Dr Sangam Shrestha of AIT, activities included a water-quality monitoring activity of the Songkhram River, planting of mangrove forests, and presentation of a donation which will provide water tanks, water filters and computers to three local schools. The project, which is funded by HSBC, supports the conservation of the river and wetlands of Lower Songkram River Basin.

Policy Manual on Wastewater released

A “Policy Guidance Manual on Wastewater Management” was released on the occasion of the Sixth Asia Pacific Urban Forum (APUF6) at Jakarta, Indonesia on 19 October 2015. Jointly produced by UN ESCAP, UN-Habitat and AIT, the manual is an outcome of a project on “Strengthening capacity of policymakers in South-East Asia to promote policies and developing plans for improved wastewater treatment and reuse in urban and periurban areas.”

Releasing the manual was Dr. Thammarat Koottatep of AIT, along with Mr. Donovan Storey, Chief of Sustainable Urban Development Section, UN-ESCAP; Mr. Avi Sarkar, Technical Advisor, UN-Habitat; Dr. Aida Karazhanova, UN-ESCAP; Mr. Ramdeep Sah, Joint Secretary, Water and Environment Division, Ministry of Urban Development, Nepal; Mr. Kulwant Singh, Chief



Release ceremony of the Manual.

Technical Advisor United Nations Human Settlements Programme; Mr. Noupeuk Virabouth, Deputy Director General, Department of Housing and Urban Planning, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Lao PDR; and Mr. Kazushi Hashimoto, Adviser to Japan Sanitation Consortium.

Dr. Shobhakar Dhakal at plenary session of APUF6

Dr. Shobhakar Dhakal of AIT spoke at the plenary session of APUF6 on 21 October at the session on “Climate-smart and Resilient Cities.” Dr. Shobhakar discussed issues related to how cities can become more resilient, adaptive to climate change, disasters and other risks, while simultaneously reducing their own impact on climate change and contributing to larger poverty reduction and urban sustainability goals.



AIT alumnus appointed Governor of Surin province



Mr. Adthaporn Singhawichai

AIT alumnus, Mr. Adthaporn Singhawichai, has been appointed as Governor of Surin province, which is located in the North eastern region of Thailand bordering Cambodia. A graduate of Human Settlements and Development, Mr. Adthaporn completed his Master's of Science from AIT in 1987. He assumed duties as Governor from 1 October 2015.

Prior to being appointed Governor, Uttaporn served as Deputy Director General of Community Development Department in the Ministry of Interior. He has also worked as Director of the Bureau of Prevention; Director of Research and International Cooperation; Director of Policy, Prevention and Mitigation; Secretary, Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation; and Deputy Director of Defense.

AITAA (Korea Chapter) donates KRW 18,220,000



Prof. Seung-Hwan Lee (left) with Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai.

The Korea Chapter of the AIT Alumni Association (AITAA) has donated KRW 18,220,000 (~18,000 USD) towards the modernization of the AIT library. The donation was handed over by Prof. Seung-Hwan Lee (Environmental Engineering and Management, 1990) to AIT President Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai during his visit to Korea on 20 October 2015.

Prof. Worsak was accompanied by Vice President Prof. Kazuo Yamamoto, and Mr Sanjeev Jayainshe, Director, Fundraising. Among the Korean alumni that joined the event included Dr. Chang Pyung Hann (SEC' 80), Prof. Emeritus Hang-Sik Shin (Korea Seconded Faculty to AIT from 1984 to 1987), Mr. Sim Jae-Hoon (GTE' 2001), Dr. Young-Ho Lee (EE' 93), Prof. Jae Soo Shim (SEC' 80), and Dr. Gyu-Chun Kim (SEC' 86).

Capacity Building Program for Afghan Officials from Ministry of Energy and Water

AIT concluded its third batch of capacity building programs for Afghan officials from their Ministry of Energy and Water on 15 October 2015. The program run by the Water Engineering and Management (WEM) field of study at AIT saw three batches of 10 engineers, managers and professionals each learn about various aspects of irrigation projects.



Afghan participants at AIT.

The third batch was trained on "Design of Diversion Works," while the earlier batches learnt about Design of Irrigation and Drainage Structures" and "Feasibility Studies for Irrigation Projects." Led by Dr. Sangam Shrestha of AIT, the program is supported by the World Bank.

27 participants from 15 countries join Biofloc technology training

Shrimp farming which began as a traditional small-scale business in Southeast Asia has now emerged as a global industry. Aiding the rise of shrimp farming are newer technologies like Biofloc that enable production of shrimp without water exchange. Bioflocs also maintain good water quality and provide essential and high quality nutrients to shrimps.

Learning about the advances in biofloc technology were 27 participants coming from 15 countries at AIT on 12 October 2015. Launching the second program in this series, Dr. Krishna R Salin of AIT said: “We were inundated with queries when we held our first program in July this year.”



Dr. K R Salin

Ngodup Tsering of Central Tibet Administration visits AIT



Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai (left) with Mr. Ngodup Tsering.

Mr. Ngodup Tsering, Kalong for Education, Central Tibet Administration (CTA), Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh, India, visited AIT on 29 October 2015 to explore possible support in the field of academic research and training. CTA is exploring institutions in Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore for deputing their staff for training and capacity building.

He admired AIT for its vision and mission stating that “AIT is doing a great job in empowering students with solutions.” He was received at AIT by President Worsak-Kanok Nukulchai and other senior members of the AIT management.

AIT hosts Education Camp



SRMU Education Camp.

AIT played host to a two-week Education Camp and Study Tour for 19 undergraduate students and two faculty members of Shri Ramswaroop Memorial University (SRMU), Lucknow, India.

AIT President Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai welcomed the undergrads and briefed them of some of the innovative, high quality research carried out at AIT across a number of domains. Prof. Nitin Kumar Tripathi, Coordinator-Camp, and Director- Special Degree Programs, AIT, said the 14-day camp for engineering and management students was held under the theme: “Building Your Dreams by Igniting, Innovating and Inspiring.” SRMU faculty members Dr. Raj Laxmi and Mr. Anurag Agarwal said the camp inspired their students to pursue admission to AIT for further studies.

Scenes from Mini Olympics organized by AIT Student Union



Photos courtesy AIT Student Union.

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