

ANNUAL REPORT

2007

Asian Institute of Technology



AIT
Asian Institute of Technology



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Annual Report 2007

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ASIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Among the many significant achievements and advances made by AIT in 2007, one which stands out has been the progress made on the new AIT Charter. Work on the new AIT Charter was initiated in 2004 under the helm of H.E. Mr. Anand Panyarachun, former Chairman of the AIT Board of Trustees. AIT considers the attaining of full-fledged international status through its new Charter of vital importance.

It has been a very long process involving extensive reviews by the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees of AIT, as well as close consultations between the trustees and their respective home governments. We are most grateful to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand, for the advice, support and guidance which it has extended to AIT throughout the entire process.

We are confident that under the new Charter, which is in step with the changing needs of the region and higher learning, AIT will be in a much stronger position to deliver its mandate of human resources development and capacity building, together with Thailand and its international partners.

Over the past 50 years of its history, AIT has played an important role in the development of scientific and technological competence and capacity of the Asian region and beyond. AIT's internationality and its network of active interactions with institutions throughout the region have uniquely positioned the Institute to reach out to different stakeholders at all levels. By acting as a bridge between the global, the regional and the local, AIT enhances opportunities for local partners to raise their knowledge, to analyze needs and to set priorities that connect them to regional and global agendas. A regional institute such as AIT is ideally placed to develop

graduates able to work effectively in the dynamic context of Asia in the 21st century.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for the continued support extended to the Institute and its Board of Trustees by the faculty, staff, students, alumni as well as institutional partners.

I wish AIT the very best in the years to come.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Tej Bunnag".

Dr. Tej Bunnag
Chairman of the Board

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



The Asian Institute of Technology had a very successful year in 2007, and I am grateful for all the hard and excellent work done by the faculty, staff and students, and support extended by AIT's partners and alumni who have all helped put AIT in this favourable position. There were successful outcomes both on the financial front as well as in terms of the array of new and innovative programs and initiatives that AIT was able to launch, several of which are highlighting in the Annual Report 2007.

One major achievement has been the approval by the AIT Board of Trustees of a new Charter for AIT, which would upgrade the Institute into a full-fledged international organization, enabling it to more effectively fulfill its mission in the region and beyond. Following the approval by the Board, the new AIT Charter was submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand, and is currently going through an intergovernmental process of ratification under the able leadership and auspices of the Ministry. On behalf of AIT, I would like to place on record our special thanks to all our partners for their strong and continued support in this process.

Leading up to AIT's 50th Anniversary Celebrations in 2009, the Institute is also taking stock of its achievements and contributions to the development of the region. In light of both the changing landscape of higher learning as well as donor priorities and funding in the region, AIT is also adapting itself, with increased interactions and partnerships with both the public and private sectors.

Many of the Institute's new initiatives place particular emphasis on professional master's and doctoral programs that are well attuned to the needs of the today's rapidly changing workplace. Besides problem-solving research, innovative advances for application in the industrial sector

are also being pursued. This has led to the introduction of a number of professional and modular types of programs incorporating a triple-helix configuration.

Since its inception, AIT has been involved in technological and developmental research of relevance to the region. Sustainable development of the region has been at the core of the major projects carried out by AIT in various parts of Asia. In an attempt to consolidate our efforts in these areas, the Institute is presently focusing its research on climate change. This will build on research carried out on greenhouse gas mitigation options, climate policy modelling, clean development mechanisms, water resources use (including coastal zone management), land management, biofuels and food security, and air pollution. Together with its network of partners, the Institute seeks to create a center of excellence for the study of climate change adaptation and mitigation in the developing world.

As a network Institute, AIT has been able to effectively work with and complement the efforts of several national universities in the region. To this end, we must continue to build upon AIT's almost 50 years of distinguished contribution to the development of the region and beyond.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude and sincere appreciation to all our partners for their continued support and confidence in the mission of AIT. Our special thanks also to all our alumni for their support and commitment.



Said Irandoust
President

INTRODUCING THE ASIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



Connected to Asia and Beyond

The Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) is a leading Asian regional postgraduate institution of technology, development and management. Highly regarded in both the international academic and sustainable development communities, AIT promotes technological change and sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region by excelling in higher education, research, outreach and capacity development.

Located in Thailand, 42 kilometres north of central Bangkok, AIT is an independent and autonomous institute that works with public and private sector partners throughout the region and with some of the top universities and international organizations in the world. In addition to its main campus in Thailand, AIT has also established satellite centers in Vietnam (both in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City) and Indonesia (Bandung), and plans to open centers in Pakistan, Sri Lanka and possibly Nepal and India in the future.

For almost half a century the Asian Institute of Technology has served the Southeast Asian region and far beyond with high-level academic education and research in engineering, technology, environment, development and management. Founded in 1959 as the SEATO Graduate School of Engineering, the Institute was originally hosted by the Faculty of Engineering, Chulalongkorn University, in Bangkok. Later, in 1967, it became an independent institute called the Asian Institute of Technology based on the decree of the H.M. the King of Thailand. Today AIT's beautiful 160-hectare campus contains all the necessary facilities for graduate students from many different cultures to live, study, work, and thrive together.

The Asian Institute of Technology has always fostered an international, multicultural environment that reaches beyond political boundaries. AIT ranks with the very best of universities in that over the last few decades many prominent members of its alumni have distinguished themselves in many fields of endeavor. To date, the school has produced close to 16,000 graduates from 80 countries. Out of these, women constitute almost 36% of all graduates. At any given time, nationals of 40-50 countries comprise its 2,000-strong student body and 130-member faculty. Additionally, through AIT Extension's non-degree

continuing education courses, AIT has trained more than 23,000 professionals from the Asia region. More than 90% of AIT graduates remain in the region and hold positions of influence in government, academia, industry, international and non-governmental organizations and other bodies. Currently, there are more than 200 research and sponsored projects operating on-campus, facilitated by more than 600 research and support staff from 30 countries.

Through its School of Engineering and Technology, School of Environment, Resources and Development, School of Management, and the AIT Extension, the Institute has been successful in its mission: **“To develop highly qualified and committed professionals who will play a leading role in the sustainable development of the region and its integration into the global economy.”**

While AIT's methods have evolved over time, the mission has remained constant and is reflected in the institute's enduring core values:

- Excellence in teaching/learning: Enhance teaching effectiveness with full participation of students in the learning process.
- Excellence in research: Support faculty members to reach their highest potential in research in partnership with the public and private sector.
- Quality assurance: Establish a quality assurance system of all academic activities.
- Transparency of administration: Enhance the participation of faculty, staff and students in the decision-making process.
- Unity in diversity: Value diversity among individuals, encourage individual growth through nurturance, service and fairness, and provide an educational environment and a future network that stands above such problems as race, religion, nationality and gender issues.
- Culture of collaboration: Value the synergy that results from collaboration, which enhances learning, discovery and engagement.
- Partnership: Value the long-term high-value relationships with networks of institutional and individual partners across the region and beyond, who will recognize AIT as a partner in lifelong learning and continuing professional education.

MILESTONES

1957

In the autumn of 1957, H.E. Mr. Pote Sarasin, Secretary-General of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO), proposed a regional graduate school of engineering, with principal financial support to be provided by SEATO member countries, namely Australia, France, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States, and additional support to be provided by the other regional member countries, namely Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand.

1958

In March the SEATO Graduate School of Engineering project was approved by the SEATO Council of Ministers at a meeting in Manila.



1959

The SEATO Council of Ministers meeting in Wellington, in April, approved the establishment of the School by September 1959.

30 July — His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand signed the Royal Decree establishing the SEATO Graduate School of Engineering. The School opened on 8 September with 18 students, from Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand, all studying Hydraulic Engineering. There were eight faculty members.



1960



Prof. Thomas H. Evans arrived from Colorado State University in August to become Dean of the SEATO Graduate School.



By June, the School's expanded curricula had included majors in Highway Engineering and Structural Engineering.

1961

The first graduation ceremony was held in March to confer the degree of Master of Engineering on eight students. The degrees were conferred jointly by the SEATO Graduate School and Chulalongkorn University.



Prof. Robert Holcomb of Texas A & M University succeeded Prof. Thomas H. Evans in June as Dean.

1962

Students from non-SEATO member countries, namely India, Malaysia and Taiwan joined AIT, marking a significant breakthrough toward establishing a truly regional school.



1963



27 May — Prof. Milton E. Bender, Jr. arrived from Colorado State University to succeed Prof. Holcomb as Dean.

1964

7-18 December — an expert study group constituted by the SEATO Council of Ministers convened to discuss the future of the Graduate School. The Study Group recommended the School's eventual independence and control by a Board of Trustees.

A new field of study in Public Health was inaugurated in June.

1965

In May, the SEATO Council of Ministers, meeting in London, agreed that the School should continue as a regional graduate school of engineering, that SEATO control should be phased out, and that the School should become independent.

The SEATO Council of Ministers, meeting in Canberra in June, took the necessary steps leading to the School's establishment as an independent institution to be called the Asian Institute of Technology.



1966

The interim Board of Trustees held its first session in November to draft an organizational structure for AIT.



1967

26 October — the Constituent Assembly of Thailand approved legislation for the Charter of the Asian Institute of Technology.

23 November — the Asian Institute of Technology Enabling Act was published in the Royal Thai Government Gazette.

24 November — AIT came into being as an independent autonomous, international institution of higher learning devoted to instruction and research in engineering, the sciences, and related fields.



1968



4 May — His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand graciously presided over the Eighth Annual Graduation, the first in which AIT conferred its own degrees. Fifty-two students graduated, bringing the total number of alumni since 1961 to 227.



15-17 January - the Board of Trustees of AIT held its first meeting to formulate and adopt bye-laws, and to elect the officers of the Institute. Dr. Puey Ungphakorn was elected Chairperson of the Board. Prof. Milton E. Bender, Jr. was elected President.

1969

The Board of Trustees, at its annual meeting in January, discussed a master plan for the new AIT campus.

In July, the establishment by 1970 of a program leading to the Doctor of Engineering degree and a program leading to the Diploma of AIT was approved by the Board of Trustees.

The AIT Alumni Association (AITAA) was established in August.



1970

Preliminary site development work at the new AIT campus in Rangsit began.

1971

With construction of the AIT campus underway, the Institute worked towards expansion at two levels: growth in total student numbers and introduction of new programs of study, such as mechanical, electrical, chemical and agricultural engineering. A new field of study in Systems Engineering and Management was introduced in January.

1972



A Board resolution passed on 27 January, provided a new academic organizational structure for the Institute. This consisted of divisions, programs and fields of study. The academic divisions were those of Environmental and Chemical Engineering, Fluid and Energy Engineering, Geotechnical Engineering, Structural Engineering and Mechanics and Systems Engineering and Management.

1973



14 February — His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand graciously presided over the opening of the new campus in Pathumthani province.

16 February — Mr. Oscar Mapua succeeded Dr. Puey Ungphakorn as Chairperson of the Board.

15 February — Prof. Harold E. Hoelscher succeeded Prof. Milton E. Bender Jr. as President. Prof. Bender served the Presidency for nearly ten years, first held the position of Dean.



1974



16 August - the AIT Center, a gift from the Government of Japan, was officially opened.



1975



In January, Dr. Thanat Khoman succeeded Mr. Oscar Mapua as Chairperson of the Board.



24 January — Prof. Milton E. Bender, Jr., President Emeritus, accepted the Board's invitation to serve as President, taking over from Prof. Harold E. Hoelscher.



7 May — at the 18th graduation ceremony, the Institute conferred its first Honorary Degree, the degree of Doctor of Engineering, on His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand.



The Regional Computer Center was founded, based on a five-year partnership among AIT, the AIT Foundation, IBM Americas/Far East Corp., and USAID.



23 January — the Regional Experimental Center, constructed with funds from Chinese Taipei, was opened.

1976



The construction contract for the Regional Computer Center was signed and the building was opened in August 1977. The International Ferrocement Information Center was established.

1977



In January Prof. Robert B. Banks, former Vice President and Provost, succeeded Prof. Milton E. Bender, Jr. as President.

The Regional Documentation Center (RDC) was established, initially made up of the Asian Information Center for Geotechnical Engineering (founded in 1973) and the International Ferrocement Information Center (founded in October 1976). The RDC was named Library and Regional Documentation Center in 1980 and renamed Center for Library and Information Resources in 1995.

Two new academic divisions were established, namely Agricultural and Food Engineering, formerly a part of the Division of Community and Regional Development, and Human Settlements Development, formerly a part of the Division of Community and Regional Development. The number of academic divisions was increased to seven.



1978

The establishment of two new academic divisions was approved, these being Computer Applications (opened in 1979 and renamed Computer Science in 1986, and Computer Science and Information Management Program in 1996) and Energy Technology AIT's ninth academic division (opened in 1980 and renamed Energy Program in 1996).



The Renewable Energy Resources Information Center (renamed Regional Energy Resources Information Center in 1988) and the Environmental Sanitation Information Center (originally known as the Public Sanitation Information Center) were established under the Regional Documentation Center.

1979



The Institute celebrated its twentieth anniversary. Student enrolment had increased to 485 students. There were 65 full-time faculty members. Financial support was being provided by 27 governments and more than 20 organizations, foundations and industries.



1980

The Continuing Education Center opened.



1981

The Institute adopted a termly admission system for its academic programs in an effort to reduce peak loadings of the registry, the dormitories, the library, RCC and other academic/administrative units.

The Asian Regional Remote Sensing Training Center was established, commencing courses in 1982 and marking the beginning of



teaching, research and outreach activities in remote sensing and related technologies.



21 August — the Library Building, constructed from funds donated by the Government of Japan, was officially opened.

1982

8 April — Energy Technology (ET) Building I, a gift from the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, was officially opened in April. The Energy Research Park, supporting teaching and research in the energy program, was constructed from funds donated by the Government of France.

1983



1 July — Prof. Alastair M. North assumed office in August as President, succeeding Prof. Robert B. Banks who served as President for six and a half years.

At its meeting in January, the Board of Trustees proposed and approved the establishment of the Institute Policy and Planning Committee to strengthen the Institute's long-term planning.



Construction of the Regional Experimental Center extension began in May, using funds donated by Chinese Taipei.

1984

7 September — the Institute marked its 25th anniversary in September with a donors' meeting which unveiled the 1985-88 Academic Plan, aimed at achieving a reasonable balance between classical engineering and management fields. The Plan also recommended the consolidation of the academic divisions, along with new ventures in natural resources management and manufacturing technology. The introduction of an External Doctoral Program was proposed.



1985



Energy Technology Building II, a gift from the Government of France, was officially opened in January.

1986

The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center was established to provide training courses and other assistance to strengthen the disaster management systems of countries in Asia and the Pacific. The Center became the independent ADPC Foundation in 1999.



The Division of Human Settlements development admitted its first Doctoral students in May. By then all nine academic divisions were offering Doctoral programs.



1987



21 July — the Institute presented its first Gold Medal to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand in recognition of His Majesty's outstanding leadership in rural development.

The Education Policy Committee and the Institute Policy and Planning Committee were merged as the Policy and Planning Committee of the Board of Trustees.

Programs associated with natural resources, computer-related manufacturing technology, and management underwent further development. In May, the Interdisciplinary Natural Resources Development and Management Program, the Institute's most explicitly interdisciplinary initiative to-date, admitted the first students in its certificate program and became a degree-awarding program in 1990.



21 August — AIT received a special award from the United States Aid for International Development and the National Research Council of the United States, in recognition of significant contributions to science and technology over the past 25 years.



1988

1 September — the Ambient Laboratory (donated by the Royal Thai Government) and the Environmental Research Station (a gift from the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany) were officially opened in September.



3 October — Her royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously presided over the opening of the Agricultural and Food Engineering Building, a gift from the Royal Thai Government.



The Asia-Pacific Forum on Telecommunications was held in December, under the sponsorship of the Government of Finland, to study the requirements and parameters of a proposed graduate program in telecommunications.

1989

May — the SPRING Program, AIT's first joint M.Sc. Program, offered by the Division of Human Settlements Development and the University of Dortmund in the Federal Republic of Germany, admitted its first students, producing its first batch of graduates in 1991.



31 August — the Institute received the 1989 Ramon Magsaysay Award for International Understanding at a ceremony held in Manila.

The School of Management admitted its first students in the Master's program in Management of Technology in September.

On 17 August, at the 56th graduation, AIT presented the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Technology to Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

By the end of its third decade, the Institute had an average annual enrolment of 746 students and an alumni body consisting of 4,853 members.

1990



24 January — The School of Management was officially opened, coinciding with the award of certificates of admission to its first batch of 31 students.

1991

The AIT Strategy Study Group was constituted to conduct detailed analyses of Asia's development pattern and the opportunities and problems posed to the Institute.

May — the Telecommunications and Manufacturing Systems Engineering fields of study admitted their first students.



1992



1 November — the AIT Honorary Degree of Doctor of Technology was presented to Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh.



On 12 December, HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn presided over the inauguration of the Computer Science Building, a gift from the Royal Thai Government, in December. Also opened during the year were the Telecommunications Building, a gift from the Government of Finland, and the Outreach Building.



29 October — the Institute presented the Gold Medal Award to Her Majesty Queen Sirikit of Thailand in recognition of Her Majesty's outstanding leadership in environmental protection and the conservation of natural resources.



1993

The new four-School structure was introduced, with the three new Schools (Advanced Technologies, Civil Engineering, Environment, Resources and Development) joining the School of Management.



17 May — the Swiss-AIT-Vietnam Management Development Program in Ho Chi Minh City was opened and officially inaugurated in September.

The Institute received its largest ever grant from a private donor in the form of a building valued at some 30 million Baht. The Chalerm Prakiat Building

(meaning, "In Their Majesties Honor") is a gift from Dr. Somsak Leeswadtrakul, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of SSP Group of Companies and an AIT Trustee. HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn presided over its opening on 26 November 1996.

16 February — AIT and the Government of SR Vietnam signed a memorandum of agreement to establish the AIT Center Vietnam (AITCV) based in Hanoi.



1994

17 February — AITCV was inaugurated and opened a diploma program in Industrial Systems Engineering a year later



1995



AIT received the Asian Management Award for Development Management, from the Asian Institute of Management in Manila, for its contributions to human resources development and sustainable development in the region.



New programs were introduced in bioprocess technology and infrastructure planning and management.

1996

25 January — M.L. Dr. Birabhongse Kasemsri, Principal Private Secretary to His Majesty the King of Thailand, succeeded Dr. Thanat Khoman as Chairperson of the Board in January. Dr. Thanat, who served as Chairperson for 21 years, became Chairperson Emeritus.



The Mechatronics field of study in the School of Advanced Technologies was established in collaboration with the Technical University of Hamburg-Harburg and Siemens AG. The first students were on 12 June, admitted in May 1997.

1997



1 August — Prof. Roger G.H. Downer assumed the Presidency, succeeding Prof. Alastair M. North who served as President for 13 years.



Three degree programs became operational: Pulp and Paper Technology, Urban Environmental Management, and Water Supply, Drainage and Sewerage Engineering.



5 September — the School of Management launched the Executive MBA Program.

29 September — the Postgraduate Technological Studies Program, funded by the European Commission, was signed, enabling 90 Asian students from AIT to pursue internships in Europe and 90 students from the European Union to attend the Master's Program at AIT.



19 December — HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn presided over the inauguration of the Asian Center for Research on Remote Sensing.

1998



16 January — the Advance Agro Pulp and Paper Technology Building was inaugurated, marking another major private sector donation to AIT.



17 August — Prof. Charas Suwanwela assumed the Interim Presidency, taking over from Prof. Roger G.H. Downer.



In March, the Distributed Education Center was established.

1999



19 February — HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn presided over the inauguration of the Geoinformatics Center.

12 May — Prof. Jean-Louis Armand assumed the 9th President of AIT.



8-10 September — AIT celebrates its 40th anniversary with annual enrolment averaging 1,349 students and the alumni body consisting of some 9,828 members from 57 countries from Asia and other regions.

2000

15 September — H.E. Mr. Anand Panyarachun, former Prime Minister of Thailand, was elected as



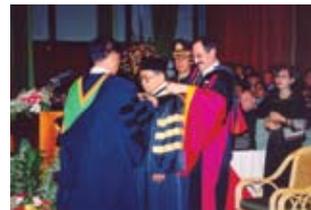
Chairman at the extraordinary meeting of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Anand is the fifth Chairman of the Board. Preceding him were Prof. Puey Ungphakorn, Prof. Oscar Mapua, Dr. Thanat Khoman (Chairman Emeritus), and M.L. Birabhongse Kasemsri.



19 February — H.E. Dr. Leonel Fernandez, President of the Dominican Republic, visited AIT. He was welcomed by AIT President, Prof. Jean-Louis Armand, together with H.E. Dr. Arthit Ourairat, Minister of Science, Technology and Environment of Thailand.



In its issue of 5 May 2000, ASIaweek ranked the School of Management (SOM) as No.3 for Best Executive MBA and No. 4 for Best Full-Time Program. The survey gave SOM 14th place in terms of reputation. ASIaweek's ranking is based on objective measurements, such as student selectivity, faculty resources and linkages with the business community.



15 December — AIT conferred the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Philosophy on H.E. Dr. Abdurrahman Wahid, President of the Republic of Indonesia at AIT's 90th graduation ceremony.

The AIT Honorary Degree recognized President Wahid's commitment, as a public figure and respected scholar, to the systematic and sustained development of higher education in Indonesia.

2001

1 January — The AIT Extension comes into existence, superseding the Continuing Education Center (CEC), serving as an umbrella of AIT's outreach and satellite centers.



12 April — His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, granted a Royal Audience at Chitralada Palace to officials from the Royal Project Foundation, led by M.R. Sam Jamjaras Rajani and Dr. Pichai Nimityongskul of the Structural Engineering and Construction Program, School of Civil Engineering, to receive a report on latest developments in their work on vetiver grass. Their goal was to transform vetiver grass from an agricultural material into a useful industrial product and low-cost construction material without causing pollution or deteriorating natural resources and environment.



24 January — His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand was presented with the Degree of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) at a ceremony held at Klaikangwol Palace in Hua Hin for His Majesty's "untiring support to the promotion of holistic education as an important base for the development of scientific knowledge and skills"

22 November — The Research Center for Water Environmental Technology of the University of Tokyo and the School of Environment, Resources and Development, established the Southeast Asian Center for Water Environmental Technology.

2002

29 October — AIT and the University of Tokyo established the Regional Network Office for Urban Safety based at the School of Civil Engineering. The office would promote urban safety engineering with advanced engineering technologies. Its first priority was to construct an urban building and infrastructure database and inventory using remote sensing technology and ground surveys in Bangkok.

9 December — The Federal Republic of Germany and AIT celebrated 30 years of cooperation at a reception hosted by H.E. Mr. Andreas von Stechow, German Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand, at his residence in Bangkok.



2002

16 December — Prof. Dr. Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn, President of the Chulabhorn Research Institute, AIT President Jean-Louis Armand and Prof. Dr. Pornchai Matangkasombut, President of Mahidol University signed an agreement for the Inter-University Post-Graduate Education Program in Environmental Toxicology, Technology and Management.



2003

21 February — His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand granted a Royal Audience at Klaikangwol Palace in Hua Hin to officials from the Royal Project Foundation, led by M.R. Sam Jamjaras Rajani and Dr. Pichai Nimityongskul, with Dr. Pichai's research team from the School of Civil Engineering, to present nine patent certificates on vetiver grass development technology. Dr. Pichai also presented a progress report on the latest development in vetiver grass technology, which included three research projects on the construction of low-cost grain storage silos using vetiver grass and clay, the use of vetiver ash as a replacement material for cement and the use of vetiver pulps as fiber reinforcement.



26 February — His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf visited the School of Civil Engineering for the opening ceremony of the Thailand Accident Research Center, a collaboration between the Department of Highways, Thailand Global Road Safety Partnership and Volvo Car Corporation of Sweden. The center is based at AIT and acts as a focal point of research on road safety. The King then visited the Asian Center for Research on Remote Sensing Laboratory. Before his departure, he met faculty, staff and students involved in Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency sponsored projects and scholarship recipients.



4-7 May — The United Nations Environment Programme and AIT co-hosted His Royal Highness Paras Bir Bikram Shah Dev, the Crown Prince of Nepal. The main objective of the study visit was to provide His Royal Highness the knowledge on the basics of environment, topics related to Nepal's priority issues and topics on Nepal's role in regional cooperation for environment.



3 July — The new Agricultural Systems and Engineering Laboratory at the School of Environment, Resources and Development opened with a handover ceremony of equipment donated by Siam Kubota Industry Co., Ltd.



6 August — Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn led cadets and faculty of the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy for a study visit to AIT

7 August — at the AIT's 98th Graduation Ceremony AIT conferred the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Technology to Dr. Shoichiro Toyoda, Honorary Chairman of Toyota Motor Corporation, in recognition of his outstanding regional and international contributions in the development of the manufacturing sector and automobile industry, and of his devotion and commitment to higher education. He also was the Graduation speaker.



2004

21 February — H.E. Mr. Pierre-Andre Wiltzer, the French Minister delegate for Cooperation and Francophony, accompanied by H.E. Mr. Laurent Aublin, French Ambassador to Thailand and a high-ranking delegation from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited AIT.



April 23 — To mark the 100th Graduation Day, Mr. Ratan N. Tata, Chairman of Tata Group and a noted industrialist and philanthropist from India was conferred the Doctor of Technology (Honoris Causa), the Institute's highest recognition for his contributions to Indian society, through the Tata Group's philanthropic trusts, in the fields of science, medicine, social services, rural welfare and the performing arts, and to building better relations and understanding between India and the countries in the Asia-Pacific region.



6 August — To mark the 101st Graduation Day, Prof. Muhammad Yunus, founder of Grameen Bank and originator of the concept of micro-credit in Bangladesh, was conferred the Doctor of Technology (Honoris Causa), the Institute's highest recognition for his outstanding contributions to economic and social development of rural areas in the region, through innovative concepts that couple capitalism with social responsibility.



20 August — The Japan Society of Hydrology and Water Resources (JSHWR) recognized Prof. Ashim Das Gupta, a senior faculty member in Water Engineering and Management at the School of Civil Engineering, with an 'International Award.'



The recognition acknowledges his significant contributions in the fields of hydrology and water resources and his valuable participation in the exchange of information at the international level within the society. The award ceremony took place in Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan.

2005

24 September — At the 18th Meeting of AIT Center in Vietnam (AITCV) Council of Advisors, the Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam and AITCV organized a special ceremony marking two memorable events: Conferment of the honorary doctorate of the Asian Institute of Technology upon His Excellency Professor Nguyen Minh Hien, Minister of Education and Training of Vietnam and Bestowal of Award For the Cause of Education to Prof. Mario T. Tabucanon and Dr. Willi Zimmermann. This auspicious occasion coincides with the celebration of AIT's 45th anniversary.



18 December — The ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations (AFEO) by its Chairman, Prof. Dr. Sein Myint, conferred AFEO Honorary Fellowship Awards to two School of Civil Engineering faculty members Prof. Tawatchai Tingsanchali and Dr. Pichai Nimityongskul. The awarding ceremony took place during the 22nd Conference of the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations held in Yangon, Myanmar from 18 to 19 December 2004. The conferment of the honorary fellowship awards is based on the achievement of each individual in promoting the formation and implementation of policies, plan and projects, for the development of their countries or the entire ASEAN Region, that are relevant to the needs and economic capabilities of the countries.



10 May - H.E. Mr. Shaukat Aziz, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan delivered a special lecture on the topic "Pakistan's Vision in the 21st Century" at AITCC Auditorium as part of his visit to Thailand. The special event was co-organized by AIT, Thammasat University with the support from the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.



15 May — AIT conferred Doctor of Technology (honoris causa) to H.E. Professor Xu Guanhua, Minister of Science and Technology, People's Republic of China. The honorary degree was conferred by Prof. Mario T. Tabucanon, AIT Acting President and Provost to H.E. Prof. Xu in a ceremony held in Beijing.



H.E. Prof. Xu Guanhua, was recognized for his key role in advancing the relations between AIT and the People's Republic of China (PRC), first in his capacity as Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, through provision of experts to the Institute in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between AIT and the State Science and Technology Commission, and later in his capacity as Vice Minister of the Commission in 1995, which was subsequently changed to the Ministry of Science and Technology in 1998, and during his current appointment as the Minister of Science and Technology since 2001.



28 June — The Presidency of the Asian Institute of Technology was formally and symbolically passed from Acting President Mario Tabucanon to Professor Said Irandoust in a handover ceremony held at the AIT Conference Center. The occasion was marked by an Academic Colloquium on 'AIT - Past, Present and Future', and also included the handover of the Chairmanship of the Executive Committee from the then Ambassador Jan Axel Nordlander to H.E. Mr. Laurent Aublin, Ambassador of France to Thailand. The handover ceremony was the first to be held in the history of AIT.



29 July — His Excellency Professor Xu Guanhua, Minister of Science and Technology, People's Republic of China (PRC) visited AIT, and met with Professor Said Irandoust, AIT President. The visit aimed to strengthen the AIT-PRC partnership.

Notable laureate lecturers at AIT

During the period 2003-2005, AIT in cooperation with International Peace Foundation hosted a number of Nobel laureates and distinguished speakers to deliver lectures to the AIT community enriched with a variety of topics from impressive speakers as follows:



Prof. Jerome Karle



Prof. Paul J. Cruzen



Prof. Claude Cohen-Tannoudji



Prof. Robert C. Richardson



Prof. Jean-Marie Lehn



Prof. Sheldon L. Glashow



Prof. Riccardo Giacconi



Bishop Carlos F. Ximenes Belo



H.E. Mr. Jose Ramos-Horta



Prof. Mario J. Molina



Prof. Peter Agere



Prof. Jerome L. Friedman



Prof. Baruch S. Blumberg



Dr. Richard J. Roverts



Mr. Gareth Evans



Dame Anita Roddick



Prof. Zhores I. Alferov



Prof. Robert Huber

2005



26 September — H.E. Mr. Makhtumkuli Akmuradov, Minister of Nature Protection, Turkmenistan and the Chair of Interstate Sustainable Development Commission (ISDC) for Central Asia visited AIT to explore on the possibility of partnership between AIT and the Ministry of Nature Protection, Turkmenistan.



8 November — Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously presided over the opening ceremony of the 8th German Technology Symposium & Exhibition (GTS '05) held at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center. HRH Princess Sirindhorn visited the AIT exhibition booth and graciously acknowledged and received from Prof. Said Irandoust, AIT President three copies of Digital Library collection of rare 100 Thai books jointly developed by AIT and the National Library of Thailand.

3 May — An MoU was signed by Director-General of Thailand's Department of Mineral Fuels Mr. Krairit Nilkuha and AIT President Said Irandoust to create a new professional master's degree program in partnership with government and industry.

Through this collaboration, AIT offered a one-year Professional Master of Engineering degree in Offshore Technology & Management and short-term professional training courses to staff with on-the-job experience from the oil and gas industry, starting the August 2006 Semester.

24 May — Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn presided over the 105th graduation ceremony of the Asian Institute of Technology at Thailand Science Park Convention Center. This was the first time the Princess has conferred degrees at an international postgraduate institution. 469 graduates were awarded master's or doctoral degrees at the ceremony. A total of 538 graduates from 26 countries received their degrees.



June

28 June — AIT signed an agreement with the government of Indonesia to open a center in Bandung, Indonesia. The Asian Institute of Technology Center in Indonesia will collaborate with the Indonesian Ministry of Public Works providing human resource development that will facilitate research and development, consultancy, professional trainings and higher education.

28 June — AIT President Said Irandoust and H.E. Ir. Djoko Kirmanto, Indonesia's minister of Public Works signed an agreement in Jakarta, Indonesia, to open a center in Bandung, Indonesia to collaborate with the Indonesian Ministry of Public Works providing human resource development that will facilitate research and development, consultancy, professional trainings and higher education.

This is AIT's second international center. The institute has run a center in Vietnam, with locations in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, since 1993.

September



22 September — The International Geosynthetics Society, through a nomination of the IGS Thailand Chapter, awarded the IGS Achievement Award, a new category of awards introduced by the IGS Council, to Prof. Dennes T. Bergado of the School of Engineering and Technology.

Prof. Bergado was recognized for his contributions to IGS Thailand Chapter and IGS activities as well as for research and application of geosynthetic products. The award was presented at a special ceremony at the IGS General Assembly of the eighth International Conference on Geosynthetics in Yokohama, Japan.

October

In order to help address the region's growing need for software development specialists, the School of Engineering and Technology's Computer Science and Information Management program launched a new master's degree in Computer Science with a specialization in Software Engineering.

18 October — AIT School of Management officially launched its Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) program, a professional doctorate program designed for senior professional managers/administrators, focusing the combination of coursework and research investigations and intended to create a body of knowledge embedded in practices. At the launching ceremony held at Sheraton Grande Sukhumvit Hotel, DBA was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Piyabutr Cholvijarn, Deputy Industry Minister.

23 October — Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously presented awards to an associate professor and an AIT alumnus in Caracas, Venezuela. The Princess presented "The King of Thailand Vetiver Awards" for the most outstanding achievements on vetiver at the Opening Ceremony of the Fourth International Conference on Vetiver.

Among the awards recipients are AIT faculty member Dr. Pichai Nimityongskul of the Structural Engineering field of study, School of Engineering and Technology and Dr. Thammanoon Hengsadeekul, an AIT alumnus (SEC '95 & '06) who were selected to receive the King of Thailand Certificate of Excellence under the Non-Agricultural Application category.



30 October — AIT's Board of Trustees at its meeting unanimously approved the nomination of Dr. Tej Bunnag, Vice Chairman of the Board as the next Chairman of the Board Trustees.

Dr. Tej, an advisor to the Office of His Majesty's Principal Private Secretary, became the sixth chairman. Preceding him were Professor Puey Ungpakorn, Professor Oscar Mapua, Dr. Thanat Khoman (Chairman Emeritus), M.L. Birabhongse Kasemsri and H.E. Mr. Anand Panyarachun.

2006

November



24 November 2006 — AIT launched the Career Center to assist AIT students, staff members and alumni in making informed decisions by providing the resources, programs and counseling that will lead them to different career options, internships opportunities, part-time (on and off-campus) jobs, exchange programs and options for further education.

The Center's services revolve around Career Counseling and Placement Assistance, Student Assistantship/ Internship Guidance and further Studies and Exchange Program Counseling.

27 November — AIT and Singhania signed agreements for a five-year unified international bachelor-masters degree program.

December



15 December — AIT held the 106th Graduation Ceremony to 160 students from 19 countries at the AIT Conference Center. AIT President Said Irandoust presided over the ceremony. Dr. Tej Bunnag, the newly appointed chairman of the AIT Board of Trustees, delivered the graduation address.



H.E. Prof. Banh Tien Long, vice minister, Ministry of Education and Training, presented the Friendship Order to AIT during the ceremony. The Friendship Order is the highest award given in the area of international relations and is presented to foreign institutions and persons that have contributed to human resource training for Vietnam, and to the development of friendly relations between Vietnam and other countries. Prof. Irandoust accepted the award on behalf of AIT.



Among the 160 graduates, 38 from the School of Engineering and Technology, 34 from the School of Environment, Resources and Development, and 88 from the School of Management. Of the 160 graduates, 135 received master's degrees, 24 doctoral degrees, and 1 diploma. The total number of AIT degree-holders now stands at 14,771.

At the graduation ceremony, there was the installation of new professors to Prof. Nazrul Isam of School of Management and Prof. Ganesh Shivakoti of School of Environment, Resources and Development, who gave the professorial remarks.



December — AIT and Shivaji University (SU), Kolhapur, India, reached an agreement for a five-year unified international bachelor-masters degree program. The program will be implemented at the International School of Engineering and Technology (ISET) under SU.

Awards and Recognition



1987 Science and Technology for Development Award presented to AIT by the United States Agency for International Development and the National Research Council for effectively transferring industrial technology and skills to the developing world, by training scientists and engineers from Asian countries.

1989 Ramon Magsaysay Award for International Understanding: For shaping a new generation of engineers and managers committed to Asia in an atmosphere of academic excellence and regional camaraderie.

1994 Development Management Award presented to AIT by the Asian Management Awards for fostering manpower development, technological change and sustainable growth in the region, through advanced education and research.

1996 DAAM International Vienna Awards presented by the Danube Adria Association and Manufacturing (DAAM) International Vienna, Austria, to express appreciation to AIT and its high-technology experts from the Industrial Systems Engineering Program of the School of Advanced Technologies for their significant contribution in the field of technical sciences and international scientific cooperation within the framework of DDAM, on the occasion of the 7th DAAM international symposium to celebrate the 1000th anniversary of Austria.

2006 Friendship Order was awarded to AIT in the area of international relations that have contributed to human resource training for Vietnam and to the development of friendly relations between Vietnam and other countries.





YEAR IN REVIEW

PROGRESS 2007

In 2007, the Asian Institute of Technology continued to scrutinize its current academic offerings for their relevance to prospective students and financial viability. To this effect, the Institute pursued a number of 'triple helix-type' partnerships between academia, government, and industry, focusing on regional and stakeholders' needs. These progressive moves were facilitated by a restructuring of the governance of the Institute through the creation of School and AIT Extension Advisory Boards.

One key example of this innovative form of partnership was a new Specialized Master's Program in Hard Disk Drive (HDD) technology in partnership with Western Digital and Thailand Science Park. Other similar initiatives included new professional master's and doctoral programs in off-shore technology and the notable AIT-Ansell Leadership Development Program. The Institute also explored numerous and varied partnerships through joint research projects with industry; the strengthening of postdoctoral fellowships at AIT; and more proactive engagement of senior professors and retirees, among others.

To maximize its potential as a regional research hub, the Institute also decided to concentrate its research pursuits on a limited number of topics in which it felt possible to

demonstrate excellence and leadership at a regional level. A major thrust is planned in the coming months to consolidate these efforts and raise funds to support work under AIT's core thematic research areas. In addition, AIT also made strides during 2007 to launch the AIT Consultative service by early 2008. Given AIT's large pool of faculty expertise and extensive collection of research and outreach centers located on campus, this strategic orientation offers great potential. As an example, during the period of January to October, 173 sponsored and contracted projects were initiated by the faculty and staff of AIT valued at approximately 318 million Baht.

It is worth noting that in 2007 AIT actively pursued ways in which it can better enhance its presence in the region. The development of AIT branches or satellite center campuses around the region, in partnership with various national governments, has strategic relevance for AIT. This approach leverages on the strengths of AIT and of the partner institution, and supports specific initiatives by the partner governments. One notable example in 2007 was the finalization of the proposal for the establishment of an AIT Center in Pakistan, which was reviewed by the Higher Education Commission. Currently there are standing

invitations from the government's (and AIT alumni) of Sri Lanka, Nepal and India to open AIT Centers.

Additionally, in 2007 AIT also moved to expand its geographical coverage by means of collaborative initiatives in Afghanistan, Africa, Central Asia, and the Middle-East. An example of this was the work during the year to develop a competitive outreach proposal for an initiative planned at the Faculty of Engineering, Balkh University, an initiative funded by the World Bank and spearheaded by the Ministry of Higher Education, Afghanistan. By competing for such development projects, AIT has signaled its intention to take a leading role in assisting the development of tertiary education around the region.

In partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand, in 2007 AIT launched the Asia-Africa Initiative, which included the implementation of the Asia-Africa Initiative action plan "Asia-Africa Forum". AIT feels it can play an important facilitating role in bringing Asia and Africa closer together. As an example, in December AIT organized a workshop and forum that focussed on business-related aspects, and Asia-Africa collaboration in science and technology.

To solidify its position as a leading contributor to regional sustainable development, this year AIT continued its work with United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) to become the home for a planned ASEAN Regional Center of Excellence on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Such a center would be dedicated to the promotion and achievement of the MDGs in Southeast Asia through education and training. The planned Regional Center of Excellence on MDGs at AIT is intended to support and nurture partnerships amongst ASEAN governments, non-governmental organizations and academic and training institutions at the national levels. It will support national and local centers of excellence on MDGs, based in other Southeast Asian countries and contribute to raising awareness and capacity building on MDGs across the region.

Some other initiatives of note during the year included: the launching a special gender sensitivity workshop series for members of the AIT community at all levels; launch of an extramural lecture series for distinguished speakers from various fields; provision of laptop computers for all AIT students through a partnership arrangement with a private partner company and Institute subsidy; plans for outsourcing the maintenance and operations of the campus infrastructure and related facilities to enable AIT to focus on its core areas of teaching, training, research and outreach.

KEY PARTNERSHIPS

AIT's half-century of international experience at the service of the development of the region, its international pool of experts, and its strong networks of partners in the region and in the world make it a unique partner for the development of the Asian region.

AIT carries on version of Open Courseware initiative

In February 2007 AIT decided to carry on with the launch of AIT's own version of an Open Courseware.

The initiative was in line with the ones proposed by MIT and the

Open Courseware consortium. The initiative was aimed to raise AIT's profile as a unique provider of knowledge in specific areas of development, technology and management in an Asian context.



Online distance education program in GIS in cooperation with University of Salzburg, Austria

During the year AIT signed a MoA with the University of Salzburg, Austria to launch a two-year master's program and one-year professional diploma in GIS under the UNIGIS worldwide program. UNIGIS is the world's premier distance education network offering programs in geographical information science and systems. This will help professionals who wish to upgrade their knowledge by earning a postgraduate degree but can not be away from their workplace for a long duration. This is the first of its kind online distance education program in the field of GIS offered in the region.

AIT and Siam City Bank launch VISA Platinum Card for student scholarships

The Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) joined hands with Siam City Bank during the year to issue a new credit card, namely the SCIB-AIT VISA Platinum Card, intended to benefit card-holders with financial services and raise funds for scholarships. The SCIB-AIT VISA Platinum card was officially launched in September 2007.



This year AIT housed such regional institutions as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Telecoms sans Frontiers, which are actively working on various development issues of Asian countries. The Institute is an affiliated institute of the United Nations University (UNU); the regional knowledge hub on reduce, reuse and recycle (3Rs), in collaboration between the ADB, UNEP, UNESCAP; the UNIDO regional forum on best available techniques and best environmental practices; and a regional support institution on sustainable land management, which is an initiative being launched with UNDP.

AIT also maintains active partnerships with the private sector, such as with Volvo on accident research; AIT-IBM collaboration on the IBM Academic Initiative; the hosting of a Nokia Training Center in Telecommunications; and the Siam Cement Group of Thailand in human resource development and industrial research.



AIT President Prof. Said Irandoust, attended the MoU signing ceremony on the establishment of a “Services Science Collaboration Program” held at the Thailand Government House. The program is part of the Government

of Thailand and IBM Thailand initiative to further develop and strengthen the service science discipline and manpower in the country. AIT was the only institute invited to participate under the “international academic institute” category.

Today the Institute maintains memberships in the Greater Mekong Sub-region Academic and Research Network (GMSARN), the Partnership for Water Education and Research (PoWER), and LAOTSE — an international network of leading universities in Europe and Asia. The Asian Institute’s three Schools offer graduate degree programs and conduct research across a broad spectrum of disciplines.

CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND PRIORITIES

This year AIT launched many strategic initiatives intended to respond to the challenges posed by the changing needs of the region, the opportunities presented by the globalization of education and research, and the priority of continuing to attract talented students and research funding.

In 2007, AIT maintained strong priorities in the areas of cost control and financial performance of the Institute. It also focused on research capacity development with respect to both AIT and the region, the development of internal structures to better support a flexible environment, and the strengthening of the quality of both administration processes and education and research outcomes. The launching of new entrepreneurial initiatives, in addition to activities aiming at strengthening fund-raising, were intended to ensure long-term financial stability.

In today’s competitive higher education marketplace, a successful postgraduate institution must be able to attract top students, top international faculty, and have world-class laboratories and facilities. In this light, during the year AIT continued to find additional sources of revenue to effectively support its postgraduate mandate for excellence; complementing the revenue stream from teaching with revenue generated through research and services such as training activities and consultancy services.

Uniquely positioned as an independent, networking, regional institute, the Asian Institute of Technology has great competitive advantages compared with other primarily national institutes of learning. AIT has the proven capacity and agility to mobilize and link together a wide range of international partners to collaborate in research, teaching and development activities. By continuing to leverage its international pool of experts in development and its strong networks of partners in the region and around the world, during the year AIT progressed well with its ambition to be the foremost regional nexus for interdisciplinary higher learning and global perspectives.

During the year, AIT continued to enhance its presence in the region through the establishment of centers and branches, and at the same time strengthened its partnership with alumni, especially in the public sector, to better position AIT in Asian countries’ national development plans. Looking into the future, AIT will continue to strengthen and capitalize on its uniqueness, and its capacity and agility to link together local, regional and global concerns.

FINANCIAL PROGRESS

This year saw the launch of an array of initiatives intended to strengthen the Institute’s financial position and its ability to effectively impart its mission and objectives. Indeed, 2007 was a positive watershed year for the future financial stability of AIT. For example, at the end of September 2007 the net surplus of AIT’s core operating fund (known as Fund 10) stood at 176 million Baht,

which was roughly 80 million Baht higher than that of the previous year's 95 million Baht. The other operating fund of the Institute known as Fund 21 also reported a strong financial performance in comparison to that of last year, with an increase in the net surplus by 18 million Baht (from 189 to 222 million Baht). This was indeed a significant achievement when compared to the financial performance of the Institute in 2004 and 2005, when operating losses in Fund 10 for these two years was 86 and 128 million Baht, respectively.

From a budgetary perspective, in 2007 AIT was slightly weaker on the income side (compared to 2006) but much stronger and disciplined in terms of cost control and expenditures. Across every level of operation, the year was marked by significant progress in controlling expenditures. Consequently, for the first time in many years, AIT could begin to start setting aside budget and plan for much needed strategic investments and initiatives.

FUNDRAISING

Golden Jubilee Fundraising Campaign

In January, 2007 AIT established the Golden Jubilee Fundraising Campaign (AIT-GJFC) to coincide with AIT's celebration of its 50th year in September, 2009. This year the THNIC Foundation pledged 10 million

Baht for a professorship chair in internet technology in the computer science field of study. This donation is for a period of four years lasting from November 2007 to November 2011. Also, the Thai Alumni Chapter donated 1 million Baht to upgrade the AIT Library. The AIT-GJFC is carrying out a series of activities during 2007-2009 related to fundraising, image building and networking as part of the implementation of the campaign to raise funds for AIT, including an endowment fund.

1 Million Baht donation

During a July workshop with the External Advisory Committee members of GJFC, AIT alumnus Dr. Chainarong, CEO of INDEX, (below right) pledged one million Baht to the AIT Golden Jubilee Fundraising Campaign.



Dr. Chainarong Na Lamphun (right) receives a plaque of recognition from AIT President Prof. Said Irandoust.

AIT-AITAA Collaborative Workshop

A collaborative workshop was organized in December by the GJFC and the AIT Alumni Association (AITAA) to seek suggestions, support and input of alumni in three distinct areas, namely: (1) the fundraising campaign, (2) the 50th Anniversary celebrations of AIT, and (3) the future development of AIT. The workshop probed ways in which alumni can participate and contribute to AIT's fundraising campaign. This was the first in a series of meetings and forums to be organized to seek closer collaboration and engagement with AITAA and AIT alumni at large.



RESEARCH AND OUTREACH

In 2007, AIT continued its process of consolidating its research efforts into a few strategic research focus areas. To move this forward, faculty members developed thematic knowledge groups to push forward with research programs. The overall objectives of establishing research knowledge groups include: ensuring that AIT is positioned favorably in the intense international competition for research funds; engendering a climate of intellectual excitement at AIT through regular seminars; identifying AIT as a desired location for outstanding doctoral candidates, and post doctoral fellows; equating the name of AIT with excellence in some specific areas; raising the profile of AIT internationally and thereby increase the prospects of generating funds from non-traditional fields; and having a critical mass of researchers in these research knowledge areas.

The knowledge areas considered in 2007 were:

1. Asian model of management with global perspective
2. ICT4D
3. Food and aquatic systems
4. Water management and technology
5. Urban and rural sustainability
6. Robotics and Sensor Networks for Intelligent Environment (RSNIE)

These knowledge areas can be further strengthened by creating a common platform within AIT for partnership with the private sector, national and international research institutions, and governments. During the year, various task forces were formed in relation to each thematic area to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the research groupings and study medium and long term directions in which they are likely to unfold within the region and beyond. These inputs will be used to assist strategic development plans to strengthening AIT's research activities in the future.

Climate change and sustainable development

Moving forward, the Institute is exploring climate change and sustainable development as its key knowledge area.

RTG Joint Industrial Research Program

In 2007 AIT launched its "RTG Joint Industrial Research Program" supported by the Royal Thai Government (RTG) to further collaborate with industrial partners in conducting research on real-world industrial problems. Member companies of the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) were invited to serve as AIT's partners, in jointly supporting relevant research projects that will directly benefit the participating companies and/or the related industry in Thailand.

The program aims to enable FTI member companies to make use of AIT's research capabilities, while AIT faculty members will have an opportunity to conduct research in solving real-world problems. Each joint industrial research project will be conducted under the following financial scheme: 50% from AIT funds and 50% matching funds from the partnered companies. With 17 proposals received from industry, valued at more than 30 million Baht, the industrial partners will contribute at least 15 million Baht to AIT.

AIT nanotechnology scholar's work cited in online Scienceline article

The pioneering work of Dr. Joydeep Dutta, professor in the Mechatronics and Microelectronics field of study, and director of the Nanotechnology Center of Excellence, was cited in a 2007 article published in the online publication Scienceline. The article, "More than a Print", made reference to Dr. Dutta's cutting-edge work on forensic fingerprint enhancement. Dr. Dutta's team of AIT researchers are approaching this topic by focusing on fatty acids, or lipids, left behind in a latent finger prints rather than sweat. The article is based on the IEEE article which Dr. Dutta et.al., wrote entitled "Forensic Fingerprint Enhancement Using Bioadhesive Chitosan and Gold Nanoparticles".





ACADEMIC OFFERINGS 2007

School of Engineering and Technology

The mission of the School of Engineering and Technology is to develop highly qualified engineers and technologists who play leading roles in promoting the region's industrial competitiveness in its integration into the global economy. This year the school identified several 'Strategic Signature Areas' to further enhance the multidisciplinary offerings. The education, research and outreach activities across the disciplinary walls of traditional fields of knowledge of our faculty will drive these offerings. A number of strategic multidisciplinary areas have been planned to help the sustainable economic and societal developments in the region as well as for its long-term industrial competitiveness. The two existing areas already under operation are:

- Information and Communications Technologies
- Geosystem Exploration and Petroleum Geoengineering

New strategic multidisciplinary offerings launched:

- Advanced and Nano Material Technologies
- Automotive Manufacturing Engineering
- Disaster Engineering and Management
- Offshore Technology and Management
- Supply Chain Management and Logistics
- Technology Venture and Entrepreneurship
- Integrated Water Resources Development

Fields of Study

Information and Communications Group

- Computer Science
- Information Management
- Remote Sensing & Geographic Information Systems
- Telecommunications

Industrial Systems and Engineering Group

- Mechatronics
- Microelectronics
- Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering

Civil and Infrastructure Engineering Group

- Construction, Engineering & Infrastructure Management
- Geotechnical & Geoenvironmental Engineering
- Structural Engineering
- Transportation Engineering
- Water Engineering & Management

School of Environment, Resources and Development

The School of Environment, Resources and Development (SERD) is committed to excellence in graduate education as well as research and outreach activities. Through its academic programs and outreach units, SERD works towards capacity building and human resource development in the areas of resource management, development studies, and energy and environmental management. The School's interdisciplinary approach integrates technological, natural and social sciences.

Fields of Study

- Agricultural Systems & Engineering
- Aquaculture & Aquatic Resources Management
- Energy
- Food Engineering & Bioprocess Technology
- Pulp & Paper Technology
- Natural Resources Management
- Gender & Development Studies
- Regional & Rural Development Planning
- Environmental Engineering & Management
- Urban Environmental Management

Inter-university Program

- Environmental Toxicology, Technology and Management

School of Management

The School of Management is one of Asia's pioneer institutions for management development programs in International Business and Management of Technology.

Interdisciplinary Programs

Interdisciplinary programs, between two or more fields within and/or across Schools, are also offered. These programs integrate knowledge and skills in a holistic manner.

- Agribusiness Management
- Cleaner Production
- Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation and Management

International approach to management education

Courses are designed to prepare program participants to become effective international managers in an increasingly global business environment. The participants are encouraged to take part in international exchange programs with US, European and Asian universities.

- Full-time MBA
- Dual Degree Arrangements (AIT and one of the premier business schools in Europe)
- Executive MBA
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program
- Doctor of Business Administration (DBA)

AIT Extension

AIT Extension is responsible for non-degree programs at AIT. It contributes to the development of the region through the provision of continuing professional education, short-course training and consultancy services. AIT Extension is an innovative and responsive provider of a broad array of capacity building programs and services, organizing on-campus and off-campus short-term education and training courses, study visits and consultancy services that respond to clients' continuing professional development needs. It also provides services for organization of conferences, seminars and workshops.

AIT Extension's operating programs in 2007

- Agriculture and Food Processing
- Environment and Natural Resources Management
- Education and Training Development
- Poverty Reduction and Livelihoods Development
- Business Performance, Management and Strategy
- Development Effectiveness
- Public Sector Services and Management
- Private Sector Development
- Information and Communication Technologies
- Information and Communication Management
- Infrastructure Development and Public Utility Management
- Seminar and Study Visit Programs

- Geosystem Exploration and Petroleum Geoengineering
- Information and Communications Technologies
- Integrated Tropical Coastal Zone Management
- Offshore Technology and Management
- Sustainable Development

ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Further deliberations on how to improve the academic offerings of the Institute were undertaken in 2007. Some key initiatives are listed below.

Summer Programs

The Task Force on Development of Summer Programs is finalizing its report. The goal is to better utilize Institute resources over the summer break and to increase its linkages with other institutions. Initial focus has been placed on creating study abroad programs that will appeal to students in North America and Europe that are envisioned to generate additional revenue and promote the brand of AIT.

Undergraduate Programs

In the Twenty Seventh Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board held on 6 August 2007, the Executive Committee took note of the report of the Institute-level Task Force appointed by the President to look into AIT's engagement in undergraduate degree programs. The decision to pursue undergraduate programs using an appropriate model has been endorsed by the Academic Senate.

Policy Initiatives

A number of academic policies were introduced in the same year. Among these, the most prominent are the following:

- **Anti-Plagiarism Policy.** The Institute has obtained an institute-wide license for use of the Turnitin plagiarism detection software. All theses and dissertations are now required to pass this check as a requirement for graduation.
- **Policy on Repetition of Courses.** The new policy permits students to repeat any course to improve their mastery of the knowledge in that area. Grades for all attempts are recorded on the transcript but only the grade of the most recent attempt is included in computing the Grade Point Average.
- **Use of Doctoral Students in Co-Teaching Courses.** Doctoral candidates now have the opportunity to co-teach courses in their respective fields of study. For each such course, the field identifies specific sections of the syllabus where to have the option of having a doctoral student teach. Course materials that are foundational in nature or covers routine skills are usually where doctoral student teaching are employed.
- **Credit Transfer Guidelines.** The Institute supports

principles that facilitate student movement between institutions. With this principle in mind, the Institute now recognizes credit transfer from other universities even beyond those universities where the Institute has active partnership agreements. Credit transfer is the process whereby credit already achieved in another institution is recognized towards another qualification. It involves the validation of a student's work and evaluation of his/her transcript, course outlines and other information relevant to the application.

- **Two-Semester Courses.** Due to the nature of some courses, coursework cannot be normally completed in one semester. In order to provide the necessary flexibility to accommodate courses of this nature, the Institute now allows certain courses to span two semesters. Examples are those that require students to conduct interviews and collect data for case studies.

Extramural Lecture Series

A series of lectures on human rights was organized this year. Two lectures covered human rights issues - one delivered by the human rights officer from the United States Embassy, and another by the Swedish Ambassador for Human Rights. Aside from these, a seminar on global warming spearheaded by speakers from the U.S. Embassy attracted a crowd of over 600 students and faculty.

TOR of Institute Education Council Broadened

The Terms of Reference of the Institute Education Council has been broadened to include review and endorsement of new academic programs and memorandum of understanding of an academic nature.

Automation of Registry Services

Further automation of registry services continued in 2007. This revolved around the (a) implementation of an online room booking; (b) automatic generation of graduation book; (c) online generation of thesis title; and (d) exploration of an online system for ordering academic records.

Exam Invigilation Training and Visits

In order to enhance Institute regulations on cheating and conduct of examinations, a series of invigilation training for non-faculty invigilators were conducted. Moreover, actual visits to exam venues were made by the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Head of Student Office.

RECOGNITION DURING THE YEAR



AIT listed among top 50 universities worldwide for the World Bank JJ/WBGSP Program

According to senior officials from the World Bank Institute (WBI) who visited AIT on March 9, AIT is one of top 50 plus universities worldwide which the Joint Japan/World Bank Graduate Scholarship Program (JJ/WBGSP) selects as its 'cooperative universities' where it sponsors scholars to pursue graduate studies. Apart from its partner universities in Japan and Korea, AIT was the only institution in Asia selected by the JJ/WBGSP.



AIT becomes the newest affiliated institute of the United Nations University

In 2007 AIT became the newest affiliated institute of the United Nations University. This was formalized in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between AIT and UNU signed by Dr. J. A. Hans van Ginkel, UNU Rector and AIT President, Prof. Said Irandoust during the AIT-UNU brainstorming workshop held at AIT on 27-28 March 2007. The proposed collaboration will target issues such as urban futures and mega cities; water management with focus on Mekong River Sub-region and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs); on-line learning; and bio-diplomacy.



Praise for Thai engineering professor

Dr. Manukid Parnichkun (left) of the mechatronics field of study, School of Engineering and Technology, was recognized this year by *Krungthep Thurakij*, a Thai business newspaper, as one of four national inventors who have developed work that captured the hearts of Thai people. The article was published in the 1 January 2007 issue's Scitech section.



H.E. Mr. Jonas Hafström, left, Swedish Ambassador, on behalf of HM King Carl XVI Gustaf, confers the Royal Order of the Polar Star with the degree of Commander Grand Cross to H.E. Mr. Anand Panyarachun.

H.E. Mr. Anand Panyarachun Honored by his Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden

H.E. Mr. Anand Panyarachun, former Prime Minister of Thailand and former Chairman of the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) Board of Trustees, was conferred with the Royal Order of the Polar Star with the degree of Commander Grand Cross, at a special ceremony held in June 2007, at the residence of H.E. Mr. Jonas Hafström, Ambassador of Sweden to Thailand, and former Chairman of the Executive Committee of the AIT Board of Trustees. The award is presented by His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf in recognition of the dedicated work by H.E. Mr. Anand during his term as Chairman of the AIT Board of Trustees. The formal communication from the Government of Sweden to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand noted that the diligence and enterprise demonstrated by H.E. Mr. Anand during his term as Chairman of the AIT Board of Trustees, has contributed significantly to the ever improving relations between Sweden and Thailand.

AIT's 108th GRADUATION

His Majesty the King of Thailand conveys his continued interest and support for AIT

Her Royal Highness Maha Chakri Sirindhorn makes a personal contribution of 1 million Baht towards scholarships



His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand conveyed through Her Royal Highness Maha Chakri Sirindhorn (*picture above conferring an honorary doctorate to H.E. Mr. Anand Panyarachun at AIT's 108th Graduation*) his continued interest and support for AIT and its work. HRH Princess Sirindhorn revealed this during the luncheon which AIT hosted in honor of HRH Princess Sirindhorn as part of AIT's 108th Graduation on 21 December 2007. Her Royal Highness also made a personal contribution of 1 million Baht towards scholarships for needy students to pursue their studies at AIT. Her Royal Highness had very fond memories and recollections of the time she spent studying at AIT in 1984, when she attended a two-month course at the Asian Regional Remote Sensing Training Center. Her Royal Highness remarked that she had enjoyed her time at AIT, and greatly appreciated and benefited from the international and multicultural environment that AIT provided, which Her Royal Highness viewed as one of the Institute's unique strengths.



RESEARCH AND OUTREACH

KEY CENTERS

The Asian Institute of Technology possesses a large reservoir of scientific expertise derived from students' and faculty research activities. Many outreach and research centers have been established on campus to translate this knowledge into practical applications. Such centers also serve to transfer societal awareness of engineering and technology, environmental science and development, and management back into the classroom.

intERLab

The Internet Education and Research Laboratory (intERLab), the first of its kind in Asia, was launched at AIT in December 2003. IntERLab aims to be a regional center for internet human resources development, helping to train and educate people from the Asia-Pacific region, especially from the Greater Mekong Sub-region, in information and communication technology (ICT). The intERLab project has been endorsed by Thailand's ICT Ministry to help enable countries in the region to keep up



with rapid developments in the ICT field. The concept of establishing a fixed location for internet human resources development has been discussed and endorsed by leading Asia-Pacific internet organizations and several leading research institutions in Asia-Pacific and Europe.

intERLab's Prof. Kanchana recognized as the "mother of Internet" in Thailand

In an article on "A Brief History of ICT in Thailand", published in the *Bangkok Post* newspaper on 7 February 2007, Prof. Kanchana



Kanchanasut of the School of Engineering and Technology (SET), was recognized as the "mother of the Internet" in Thailand. The article mentioned that Prof. Kanchana Kanchanasut has administered the '.th' domain since the beginning, and organized a very important meeting and a training course at AIT in December 1991. According to the article, the event was important in many ways. It was the first course about Unix computer networking. It dealt with the formation of an email working group in Thailand. The group united well and raised research from Nectec plus some in-kind donations from IBM, DEC and HP.

ACECOMS: Asian Center for Engineering Computations and Software

The Asian Center of Engineering Computations & Software (ACECOMS) carries out research in engineering computations, develops and promotes computer software tools for engineering applications, and conducts training in the effective use of the latest computing technology. With 29 satellite centers in 21 cities in Asia and other regions, ACECOMS carries out research in engineering computations, develops computer software tools for engineering applications and conducts training in the effective use of the latest computing technology.

Visit ACECOMS: <http://www.acecoms.ait.ac.th/>

ACSIG: Asian Center for Soil Improvement and Geosynthetics

Most capital cities in Southeast Asia are located in low-land areas associated with soft ground problems. ACSIG provides a strategic location for advanced technological education, researches and outreach activities on the application and effective utilization of ground improvement techniques. Visit ACSIG: <http://www.set.ait.ac.th/acsig>

ACTS: Asian Center for Transportation Studies

The Asian Center for Transportation Studies addresses pressing problems in transportation-related issues in Asian cities, and anticipated trends brought about by modernization. ACTS activities include modules on intelligent transportation systems, traffic simulation, freight transport, urban road safety and road safety audit.

Visit ACTS: <http://www.set.ait.ac.th/acts/>

Geoinformatic Center

Geoinformatic Center is dedicated to development and promotion of remote sensing research and activities in Asia-Pacific. Its mandate is to share satellite data, research results and experiences with researchers in the region. Various research facilities are established especially, NOAA AVHRR receiving station and Terra/Aqua MODIS receiving station to support research on global environmental study. Visit

Geoinformatic Center: <http://www.geoinfo.ait.ac.th/>

Habitech Center

The Habitech System is an innovative construction process implemented widely for housing, institutional and commercial building projects in the region. Its activities include research and outreach activities such as training in production and construction, provision of services associated with projects implemented by various organizations, agencies or the private sector. Habitech International installs building material production facilities of prefabricated modular interlocking concrete blocks worldwide for residential, institutional and commercial building construction. Visit Habitech: <http://www.habitech-international.com/indexthai.html>

International Ferrocement Information Center (IFS)

IFIC coordinates the activities of the International Ferrocement Society (IFS) including publication of an in-house *Journal of Ferrocement*. It conducts continuing education courses, and sponsored research projects. Its members include engineers, architects, students, researchers and all those interested in low-cost construction materials.

Visit IFIC: <http://www.sce.ait.ac.th/ific/>

Regional Network Office for Urban Safety (RNUS)

The Regional Network Office for Urban Safety (RNUS) is a collaborative center jointly operated by the AIT and the University of Tokyo. Its priority task is the promotion of urban safety engineering utilizing advanced engineering technologies including remote sensing and GIS.

Visit RNUS: <http://www.set.ait.ac.th/rnus/>

Thailand Accident Research Center (TARC)

The Accident Research Center is an offspring of MOTC's Road Safety Master Plan acknowledging the lack of information on accidents in Thailand and the need to establish TARC. The support of TARC comes jointly from Department of Highways, Volvo Car Corporation and AIT. TARC provides academic back-up and a base for road safety research. Visit TARC: <http://www.tarc.ait.ac.th>

Award from India's Institute of Road Traffic Education

In January, the Asian Institute of Technology was awarded by India's Institute of Road Traffic Education and the Prince Michael International Road Safety Award 2006 for contributions toward road safety in Thailand.



Photo shows Mr. Sattrawut Ponboon, receiving the award on behalf of AIT and TARC from a representative of Institute of Road Traffic Education (IRTE)

AIT Center of Excellence in Nanotechnology

The Center of Excellence in Nanotechnology is jointly supported by Thailand's Nanotechnology Center (NANOTEC) and AIT to cultivate and foster multidisciplinary activities including research and education in the applications of nanotechnology in the developing world. Visit <http://www.nano.ait.ac.th>

WHO Collaborating Center

The School of Environment, Resources and Development continued to host the World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Center for Water Supply and Waste Disposal for a period of four years. www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/about/en/index2.html

KEY PROJECTS

Southeast Asia Urban Environmental Management Applications (SEA-UEMA) Project

The Southeast Asia Urban Environmental Management Applications (SEA-UEMA) Project is a partnership of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Thailand. The project, which is being implemented by the Urban Environmental Management Field of Study, aims to contribute to the improvement of urban environmental conditions in the Southeast Asian region covering Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam. Specifically, the project seeks to attain improved applications and sharing of sound urban environmental management and policies in three key urban environmental sectors (water and sanitation, solid waste and air pollution) with gender equality as the cross-cutting theme. By doing such, the project endeavors to benefit and improve the lives of urban poor in Southeast Asia. The project began in 2003 and will continue until 2010. Visit: <http://www.sea-uma.ait.ac.th/>

SMIs in Asia: Energy, Environment and Climate Interrelations

Small and medium scale industries (SMIs) constitute a major part of the manufacturing establishments in Asia.

They play an important role in income and employment generation. However, these industries often lack investment capacities, skilled personnel and awareness of energy efficient equipment. As a consequence, SMIs use excessive energy and generate pollution, causing environmental degradation. www.serd.ait.ac.th/smi2/smi/roadmap/index.html

Asian Regional Research Program on Environmental Technology (ARRPET)

ARRPET was initiated to conduct a study to assess the growing concern on environmental degradation in Asia. Funded by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and co-ordinated by the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), ARRPET involves National Research Institutions (NRIs) from eight Asian countries, namely: China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam. ARRPET I, which commenced from 01 January 2001, was completed in June 2004. The program aimed at conducting research on environmental issues relevant to Asia in the fields of wastewater, solid waste, air pollution and hazardous waste. ARRPET II aims at applying the results of ARRPET I. The activities in ARRPET Phase II were carried out from January 1, 2004 – December 31, 2007.

Visit: www.arrpet.ait.ac.th/

Asian Regional Research Program in Energy, Environment and Climate (ARRPEEC)

The Asian Regional Research Program in Energy, Environment and Climate (ARRPEEC) is organized as a regional network involving a number of national research institutes (NRIs) from several countries of Asia. ARRPEEC is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and co-ordinated by the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT). The first and second phases of ARRPEEC started in 1995 and 1999, respectively.

Visit: www.arrpeec.ait.ac.th/

AQUA Outreach Program (AOP)

The AARM AQUA Outreach Program (AOP) is part of the AARM within the School of Environment, Resources, and Development. The aim of the Outreach Program is improve the livelihoods of the poorest groups in rural areas with access to aquatic resources. This is achieved through the strengthening of the national development institutions in Indochina, and works towards promoting sustainable aquatic systems management on a long-term basis.

Corporate Relations and Executive Development Services (CREDS)

Corporate Relations and Executive Development Services (CREDS) is an integral part of the School of Management (SOM). It is the research, consultancy, and executive development arm of the School. SOM's non-degree academic activities and programs are organized in a project format under CREDS, which complement SOM's degree programs and other related activities of SOM. It facilitates the linkage between the school, AIT and the business community and public sector in Asia. CREDS establishes closer links between the business community/public sector and SOM through executive education programs and consulting in the areas of Management of Technology, International Business, Service Marketing and Technology, and International Public Management.

Urban Environment Program-Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

The Urban Management Programme (UMP) is a global technical cooperation Programme of the United Nations aimed at strengthening the capacity of cities in developing countries in addressing the challenges of urbanization. It is executed by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), with core funding from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, and several bilateral agencies. Visit their website at: <http://www.serd.ait.ac.th/ump/>

Wetlands Alliance

AIT has joined with development partners in an alliance to work towards a common approach to building the skills needed to ensure that wetland ecosystems and aquatic resources are used in a more sustainable way for the benefit of the poor whose livelihoods and food security depend on them. This alliance includes:

- The Asian Institute of Technology (AIT);
- Coastal Resources Institute (CORIN) of the Prince of Songkla University;
- The WorldFish Center;
- Living Mekong Programme of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

The Wetlands Alliance brings together the strengths and expertise of these institutes known for their work in conservation, development, education, training and research. The aim of the Alliance is to help local government, NGOs and community networks and associations make and maintain changes that will improve the livelihoods and food security of the region's rural and peri-urban poor through sustainable management of wetlands and aquatic resources.



STUDENTS

AIT students are what the region needs

Today's AIT students are excited by the challenge of learning and working in a rapidly changing region and world. To provide leadership in managing these changes, AIT insists that its students display highly marketable qualities.

Disciplinary Competence

AIT students gain a solid grasp of the theoretical foundations and practices of their chosen academic fields, and an understanding of how their fields evolve professionally. They are challenged to see how these practices fit within a socioeconomic and ecological context, and approach problems from multiple disciplinary perspectives.

Academic Excellence

Our students belong to and engage with a variety of discourse communities, from engineering to the social sciences. These diverse communities share a respect for fundamental values of academic integrity, inquiry, ownership of ideas, originality and creativity. Fluency in English, the international language of science, and in the ethos of inquiry, are prerequisites for attaining and expressing scientific competence.

Teamwork

Today's challenges often require collaborative endeavor by teams of professionals with diverse disciplinary competences. AIT students are challenged to work both as leaders and as team members. AIT provides extensive international networks of peers working in their own field and other development contexts.

Effective Communication

AIT requires its students to possess a solid understanding of ICTs to process and disseminate what they have learned for the benefit of their organizations, government, and civil society. Communication can involve computer technologies such as collaboration tools or programming languages. AIT students also serve as physical bridges from the world of technology to the lives of ordinary people.

Commitment to Mission

Our graduates will work in diverse ways for the improvement of societies and the environment in the region, and the quality of life of people in various societies. A regional networking institute such as AIT is ideally placed to develop graduates able to work highly effectively in the multiple contexts of Asia in the 21st century.

French dual degree student volunteers with TSF in Mozambique emergency operation

This year Laurent Simon, a student in the dual degree program of the Telecommunications Field of Study at the School of Engineering and Technology, who is also a student at the French Institut National des Télécommunications (INT), volunteered in an emergency operation with Telecom sans Frontières (TSF) in Mozambique. In December 2006 AIT and TSF signed a partnership agreement. The TSF office for Asia and Pacific is hosted at the AIT campus.



Improvements in admissions, scholarships and enrollment processes

Some key developments

- Enrolment from Thailand leaped by 25% (comparing August 2006 and August 2007 intakes) due to intensified marketing efforts and possibly a better and more efficient utilization of the RTG funding. This was complemented by initiatives such as “Visit AIT Day” in April and closer contacts with universities through web-based marketing.
- A remarkable improvement of 382% in enrolment was achieved in Pakistan – thanks to a very aggressive tie-up with the Higher Education Commission.
- In Indonesia, enrolment moved up by 69% and a big factor in this is due to Pulp & Paper Technology’s closer links with related industries in the country.
- Steady but stronger ties with Sri Lanka and India resulted to 33% and 15% increases in enrolment, respectively.
- Relatively small in numbers but otherwise significant are enrolments from Afghanistan, Mongolia, Nigeria, Uzbekistan and Iran – most possibly due to more targeted promotions during the year.
- AIT also put in place an internet-based AIT English Interview Test, which allowed a few additions in enrolments from Cambodia, Myanmar and Indonesia.
- The Institute was continually introducing modern enrollment management practices to monitor and analyze application and enrollment demographics, collect enrollment marketing data, more effectively allocate financial aid and effectively manage the tuition revenue stream. Some of these initiatives revolve around:
 - Application/Admissions Tracking System. Real-time monitoring system of applications and enrollment was implemented in April 2006.
 - Real-time Fellowship Offer Monitoring and Reporting System.
 - Other Automation Enhancements: (a) Online room booking; (b) Online enrolment/graduation statistics; (c) Automatic generation of thesis title page & graduation book; (d) Checking/Harmonizing/Standardizing university names in SIS (90% completed); and (e) Adding a research evaluation component in the course evaluation system.

Stringent Implementation of English Language Requirement

The English proficiency of the August 2007 incoming batch has improved significantly over that of the August 2006 batch. About 57% of the August 2007 students are in the 5.5 or higher bracket compared to only 35% in 2006. The tightening of the English language entry requirements has helped bring about this positive improvement which will further enhance the quality of discussions and interactions in the classrooms and at the

same time also enable the Language Center to provide more focused support to those students who need to further strengthen their English.

Furthermore, to ensure compliance with the English requirement for graduation, meetings and follow-ups with students were conducted. In these meetings, refinements to the policies were formulated and actions to help support those who are weak were established and implemented.

Internet-Based AIT English Test for Admission. We have developed and started to use an internet-based version of the AIT English Interview Test for admission. This new test facilitates admission of students in countries where TOEFL and other standardized tests are inconvenient to take or prohibitively expensive. With this service, late offers and enrollments were facilitated. Such tests have been conducted in Cambodia, Myanmar and Indonesia.

Optimized Use of Fellowships. We have developed a software that will help optimize the use of fellowships in terms of tuition revenue generation. It determines the optimal amount of fellowship offer for each student.

Admissions Follow-Up. In its second year, the Student Office once again tapped student volunteers for the admissions follow-up. This activity is organized to help ensure a robust enrolment and to gather information from applicants on how to improve the admissions process. 821 concrete follow-ups were made; out of which 638 enrolled.

Visit Day (Thailand). The ‘Visit-AIT Day’ held on 2 July 2007 drew 196 prospective Thai students. Aiming to share a glimpse of AIT, applicants were able to partake a slice of campus life while meeting students, faculty and staff from various nationalities. Sponsored by the Royal Thai Government Coordination Office and coordinated by the Student Office, the one-day event was envisioned to assist applicants in this crucial period when they finalize their decision to further their study at the Institute.

“Career Center@AIT” gains momentum

Reinvigorated Career Fairs. For the first time at AIT, 48 companies joined the 29-30 March 2007 Career Fair. This was a big jump in terms of participating corporations, which on average runs with only 15 to 17 per year over the last 15 years. It was also the first time that the event was conducted for 2 days. From the March 2007 Fair, 795 students applied for jobs, of which, 240 were interviewed and 77 were considered for placement.

The center holds Career Fairs twice a year - in November and March. The fair, which takes place on

campus, provides companies ready access to the institute's yearly pool of 700 master's and doctoral graduates and its 15,000 alumni. In these Fairs, they are able to give presentations, to meet face-to-face with students to discuss employment possibilities, and to conduct on the spot job interviews. It also provides an excellent opportunity to enter into discussions with AIT faculty members.

Strengthened Networking with Corporate and Non-Corporate Partners. Over the last year of its existence, the Center has increased its activities relating to corporate networking particularly with multinationals such as the International Monetary Fund, Schlumberger, Siemens, General Motors, General Electric, Aditya Birla, etc.

These organizations visit AIT for career talks and direct job or internship recruitments.

Regularized Career Counseling. The Career Center provides numerous ways to reach students and alumni. Aside from the career fairs and corporate talks, career counseling, workshops and placement activities have been regularized and systematized this year. Students and alumni are now realizing the presence and services of the Career Center. Over and above such contacts, the center's sophisticated web site (www.careercenter.ait.ac.th) gives it greater visibility.

GRADUATES

Table 1a: GRADUATION TRENDS (2007)

By School and Degree Program

	May	Aug	Sep	Dec	Total 2007	
					Number	% of Total
By School:						
* SET	204	16	-	50	270	35%
* SERD	234	8	5	47	294	38%
* SOM	115	12	2	85	214	28%
	553	36	7	182	778	100%
By Degree Program:						
* DEng	16	2	1	22	41	5%
* PhD	9	1	5	15	30	4%
* DTechSc	2	2	1	3	8	1%
* MEng	238	12	-	23	273	35%
* MEng(P)	-	-	-	14	14	2%
* MSc(P)						
* MSc	177	7	-	25	209	27%
* MBA/(Exec)	111	12	-	79	202	26%
* Diploma	-	-	-	1	1	0%
Doctoral	27	5	7	40	79	
Masters	526	31	-	141	698	
	553	36	7	182	778	100%



Table 1b: GRADUATION TRENDS (2007)

By Country of Origin

	May	Aug	Sep	Dec	Total 2007
Southeast Asia and the Pacific	387	15	6	143	551
Cambodia	28			5	33
Indonesia	12	1		5	18
Laos	30	1		8	39
Malaysia	5				5
Maldives	1				1
Myanmar	31			4	35
Philippines	7	1			8
Thailand	136	10	6	66	218
Vietnam	137	2		55	194
South Asia and West Asia	118	11	1	23	153
Bangladesh	20			5	25
Bhutan	13			3	16
India	26	4	1	9	40
Nepal	33	4		1	38
Pakistan	11	1		2	14
Sri Lanka	15	2		3	20
East Asia and Central Asia	34	5		11	50
Azerbaijan					
Hong Kong	1				1
Japan	2				2
Korea	1				1
Kyrgyzstan	1	1			2
Mongolia	3			4	7
PR China	24	3		5	32
Taiwan	1			2	3
Uzbekistan	1	1			2
America and Canada		3			3
Canada	1				1
USA	2				2
Europe	8	4		4	16
France	8	4		2	14
Italy				1	1
Switzerland				1	1
Africa	3	1		1	5
Ethiopia		1			1
Morocco	3				3
Togo				1	1
TOTAL	553	36	7	182	778

STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

School of Environment, Resources and Development



Two new AIT graduates win paper competition

Papers written by two new graduates (May 2007), Mr. Didin Agustian Permadi (left) and Mr. Kok Sothea (right), from Environmental Engineering and Management (EEM), were among the winners at a graduate level competition organized by the West Coast Section – Air & Waste Management Association of U.S.A. Mr. Permadi's paper was entitled "Photochemical smog pollution in Jakarta and management strategy development using CAMx-MM5 modeling system". Mr. Sothea's paper on "Emission inventory for modeling air quality for Phnom Penh, Cambodia" received the special comment from one of the reviewers as the most sophisticated work representing an attempt to gain insight into the air quality issues of a major metropolitan city (Phnom Penh City, Cambodia).

School of Management

AIT team takes runners-up prize at Global Social Venture Competition – South-East Asia



A team of School of Management students took home the Runners-Up Prize at the Global Social Venture Competition – South-East Asia (GSVC-

SEA), which is a regional Business Plan Competition on ventures with social importance. The team passed through a challenging preliminary screening process of business school plans which were submitted by 16 teams from 6 countries in the South-East Asian region, including business plan submissions from MBA students in Australia and New Zealand.

School of Engineering and Technology



Engineering students take 1st and 2nd in unmanned car competition



Two teams from AIT's Mechatronics Field of Study, School of Engineering and Technology (SET) won 1st and 2nd rank in the preliminary round of the inaugural Thailand Intelligent Vehicle Challenge, Thailand Championship, organized in March 2007 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Seventeen teams representing 13 universities in Thailand participated. Each team built an autonomous unmanned vehicle which had to run on a predefined curved road.

AIT engineering students claim First Prize at INSEE Lightweight Concrete Awards Competition

A trio of AIT's structural engineering students proved to be the best in concrete technology when they won the first prize at Thailand's "The First INSEE Lightweight Concrete Awards" in late 2007. The competition was jointly organized and sponsored by AIT partner Siam City Cement Public Company (SCCC), King Mongkut's Institute of Technology North Bangkok (KMITNB) and Rajamangala University of Technology Rattanakosin (RMUTR). Thirty teams from universities in Thailand joined the competition.





ALUMNI

The reputation of a learning institute is strongly connected to the achievements of its alumni. Over the past twenty years many prominent members of AIT's alumni have distinguished themselves in many fields of endeavor. Included amongst our alumni are a current vice president of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), regional director of UN Agencies and the World Bank, governmental ministers and deputy ministers and permanent secretaries, presidents and CEOs of successful companies, and rectors and vice chancellors of universities. As of December 2007 graduation, 15,547 young professionals from 80 countries and territories have graduated from AIT.

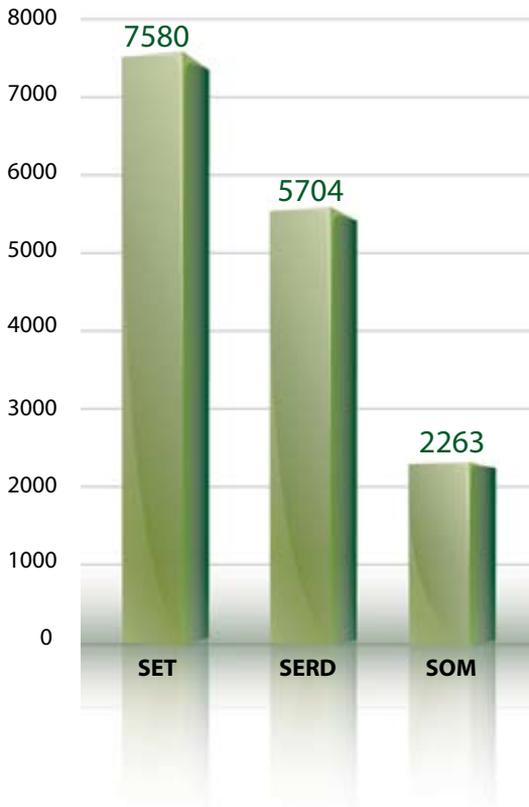
Update on Alumni Relations

- Total 15,547 alumni after December 2007 graduation.
- Regular communications with AITAA Mother Chapter: Monthly AITAA ExCom meetings until December 2007.
- Attended AIT-AITAA Collaborative Workshop on 7 December 2007.
- 36th General Body Meeting of AITAA was held on 8-9 December 2007.

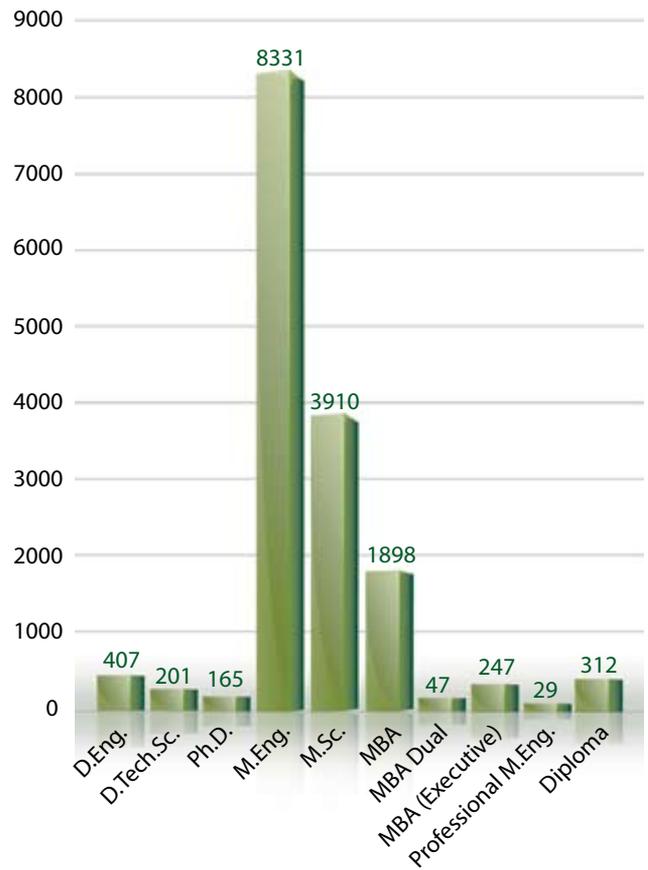
Alumni Distribution

by Nationality							
Southeast Asia		South and Southwest Asia		North America and Europe		Africa	
Brunei Darussalam	10	Afghanistan	19	Austria	2	Cameroon	1
Cambodia	321	Bangladesh	899	Azerbaijan	5	Egypt	2
Indonesia	608	Bhutan	74	Belgium	12	Ethiopia	13
Laos	263	India	891	Bulgaria	2	Ghana	2
Malaysia	304	Iran	22	Canada	11	Kenya	4
Myanmar	471	Maldives	6	Denmark	10	Malawi	5
Philippines	874	Nepal	873	Finland	18	Morocco	4
Singapore	29	Pakistan	689	France	135	Mozambique	1
Thailand	4083	Sri Lanka	784	Germany	25	Nigeria	4
Vietnam	2030	Stateless	6	Ireland	3	Rwanda	1
Sub-total	8993	Sub-total	4263	Italy	5	Tanzania	8
East Asia		Pacific		Luxemburg	1	Togo	1
China	677	Australia	2	Netherlands	7	Zambia	1
Hong Kong	89	Fiji	1	Norway	3	Sub-total	47
Japan	85	Kiribati	1	Poland	1		
Korea	154	Papua New Guinea	9	Portugal	2		
Macao	7	Solomon Island	1	Russia	1		
Mongolia	45	Tonga	1	Spain	9		
Taiwan	847	Tuvalu	1	Sweden	4		
Sub-total	1904	Sub-total	16	Switzerland	2		
Central Asia		Central and South America		Turkey	6		
Kazakhstan	14	Argentina	1	UK	4		
Kyrgyzstan	12	Bolivia	1	USA	19		
Tajikistan	1	Honduras	1	Sub-total	287		
Uzbekistan	5	Peru	1				
Sub-total	32	Venezuela	1				
		Sub-total	5				
						Total	15547

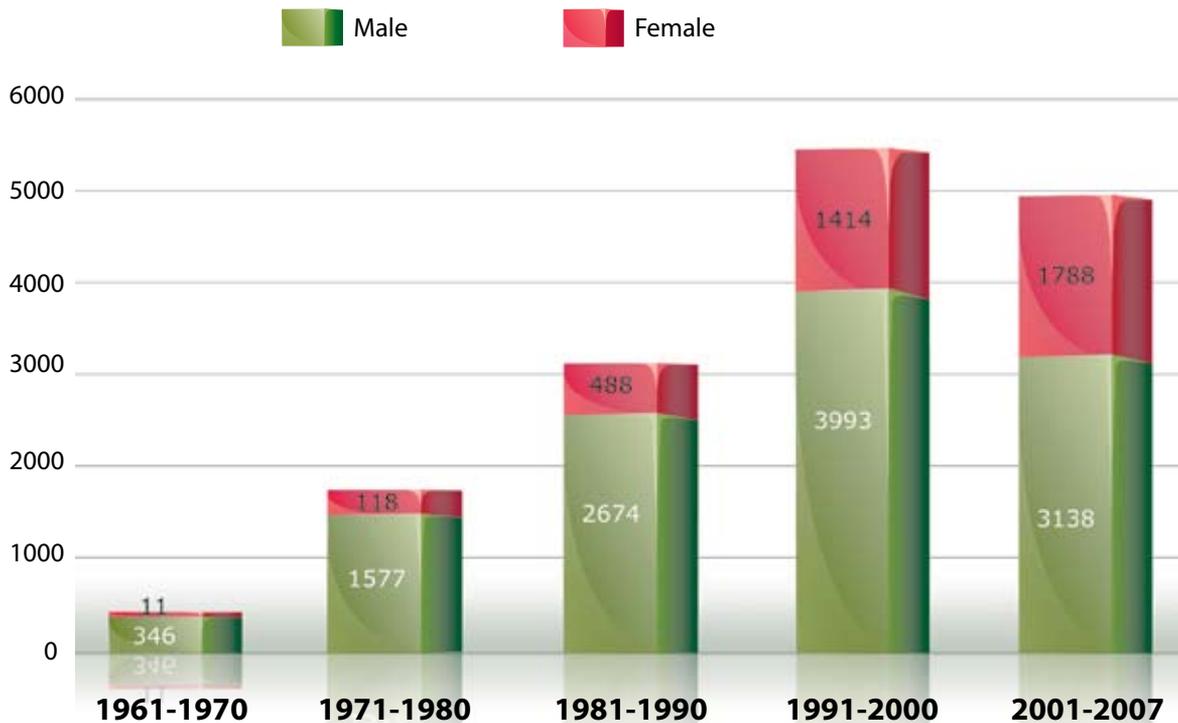
Alumni Distribution by School



Alumni Distribution by Degree

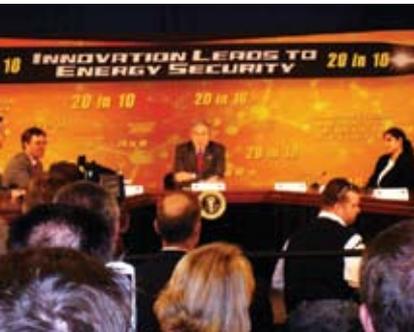


Alumni Distribution by Gender (1961 - December 2007)



ALUMNI SUCCESS STORIES

AIT alumnus discusses fuel alternatives with U.S. President Bush



Dr. Ratna Sharma, an AIT alumnus who graduated from SERD's Agricultural and Food Engineering in 1999, had a unique opportunity in 2007 of meeting with U.S. President George Bush to discuss alternative fuels. She was one of the 6 panel members invited from all over the country. The panelists spent more than an hour discussing alternative resources from agriculture that could be used to produce ethanol. Dr. Sharma has been working as an Assistant Professor of Bioprocess Engineering at North Carolina State University since 2003.

Sri Lankan grad receives National Science and Technology Award

Eng. S.M.K.B. Samarakoon, an alumnus of AIT (Computer Science) received Sri Lanka's National Science and Technology Award for the year 2006, under the category of Quality Improvement of Products, Processes and Services. The award presentation was jointly organized by the Ministry of Science and Technology and National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka. He was recognized for his research and development of "Automatic Data Acquisition System for Process Monitoring and Diagnostics" which is installed in four power stations of Mahaweli Ganga which did not have such automatic systems.

Dr. Bindu Lohani named ADB Vice-President



The Board of Directors of Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved the appointment of Dr. Bindu N. Lohani, an alumnus of AIT, as Vice-President (Finance and Administration). As a distinguished alumnus and close friend of AIT, Dr. Lohani has greatly helped foster and strengthen relations between ADB and AIT through the launching of various activities and initiatives.

Dr. Shrinivas Rao takes "Entrepreneurs Business Idea Competition" at Cambridge



Dr. Shrinivas Rao, an alumnus (D.Engg 2000 and M.Engg 1992), and a former senior lab supervisor at AIT, won the Cambridge University Entrepreneurs Business Idea Competition in 2007. He was among the 10 prize winners for innovative ideas competition. Dr. Rao is pursuing a graduate course in

Bioscience Enterprise offered by the Institute of Biotechnology and Judge Business School at the University of Cambridge, UK. The bioscience enterprise program runs in conjunction with Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Boston, USA. Dr. Rao is a Gates Scholar at Cambridge University and a member of Trinity Hall. Prior to joining the bioscience enterprises course at Cambridge, he served as senior lab supervisor at SERD's Food Engineering and Bioprocess Technology program for fourteen years.

Dr. Siriwan Suebnukarn wins International Federation of Inventor Association top prize for pioneering 'COMET' system

An alumna of AIT's Computer Science and Information Management Program, School of Engineering and Technology, Dr. Siriwan Suebnukarn, won the prestigious International Federation of Inventor Association's (IFIA) Lady Prize for the Best Women Invention, at the 2007 International Invention Show and Technomart, Taiwan, on 27-30 September 2007.

The award was for her work on COMET: an intelligent tutoring system for medical problem-based learning. Her pioneering work successfully passed the Asian, Africa and Australia semifinal round of the World Cup of Computer Implemented Inventions (CIIs), and has been chosen to compete in the final round of the World Cup of CIIs in 2008.



Dr. Andras Vedres (pictured right), President of the International Federation of Inventor Association (IFIA) presents the Inventor's Award to AIT alumna Dr. Siriwan Suebnukarn (left).



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITOR'S REPORT

AUDIT REPORT OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

To the Board of Trustees of Asian Institute of Technology

I have audited the accompanying balance sheet of Asian Institute of Technology as at 31 December 2007, and the related statements of revenues and expenses, changes in fund balances and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Organization's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. The financial statements of Asian Institute of Technology for the year ended 31 December 2006 were audited by another auditor whose report dated 26 March 2007, expressed an unqualified opinion on those statements, before the restatement as described in Note 13 to the financial statements.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Asian Institute of Technology as at 31

December 2007, and the revenues and expenses, the changes in fund balances and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles appropriate for non-profit organization as set out in Note 2 to the financial statements.

I have also audited the adjustment described in Note 13 that was applied to restate the 2006 financial statements. In my opinion, such adjustment is appropriate and has been properly applied.



(Bongkot Amsageam)
Certified Public Accountant
Registration No. 3684

KPMG Phoomchai Audit Ltd.
Bangkok, Thailand
14 March 2008

BALANCE SHEETS

As at 31 December 2007 and 2006

	Note	2007	2006 (Restated)
<i>(in Baht)</i>			
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	257,962,516	225,881,176
Current investments	5	290,732,194	169,647,637
Accounts receivable	6	51,126,998	74,440,890
Receivables from Program fund		20,057,266	37,948,043
Inventories		140,968	296,397
Assets held on behalf of donors	9	695,006,197	448,222,532
Assets held on behalf of UNEP RRC.AP	10	160,116,229	200,384,761
Other current assets		27,647,872	29,833,405
Total current assets		1,502,790,240	1,186,654,841
Non-current assets			
Restricted deposits of financial statements	4	30,000,000	30,000,000
Property and equipment	7	721,402,921	784,353,843
Advance deposits		-	245,216
Total non-current assets		751,402,921	814,599,059
Total assets		2,254,193,161	2,001,253,900
Liabilities and fund balances			
Current liabilities			
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	8	124,936,285	103,874,972
Advances from Program fund		203,904,501	230,772,214
Deposit payables		6,513,385	6,823,053
Amounts due to donors	9	695,006,197	448,222,532
Amounts due to UNEP RRC.AP	10	160,116,229	200,384,761
Total current liabilities		1,190,476,597	990,077,532
Fund balances			
Endowment fund balances		155,998,651	154,814,706
Capital funds balances		736,352,707	796,430,807
General reserve		171,365,206	59,930,855
Total fund balances		1,063,716,564	1,011,176,368
Total liabilities and fund balances		2,254,193,161	2,001,253,900

STATEMENTS OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES

For the years ended 31 December 2007 and 2006

	Note	2007	2006 (Restated)
<i>(in Baht)</i>			
Revenues			
Tuition and other fees - net		483,447,770	510,989,854
Research grants and contracts		220,218,571	219,767,420
Support operations		169,751,851	152,496,517
Training		186,232,819	214,827,652
Other contributions		22,900,095	38,216,087
Faculty secondments		67,710,839	54,465,903
Total revenues		1,150,261,945	1,190,763,433
Expenses			
Salaries and benefits	11	511,064,107	606,323,266
Materials, supplies and services		293,548,147	204,666,595
Contracted services		61,083,736	90,277,455
Communication and travel		59,620,818	62,711,289
Utilities and insurance		56,066,643	55,766,259
Faculty secondments		67,710,839	54,465,903
Total expenses		1,049,094,290	1,074,210,767
Excess of revenues over expenses		101,167,655	116,552,666
Depreciation	7	84,313,130	96,256,941
Excess of revenues over expenses including depreciation		16,854,525	20,295,725
Non operating income/(expenses)			
Investment income		31,709,184	21,469,546
Other income		1,602,420	-
Losses on exchange rate		(10,575,730)	(30,000,783)
Gains (losses) on disposal of assets		2,896,747	(321,291)
Net excess of revenues over expenses		42,487,146	11,443,197

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

For the years ended 31 December 2007 and 2006

	Note	2007	2006 (Restated)
		<i>(in Baht)</i>	
Balances as at 1 January		1,053,045,225	1,069,240,707
Adjustment	13	(41,868,857)	(40,371,192)
Adjusted balances as at 1 January		1,011,176,368	1,028,869,515
Additions:			
Net excess of revenues over expenses		42,487,146	11,443,197
Total		1,053,663,514	1,040,312,712
Transfers to/(from) other funds:			
Transfers (to)/from funds held on behalf of others		1,076,113	19,452,073
Reclassification to receivables from Program fund		184,941,432	115,990,002
Reclassification to advance from Program fund		(175,964,495)	(164,578,419)
Total		10,053,050	(29,136,344)
Balances as at 31 December		1,063,716,564	1,011,176,368

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

For the years ended 31 December 2007 and 2006

	Note	2007	2006 <i>(Restated)</i>
		<i>(in Baht)</i>	
Cash flows from operating activities			
Opening fund balances		1,011,176,368	1,028,869,515
Closing fund balances		1,063,716,564	1,011,176,368
Movement in fund balances		52,540,196	(17,693,147)
Adjustments to reconcile movement of fund balances			
Doubtful debts		15,086,556	-
(Gains) losses on disposal of assets		(2,896,746)	321,291
Depreciation		84,313,130	96,256,941
Unrealised losses on exchange rate		18,905,961	57,139,911
Movement in fund balances from operating activities before changes in operating assets and liabilities		167,949,097	136,024,996
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:			
Accounts receivable		5,983,068	(10,437,812)
Receivables from Program fund		17,890,777	(9,674,052)
Inventories		155,429	102,127
Other current assets		2,185,533	(7,259,123)
Advanced deposits		245,216	-
Accounts payable and accrued expenses		21,061,313	677,344
Advances from Program fund		(26,867,713)	58,262,469
Deposit payables		(309,668)	(284,480)
Net cash provided by operating activities		188,293,052	167,411,469
Cash flows from investing activities			
(Increase) decrease in current investment		(121,084,557)	5,120,452
Proceeds from sale of equipment		3,028,818	1,913,391
Purchase of property and equipment		(21,494,280)	(37,233,225)
Net cash used in investing activities		(139,550,019)	(30,199,382)
Effects of foreign exchange translation on cash and cash equivalents			
		(16,661,693)	(32,724,456)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		32,081,340	104,487,631
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		225,881,176	121,393,545
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	4	257,962,516	225,881,176

These notes form an integral part of the financial statements.

The financial statements were authorized for issue by the President of the Institute on 14 March 2008.

1 General information

The Asian Institute of Technology (“the Institute”) is a regional post-graduate institution. The Institute operates on a not-for-profit basis. The Institute is located at Km 42 Paholyothin Highway, Klong Luang, Pathum Thani, Thailand.

The principal activities of the Institute are providing programs in engineering, science, advanced technologies and related management and administration.

2 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements issued for Thai reporting purposes are prepared in the Thai language. This English translation of the financial statements has been prepared for the convenience of readers not conversant with the Thai language.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with Thai Accounting Standards (“TAS”) including related interpretations and guidelines promulgated by the Federation of Accounting Professions (“FAP”) and with generally accepted accounting principles in Thailand.

During 2007, the FAP has issued a number of new and revised TAS which are only effective for financial statements beginning on or after 1 January 2008 and have not been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements. These new and revised TAS are disclosed in note 17.

The financial statements are presented in Thai Baht, rounded in the notes to the financial statements to the nearest thousand Baht, unless otherwise stated. They are prepared on the historical cost basis.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with TAS requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements about carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Accordingly, actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods, if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Fund accounting

To ensure observance of limitations and restrictions placed on the use of the resources available to the Institute, the books of account of the Institute are maintained in accordance with the principles of “fund accounting” which is appropriate for a non-profit organisation. This is the procedure by which resources for various purposes are classified for accounting and reporting purposes into funds, which are in accordance with activities or objects specified. Within each fund group, fund balances which are restricted by outside sources are so indicated and are distinguished from unrestricted fund allocated to specific purposes by action of the governing board. The governing board retains full control of unrestricted funds to use in achieving institutional objectives.

The purposes and objects of the funds are as follows:

Unrestricted Current Fund (Fund 10)

This fund is the operating account of the Institute. It is available for general operating purposes without restrictions, such as might be imposed by a grant agency or donor.

Restricted Fund-General (Fund 21)

The use of this fund is restricted to those units holding non-profit making status. This includes: AIT Center, AIT Centre in Vietnam, certain campus services, academic-related services supporting academic units and certain administrative functions.

Restricted Endowment Fund (Fund 22)

The Endowment Fund is used where donors have stipulated, as a condition of their gift, that the principal is to be maintained inviolate and in perpetuity. Some, or all, of the income from the investments may be used to further the objectives of the endowment.

Restricted Fund-General Reserve (Fund 23)

Donors and other agencies have granted funds to the Institute on the basis that the principal is held inviolate and in perpetuity. The income from the fund is available to the Institute to be expended in accordance with agreements established by the gifting party at the point of the donation or grant. The Board of Trustees stipulates that the surplus of the unrestricted current fund, restricted fund – general and the excess of the activities under Program fund which were completed during the year each year are transferred to the General Reserve and that the funds must be held for future use.

Sponsored Program Fund (Fund 30)

The sponsored program fund is subject to restrictions by donors or other agencies limiting its use for funding specific research projects, conferences, short courses, workshops or similar projects.

Capital Fund (Fund 41)

This fund holds the Institute's property, plant and equipment, including library books.

Capital Fund - Liquid Assets (Fund 42)

This fund records the renovations, repairs and replacement to the existing assets.

Agency Fund (accounted for as Fund 50 and Fund 60)

These funds are held on behalf of donors and other agencies and are disbursed in accordance with their instructions. The Institute has no title to these funds and the associated revenues and expenses have been excluded from the statement of revenues and expenses. The assets held on behalf of these others have been disclosed in the balance sheet together with the associated liability for the same amount to these other parties.

3 Significant accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the Institute comprise the funds of the Institute and those of its branch to which it holds title.

Branch

A Branch is an autonomous or semi-autonomous operating entity within an organisation which does not have a separate legal identity. The Branch will have separately identifiable assets, liabilities, cash flows, revenues and expenses over which it has accountability.

(b) Foreign currencies

Foreign currency transactions

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into Thai Baht at the foreign exchange rates ruling at the dates of the transactions.

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are translated to Thai Baht at the foreign exchange rates ruling by the Bank of Thailand at that date. Foreign exchange differences arising on translation are recognised in the statement of revenues and expenses.

Non-monetary assets and liabilities measured at cost in foreign currencies are translated to Thai Baht using the foreign exchange rates ruling at the dates of the transactions.

Foreign entities

The assets and liabilities of foreign entities are translated to Thai Baht at the foreign exchange rates ruling at the balance sheet date.

The revenues and expenses of foreign entities, are translated to Thai Baht at rates approximating the foreign exchange rates ruling at the dates of the transactions.

Foreign exchange differences arising on translation are recognised in the statement of revenues and expenses.

(c) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash balances, call deposits and highly liquid short-term investments.

(d) Accounts and other receivables

Accounts and other receivables are stated at their invoice value less allowance for doubtful accounts.

The allowance for doubtful accounts is assessed primarily on analysis of payment histories and future expectations of customer payments. Allowances made are based on historical written-off patterns. Bad debts are written off when incurred.

(e) Inventories

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Cost is calculated using the first in first out method and comprises all costs of purchase and other costs incurred in bringing the inventories to their present location and condition.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business less the estimated costs necessary to make the sale.

An allowance is made for all deteriorated, damaged, obsolete and slow-moving inventories.

(f) Property and equipment

Owned assets

Property and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Donated assets are stated at fair value at the time of donation, deemed cost. Subsequently they are stated at the deemed cost less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation

Depreciation is charged to the statement of revenues and expenses on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of each part of an item of assets. The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Campus development	10 years
Buildings	40 years
Furniture and equipment	5 - 10 years
Transportation equipment	8 - 15 years
Library assets	6 years

No depreciation is provided on assets under construction.

(g) Impairment

The carrying amounts of the Institute's assets are reviewed at each balance sheet date to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. If any such indication

exists, the assets' recoverable amounts are estimated.

An impairment loss is recognised whenever the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable amount. The impairment loss is recognised in the statement of revenues and expenses unless it reverses a previous revaluation credited to fund balance, in which case it is charged to fund balance.

(h) Payables

Payables are stated at cost.

(i) Employee benefit

Defined contribution plans

Obligations for contributions to the Social Securities Fund, Provident Fund and Insured Saving Fund are recognised as expenses in the statement of revenues and expenses as incurred.

(j) Provisions

A provision is recognised in the balance sheet when the Institute has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. If the effect is material, provisions are determined by discounting the expected future cash flows at a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and, where appropriate, the risks specific to the liability.

(k) Revenue

Revenue received for the provision of goods and services are recognised in the period in which the goods are provided or the services rendered.

Tuition and fees

Tuition and fees is recognised on an accrual basis.

Grant income

Grant income is recognised when it is received due to the inherent uncertainty involved in both the rights to the revenue and the timing of the revenue.

Donations

Due to the absence of any obligation on the donor to make the donation and the uncertain nature of the timing of receipt, donations have to be recognised on a cash basis.

Contribution in kind

These represent services donated to the Institute in the form of a secondment of faculty or staff and where the value is estimated based on the approved Institute professional salary scale. The amounts are recognised as revenues and expenses in the restricted general fund.

Investment income

Investment income is recognised on an accrual basis.

(l) Expenses

Operating leases

Payments made under operating leases are recognised in the statement of income on a straight line basis over the term of the lease. Contingent rentals are charged to the statement of revenues and expenses for the accounting period in which they are incurred.

Expenses are recognised in the period they are incurred. Interest expense is recognised in the statement of revenues and expenses as it accrues.

(m) Income tax

No income tax provision is made in the financial statements as the Institute is exempt from payment of income tax in accordance with the notification issued in the Royal Gazette dated 25 October, 2510 B.E. (1967).

Except for services rendered by the Conference Center, the Institute has been exempted from Value Added Tax (VAT), under Section 4(4) of the Royal Decree issued under the Revenue Code governing exemption from Value Added Tax (No. 239), B.E. 2534 which was additionally amended under the Royal Decree (No. 254) B.E. 2535.

4 Cash and cash equivalents

	2007	2006
	<i>(in thousand Baht)</i>	
Bank accounts	128,342	56,837
Fixed deposits with maturity		
three months or less	159,621	199,044
Cash and deposits at		
financial institutions	287,963	255,881
Less Deposits pledged		
as collateral	(30,000)	(30,000)
Cash and cash equivalents	257,963	225,881

As at 31 December 2007, fixed deposits of Baht 30 million (2006: Baht 30 million) were pledged as collateral for bank overdraft and outstanding letters of guarantee issued by the same bank (see note 15).

The currency denomination of cash and cash equivalents as at 31 December was as follows:

	2007	2006
	<i>(in thousand Baht)</i>	
Thai Baht (THB)	262,058	224,223
United States Dollars (USD)	25,905	31,658
Total	287,963	255,881

5 Current investments

	2007 (in thousand Baht)	2006 (in thousand Baht)
Fixed deposits with maturity more than three months	290,732	169,648

The currency denomination of fixed deposits as at 31 December was as follows:

	2007 (in thousand Baht)	2006 (in thousand Baht)
Thai Baht (THB)	247,113	126,988
United States Dollars (USD)	43,619	42,660
Total	290,732	169,648

6 Accounts receivable

	2007 (in thousand Baht)	2006 (in thousand Baht)
Tuition and other fees	28,518	28,614
Others	37,695	45,827
Total	66,213	74,441
Less allowance for doubtful accounts	(15,086)	-
Net	51,127	74,441

Doubtful debts expenses for the year	15,086	-
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Aging analyses for accounts receivable were as follows:

	2007 (in thousand Baht)	2006 (in thousand Baht)
Current	17,127	21,330
Overdue:		
Less than 3 months	13,764	10,731
3-6 months	12,589	18,656
6-12 months	7,337	7,168
Over 12 months	15,396	16,556
Total	66,213	74,441
Less allowance for doubtful accounts(15,086)	-	-
Net	51,127	74,441

The currency denomination of accounts receivable as at 31 December was as follows:

	2007 (in thousand Baht)	2006 (in thousand Baht)
Thai Baht (THB)	42,741	23,464
United States Dollars (USD)	21,670	36,458
Euro (EUR)	1,802	2,416
Canada (CAD)	-	12,103
Total	66,213	74,441

7 Property and equipment

	Campus Note	development Buildings	Furniture and equipment	Transportation equipment	Library assets	Assets under construction	Total	
<i>(in thousand Baht)</i>								
Cost								
At 1 January 2006		48,316	1,125,580	824,481	30,115	242,703	20,868	2,292,063
Additions		313	196	25,370	29	10,216	1,109	37,233
Disposals		-	-	(627)	(5,684)	-	-	(6,311)
Transfers		-	15,115	4,885	681	-	(20,681)	-
At 31 December 2006 and 1 January 2007		48,629	1,140,891	854,109	25,141	252,919	1,296	2,322,985
Additions		142	2,236	11,185	-	7,547	384	21,494
Disposals		-	-	(5,664)	(6,273)	-	-	(11,937)
Transfers		-	384	613	-	-	(997)	-
At 31 December 2007		48,771	1,143,511	860,243	18,868	260,466	683	2,332,542
Accumulated depreciation								
At 1 January 2006	13	40,371	477,284	705,908	14,777	208,109	-	1,446,449
Depreciation charge for the year		1,498	32,663	44,982	3,344	13,771	-	96,258
Disposals		-	-	-	(4,076)	-	-	(4,076)

7 Property and equipment (continue)

	Campus Note development	Buildings	Furniture and equipment	Transportation equipment	Library assets	Assets under construction	Total
<i>(in thousand Baht)</i>							
At 31 December 2006 and 1 January 2007	41,869	509,947	750,890	14,045	221,880	-	1,538,631
Depreciation charge for the year	1,406	28,535	39,758	2,124	12,490	-	84,313
Disposals	-	-	(5,533)	(6,272)	-	-	(11,805)
At 31 December 2007	43,275	538,482	785,115	9,897	234,370	-	1,611,139

Net book value

At 31 December 2006	6,760	630,944	103,219	11,096	31,039	1,296	784,354
At 31 December 2007	5,496	605,029	75,128	8,971	26,096	683	721,403

The gross carrying amount of fully depreciated assets that was still in use as at 31 December 2007 amounted to Baht 875.47 million (2006: Baht 882.13 million).

8 Accounts payable and accrued expenses

	2007 <i>(in thousand Baht)</i>	2006 <i>(in thousand Baht)</i>
Owing to suppliers	23,550	7,320
Provision for insured saving fund tax	16,544	19,087
Advance from students	17,172	13,595
Withholding tax payable	10,407	13,260
Accrued expenses	8,589	8,102
Payables to staff	2,360	4,999
Advance received from donors	116	1,355
Others	46,198	36,157
Total	124,936	103,875

The currency denomination of accounts payable and accrued expenses as at 31 December was as follows:

	2007 <i>(in thousand Baht)</i>	2006 <i>(in thousand Baht)</i>
Thai Baht (THB)	124,629	103,470
United States Dollars (USD)	13	398
Euro (EUR)	294	7
Total	124,936	103,875

9 Assets held on behalf of, and amounts due to, donors

The agency fund represents amounts held on behalf of donors and other agencies and are disbursed in accordance with their instructions. The Institute has no title to these funds or the associated revenues and expenses. The fund

balances as at 31 December 2007 and 2006 and revenues and expenses for the years then ended were as follows:

	2007 <i>(in thousand Baht)</i>	2006 <i>(in thousand Baht)</i>
Funds received from donors	689,946	400,261
Application of funds		
■ Salaries and other benefits	57,715	48,094
■ Scholarships	381,828	302,031
■ Contracted services	928	895
■ Communication and travel	5,616	2,751
Total funds applied	446,087	353,771
Surplus for the year	243,859	46,490

Assets held on behalf of donors

Cash and deposits at		
financial institutions	381,475	447,899
Fixed deposits	312,836	-
Accounts receivable	695	323
Total assets held on behalf of donors	695,006	448,222

Amounts due to donors

Balance at 1 January	443,202	416,164
Surplus for the year	243,859	46,490
Transfers to other funds	(1,076)	(19,452)
Balance at 31 December	685,985	443,202
Liabilities	9,021	5,020
Total amounts due to donors	695,006	448,222

10 Assets held on behalf of, and amounts due to, UNEP RRC.AP

	2007 <i>(in thousand Baht)</i>	2006
Funds received from		
UNEP RRC.AP	139,603	215,930
Total funds applied	190,411	161,030
Surplus/(deficit)		
for the year	(50,808)	54,900

Assets held on behalf of UNEP RRC.AP

Cash and deposits at financial institutions	152,560	197,077
Accounts receivable	6,472	1,634
Fixed assets	1,084	1,674
Total assets held on behalf of UNEP RRC.AP	160,116	200,385

Amounts due to UNEP RRC.AP

Balance at 1 January	188,964	134,064
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(50,808)	54,900
Balance at 31 December	138,156	188,964
Liabilities	21,960	11,421
Total amounts due to UNEP RRC.AP	160,116	200,385

11 Personnel expenses

	2007 <i>(in thousand Baht)</i>	2006
Wages and salaries	435,416	521,276
Social security costs	6,667	7,486
Contribution to provident fund and insured saving fund	17,593	25,507
Personal income tax of employees	9,686	22,266
Other costs	41,702	29,788
Total	511,064	606,323

(number of employees)

Number of employees as at 31 December

Unrestricted and Restricted Funds	848	894
Other sections	103	74
Total	951	968

Provident Fund and Insured Saving Fund

The Institute and its staff jointly operate the Insured Saving Fund, a post-retirement defined contribution scheme. Effectively from 1 February 2004, a Provident

Fund has replaced the Insured Saving Fund. The Institute contributes to the fund at the rate of 10% of salary earned, and the employees contribute to the fund at rates 3% to 10% of gross salary. Effectively from 1 April 2006, the Institute contributes to the fund at the rate of 5% of salary earned, and the employees contribute to the fund at rates 3% to 5% of gross salary. The fund is managed by TISCO Assets Management Co., Ltd. The assets of the Insured Saving Fund were substantially transferred to the new Provident Fund.

12 AIT Center in Vietnam (AITCV)

The Institute has a branch operation in Hanoi, Vietnam of which the purpose of the its operation is to:

- Educate and train students, technocrats, business managers and other professionals; and
- Organize research outreach and development activities as well as the transfer of technologies as required by the economic development of the country.

The results of the operations which have been included as part of the results of the Restricted Fund - General (Fund 21) were summarised as follow:

	2007 <i>(in thousand Baht)</i>	2006
Revenues	87,496	59,530
Expenses	78,177	64,693
Excess of revenue over (under) expenses	9,319	(5,163)

Financial statements for the years ended 31 December 2007 and 2006 have been produced and approved by the management of the branch.

Significant accounting transactions between the Institute and its branch were eliminated from these financial statements.

13 Adjustment

Starting from 1 January 2007, the Institute determined to record depreciation for campus development of which the adjustment is applied retrospectively to the Institute's 2006 financial statements, which are included in the Institute's 2007 financial statements for a comparative purpose.

	2007 <i>(in thousand Baht)</i>	2006
Property and equipment		
Balance at 1 January		
before adjustment	826,223	885,983
Decrease in fund balances	(41,869)	(40,371)
Balance at 1 January after adjustment	784,354	845,612

Fund balances

Balance at 1 January		
before adjustment	1,053,045	1,069,241
Adjustment in accumulated depreciation	(41,869)	(40,371)
Balance at 1 January after adjustment	1,011,176	1,028,870

Net excess of revenues over expenses

Net excess of revenues over expenses		
before adjustment	43,893	12,941
Depreciation	(1,406)	(1,498)
Net excess of revenues over expenses after adjustment	42,487	11,443

14 Financial instruments

Financial risk management policies

A financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to both a financial asset of one enterprise and a financial liability or equity instrument of another enterprise at the same time.

Risk management is integral to the whole business of the Institute. The Institute has a system of controls in place to create an acceptable balance between the cost of risks occurring and the cost of managing the risks. The management continually monitors the Institute's risk management process to ensure that an appropriate balance between risk and control is achieved.

The financial risks associated with these financial instruments and how they are managed is described below.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that future movements in market interest rates will affect the results of the Institute's operations and its cash flows.

The Institute's exposures to interest rate risk relate primarily to its cash and cash equivalents at banks as well as fixed deposits. However, since most of its financial assets bear floating interest rates or fixed interest rates which are close to the current market rates, the interest rate risk is expected to be minimal.

Foreign currency risk

Currency risk occurs when the value of financial instruments changes in accordance with the fluctuations of the exchange rate, which may affect gain/loss on foreign exchange currency of the present and future years.

The exposure of the foreign currency risk to the Institute relates primarily to the receipts for tuition and

sponsored funds, and the receipts and payments for sponsors and donors. The adverse impact from foreign exchange rate fluctuations forced the Institute to revise the tuition fee from USD to Thai Baht, starting August 2006. Regarding the receipts and payments to sponsors and donors, the Institute has maintained the level of USD 1 million, which is sufficient for natural hedging. The USD 1 million level was approved by the Audit and Executive Committees at their meetings on 5 November 2007. The management will be closely monitoring the optimal level given the changing composition of foreign currencies. Having said all the above, the foreign currency risk has been minimised.

At 31 December, the Institute was exposed to foreign currency risk in respect of financial assets and liabilities denominated in the following currencies in Baht equivalent:

	2007	2006
	<i>(in thousand Baht)</i>	
Assets		
United States Dollars (USD)	91,194	178,939
Euro (EUR)	1,802	2,415
Canada (CAD)	-	12,103
Total	92,996	193,457
Liabilities		
United States Dollars (USD)	13	398
Euro (EUR)	294	7
Total	307	405
Net exposure	92,689	193,052

Credit risk

Credit risk refers to the risk that a counterparty may default on its contractual obligations, which may result in a financial loss.

Although the Institute has established the credit policy which includes policies and procedures with regards to tuition, fees, and other costs, it remains exposure to the risk primarily for the supply of educational services to self-support students. While proof of availability of funds is required before those students are accepted for enrollment (in the form of bank statement, land title deed, or authorised documentary proof of third party sponsorship), and also advanced payment of the first semester tuition and fees are mandatory. However, these are not sufficient and are not fully considered as collateral in respect of fees for future semesters of enrollment.

Liquidity risk

The Institute monitors its liquidity risk and maintains a level of cash and cash equivalents deemed adequate by

management to finance the Institute's operations and to mitigate the effects of fluctuations in cash flows.

Fair values

The fair value is the amount for which an asset could be exchanged, or a liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's length transaction.

The fair value of cash and cash equivalent, current investments, accounts and other receivable and accounts and other payable are approximate to their carrying value presented in balance sheet due to the relatively short-term maturity of these financial instruments.

15 Commitments

Land lease

The Institute successfully renewed the lease with the Thammasat University on 10 June 2005. The new lease also contains a Memorandum of Understanding between the Institute and Thammasat University, concerning academic co-operation, as an integral part of the new lease agreement to lease land for 30 years from 19 January 2001 to 18 January 2031 in the amount of Baht 600,000; on expiry of the lease agreement it will give the Institute the right to continue to lease the land. However, the consideration for this discount is that should the lease not be renewed and the land revert to Thammasat University (University), so all buildings and infrastructure on the Institute's site will become the property of the University.

Furthermore, the Lease is contingent on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the University and the Institute. The MOU provides that the Institute will make available and fund a total of sixty scholarships over the thirty-year life of the Lease. Scholarships made in accordance with the MOU will cover tuition fees for qualified lecturers from the University, selected by the University, to pursue a Doctoral degree at the Institute. As at 31 December 2007, the scholarship commitment amounted to totalling Baht 77.8 million (2006: Baht 77.8 million).

Bank guarantees

As at 31 December 2007, bank guarantees which were issued by the bank on behalf of the Institute in respect of bank overdraft facility and certain performance bonds as required in the normal course of operations of the Institute amounted to totalling Baht 6.8 million (2006: Baht 3.2 million).

16 Contingent liabilities

As at 31 December 2007, there are five labour cases pending for trial at the Court involving with the claims under the Labour Protection Law and the Labour Relation Law. Four cases have been decided by the Central Labour Court favourably to the Institute. However, the four cases are still pending in the Supreme Court. Another case is pending for trial in the Central Labour Court. The Management believes that the outcome of all these cases will be in favour of the Institute.

17 Thai Accounting Standards (TAS) not yet adopted

The Institute has not adopted the following TAS that has been issued as of the balance sheet date but are not yet effective. These TAS will become effective for financial periods beginning on or after 1 January 2008.

TAS 25 (revised 2007)	<i>Cash Flows Statements</i>
TAS 29 (revised 2007)	<i>Leases</i>
TAS 31 (revised 2007)	<i>Inventories</i>
TAS 35 (revised 2007)	<i>Presentation of Financial Statements</i>
TAS 39 (revised 2007)	<i>Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors</i>
TAS 51	<i>Intangible Assets</i>

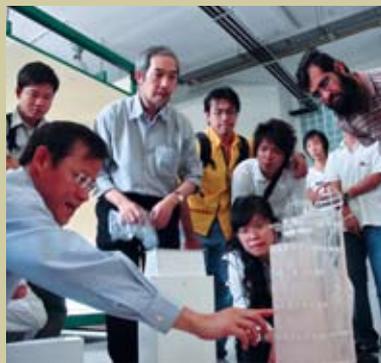
The adoption and initial application of these TAS is not expected to have any material impact on the Institute's financial statements.

18 Reclassification of accounts

Certain account in the 2006 financial statements has been reclassified to conform with the presentation in the 2007 financial statements.



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Asian Institute of Technology



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