



Dr. José Ramos-Horta (left) with AIT President Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai.

Statesmanship required on a global scale: Nobel Laureate José Ramos-Horta

After the Kyoto Protocol of 2005, the stakes at the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21) in Paris will be very high, as the aim is to reach a “universal legally binding agreement” that will enable 195 countries to combat climate change effectively and boost the transition towards resilient, low-carbon societies and economies. Stating this, Nobel laureate (1996) and former President of Timor-Leste, Dr. José Ramos-Horta, said that “new partnerships must be built between industrialized countries and emerging economies with a view to forging a strategy to address the multi-dimensional challenges we face.”

Dr. Ramos-Horta was delivering a Keynote Speech at Regional Forum on Climate Change (RFCC), which was organized by AIT, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, ASEAN Secretariat, and the European Union (EU) from 1-3 July 2015, where 400 scientists, policy makers and professionals assembled to deliberate on the theme “Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Societies: Bridging Science, Practice and Policy.”

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Paris Conference of Parties could be a turning point: Experts at RFCC



Dr. Pichet Durongkavoroj, Minister for Science and Technology, Royal Thai Government inaugurating the RFCC exhibition.

COP21 could be a turning point for humanity if countries are able to achieve a new international agreement aimed at keeping global warming below 2°C. This was the sentiment of various experts, scientists, policy makers and practitioners that had assembled at AIT for the Regional Forum on Climate Change (RFCC) held between 1-3 July 2015.



Press Conference at Embassy of France.

The Conference had 20 scientific sessions with 115 presentations, seven side events, and 400 participants from 20 countries. Besides the conference, the forum also hosted a media training program, an exhibition, poster sessions, and a press conference that was organized at the premises of the Embassy of France.

Message from RFCC to COP21

AIT President Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai read the final message from RFCC, which would serve as input for COP21 to be held in Paris this coming December. The message covered six sections, and 16 points including a final call:



Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai

"COP21 can be a turning point in history of humanity. This Forum calls for all stakeholders to work towards a successful COP21 to re-set the world towards low carbon and climate resilient development, consistent with 2° climate stabilization. We call for further strengthening the level of ambition and enhancing international support mechanisms for the post-2015 world.

As the host of this key regional event that forms a small step toward a turning point for humanity, AIT is immensely satisfied with the outcome of the Forum. For what the 400+ participants from over 20 countries have acted over the past three days, we have a very good reason to anticipate a sustainable earth for tomorrow."

Dr. Shobhakar Dhakal quoted extensively in international media



Dr. Shobhakar Dhakal

AIT climate change expert Dr. Shobhakar Dhakal was quoted extensively in the international media when he delivered the plenary keynote speech on topic of "Future of Cities" at the International Conference on "Our Common Future Under Climate Change" held at UNESCO Headquarters between 7-10 July 2015 at Paris. Attended by nearly 3,000 experts, it was the world's largest global conference on climate change before COP21. Dr Shobhakar's remarks that over 70 per cent of global emissions are caused by energy use in cities, and that some of the biggest opportunities to put the world on a different pathway may lie in fast-growing cities was highlighted by over two dozen news publications.

Dr. Osamu Mizuni takes over as Director, RRC.AP



Dr. Osamu Mizuni

Dr. Osamu Mizuni has taken over as the new Director of AIT's Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRC.AP). He assumed office on 20 July 2015 following his secondment by Japan's Ministry of Environment (MOEJ) for a three-year term. In addition to his secondment, MOEJ will fund USD 1.2 million worth in 2015 for a number of projects, including capacity building activities under the Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN), of which RRC.AP has been a core technical partner since its inception.

Prior to joining AIT, Dr. Mizuni was serving at the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UN-SGAB) based in New York City.

RRC.AP was established in 1989 as a collaboration between AIT and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

China Scholarship Council to continue cooperation with AIT

Leading a delegation of the China Scholarship Council (CSC) on a study visit to Thailand and AIT for the first time on 15 July 2015, CSC Secretary-General Dr. Liu Jinghui, said they would consider AIT's proposal for post-doctoral fellows and visiting scholars from China to conduct joint research. She also indicated a willingness to increase support for doctoral students under CSC Scholarships. CSC currently supports AIT with 10-14 scholarships each year.



Mr. Zhou Gaoyu

Mr. Zhou Gaoyu, First Secretary, Embassy of China to Thailand, Bangkok, also attended the meeting. Mr. Li Yanguang, Director, Division of International Students Affairs, CSC, and Ms. Li Xin, Deputy Director, Division of Asian and African Affairs, accompanied the secretary-general.

FAO-AIT Regional Consultation on Urban and peri-urban agriculture



From left: Prof. Sivanappan Kumar; Mr. Hiroyuki Konuma, and Prof. Jayant Kumar Routray.

Agricultural production in urban and peri-urban areas of Asia could help strengthen the future of food security and nutrition for the region's growing urban populations. This was the message that emerged from the regional consultation on "Strengthening Food and Nutrition Security of the Urban People through Urban

and Peri-Urban Agriculture" which was jointly organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO-RAP) and AIT, with support from the AIT Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation and Management (DPMM) program on 14-15 July 2015. Mr. Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative, FAO-RAP, delivered the opening address, while Prof. Sivanappan Kumar, Vice President for Academic Affairs, AIT, welcomed the international participants. Prof. Jayant Kumar Routray, Co-organizer of the Regional Consultation, introduced the program objectives, where experts from 17 countries participated.

Royal Thai Armed Forces establish landmark academic partnerships



MoU signing with MRDC (top) and National Defence Studies Institute (bottom).

AIT signed two agreements with the Royal Thai Military establishment in July 2015. The partnership with the Royal Thai Armed Forces' National Defence Studies Institute is targeted at developing research and academic programs. Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai, AIT President, and General Suraphan Wongthai, Commandant of the National Defence Studies Institute signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 23 July 2015.

The agreement with the Military Research and Development Centre (MRDC) of Thailand's Defence Science and Technology Department was signed on 29 July 2015 by Prof. Worsak and RAdm.Sahapong Kruapech RTN., Director, Military Research and Development Centre, and it seeks to develop joint research and development activities.

Agreement on RFID Technology Adaptation of Thai Gateway Projects

AIT signed an agreement with KyI Co., Ltd. of Japan for "RFID Technology Adaptation of Thai Gateway Projects". The agreement, which provides AIT with an opportunity to take the lead in the ASEAN region by being the first academic institution to securitize diplomas, degrees, and certificates, was signed on 16 July 2015 by KyI Co., Ltd. CEO Mr. Masayuki Kobayashi and AIT President Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai.



H.E. Dr. Subin Pinkayan (left) and Mr. Masayuki Kobayashi.

Notable attendees at the ceremony included, Chairman, AIT Board of Trustees, H.E. Dr. Subin Pinkayan; Vice Chairman Dr. John Nelson; AIT Board member Mr. Noritada Morita; and Ms.

Sujintana Chanyatipsakul, Permanent Secretary, Mekong Organization for Mankind (MOM).

Thai Contractors Association donate 2 Million Baht

Mr. Sangvorn Lipatapanlop, President of Thai Contractors Association, which works under H.M. The King of Thailand's Patronage, handed over a cheque of 2 Million Thai Baht to AIT President Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai for the AIT Library Modernization Campaign on 7 July 2015. Mr. Kasem Chowiwattana, Managing Director, Ch. Thavee Construction Co., Ltd., accompanied Mr. Sangvorn at the handover ceremony.



The cheque hand over ceremony at AIT.

MOU with Mexico's Universidad Juárez Autónoma De Tabasco



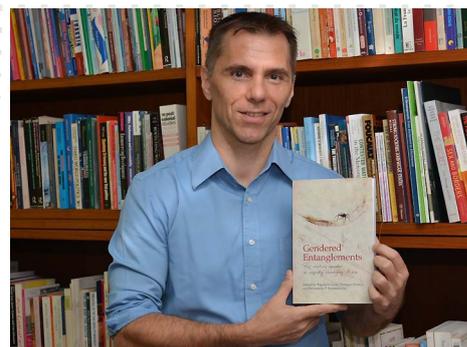
Dr. José Manuel Piña Gutiérrez

Mexico's Universidad Juárez Autónoma De Tabasco (UJAT) and AIT have signed a MoU to initiate cooperative activities in Aquaculture and Aquatic Resource Management. The MoU was signed by Dr. José Manuel Piña Gutiérrez, Rector, Universidad Juárez Autónoma De Tabasco (UJAT), Mexico, and AIT President Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai on 17 July 2015.

Dr. Philippe Doney co-edits new book

AIT Gender and Development Studies coordinator Dr. Philippe Doney has co-edited a newly published book titled 'Gendered Entanglements: Re-visiting gender in rapidly changing Asia' – covering a wide set of contemporary issues relating to gender, with a specific Asia focus.

Published in July 2015 by NIAS Press of the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS), the 13-chapter, 350-page publication featuring the work of 19 contributing authors asks if gender as a social analytic has remained true to its earlier feminist promise for emancipatory and empowering outcomes.



Dr. Philippe Doney

AIT environmental science scholars rank high on Thailand top 100 list of published authors



Prof. Mukand Singh Babel

Prof. Chettiyappan Visvanathan

AIT is home to 16 of the top 100 authors in Thailand ranked by publications produced in the field of environmental science from 2010 to 2014, according to Scopus, a leading bibliographic database owned by Elsevier. AIT has two scholars in the top five, seven in the top 20, and 13 in the first 50 list of authors.

Prof. Mukand Singh Babel of the Water Engineering and Management is placed second among all academics working in Thailand, with a total of 42 publications during the period. Prof. Chettiyappan Visvanathan, Dean, School of Environment, Resources and Development is ranked fourth, and is AIT's most cited author in the field of environmental science, earning 222 citations overall at a rate of 5.7 citations per academic paper published.

Dr. Rajendra Shrestha promoted as Professor



Pr.of. Rajendra Shrestha

Dr. Rajendra Shrestha has been promoted to the rank of a Professor, following the approval of the Board of the Trustees at its meeting held on 16 July 2015. A native of Nepal, Dr. Shrestha joined AIT in 2003 as an Assistant Professor in the Natural Resource Management (NRM) field of study at the AIT School of Environment, Resources and Development (SERD).

He obtained both his Doctor of Technical Science and Master of Science degrees from AIT in 1999 and 1993, respectively. He graduated with honors from his Bachelor of Science degree program in Agriculture from Haryana Agriculture University, Hisar, India in 1984.

Dr. Sarawut Ninsawat promoted to rank of Assistant Professor



Dr. Sarawut Ninsawat

Dr. Sarawut Ninsawat has been promoted to the rank of Assistant Professor in the Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems field of study at the AIT School of Engineering and Technology (SET). A Thai national, Dr. Sarawut joined AIT as an Instructor in the School of Engineering and Technology in July 2011.

Prior to this, he was a Post-Doctoral Researcher at the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, Japan.

51 students from 10 countries graduate at Inter-Semester graduation

Fifty-one students hailing from 10 countries graduated at the informal inter-semester graduation ceremony organized on 29 July 2015. They included 14 students from Thailand, and 11 from Myanmar followed by graduates from Sri Lanka (9), Nepal (6), Bangladesh (3), Pakistan (2), PR China (2), Vietnam (2) India (1), and Spain (1).



News You Can Use

Summer camps at AIT

During the summer break, AIT hosted educational camps for students from different countries. For the fifth year in succession, undergraduate students from United Group of Institutions (UGI) in India spent a good portion of their summer break at AIT learning about high-end technology and immersing themselves in the culture and society of Thailand. It attracted 81 students and two UGI faculty members to live and learn at AIT's verdant campus for a fortnight.

Another group of 27 students from Shanghai Ocean University (SOU) also attended a three-week summer program via AIT Extension.

Coming up
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