



Stellar Performances at AIT Cultural Show Enthrall Audience

The AIT Cultural Show 2016 organized by the Student Union Culture and Gender Committee under the theme of “Colours of Life” saw over one hundred student performers and volunteers captivate a standing-room-only crowd at the AIT Auditorium on the evening of February 20.

Performing artists representing ten countries took to the stage in competitive and non-competitive categories. The eight-hour extravaganza included 45 unique performances, many reflective of the mosaic of cultures found on campus.

Magicians, fire eaters, dancing puppeteers, a multi-part video and thought-provoking live theater underscored a programme of music and dance that kept the judges busy and the AIT Community audience undeniable entertained.

Myanmar was crowned the night’s overall champion when the total votes were tallied. Category winners included Competitive Dance (Myanmar), Solo/Duet Singing (Philippines), Group Singing (Sri Lanka), Drama (Sri Lanka), Talent Show (Thailand), Fashion Show (Nepal), and Mr. and Miss AIT (Sri Lanka).

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Fiji Minister Calls on AIT



H.E. Minister Inia B. Seruiratu (left) and Prof. Sivanappan Kumar.

H.E. Minister Inia B. Seruiratu, Minister of Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management, Fiji, was welcomed to AIT on 20 February 2016 by Prof. Sivanappan Kumar, Vice President for Academic Affairs. Minister Seruiratu was accompanied by Mr. Pita Tagicakirewa, Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of Fiji, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The Minister's visit included a discussion on the Government of Fiji's plan to send two government officers from its National Disaster Management Office to undertake the Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation and Management (DPMM) Professional Masters' program at AIT starting in August 2016. The officials also met with DPMM Coordinator Professor Pennung War-nitchai, and were briefed on all aspects of the program by Dr. Indrajit Pal, DPMM faculty member.

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ROK officials visit AIT



Counsellor Chang Soyc (left) and Mr. Han Jinsup.

Mr. Chang Soyc, Counsellor, The Embassy of the Republic of Korea (ROK) in Thailand, and Mr. Han Jinsup, Director, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) visited AIT on 25 February 2016, and expressed their intention to resume Korea's constructive relationship with AIT. They were welcomed by AIT President Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai and senior AIT officials, who highlighted the close partnership between the two.

Prof. Worsak mentioned that the hub of AIT student activities is the Korea House, which was gifted by the Government of Korea to AIT. Similarly, South Korea had also granted an endowment fund of \$1 million to AIT, besides deputing seconded visiting faculty to AIT. The delegates also visited Korea House and met with AIT students.

Global consulting firm Pöyry seeks greater engagement



Anja Silvennoinen

Pöyry, a leading global consulting and engineering firm focusing on energy, forest industry, infrastructure and environment, wants to enhance its engagement with AIT. It seeks a greater level of association with AIT experts, and will consider engaging highly qualified students as interns and for longer work placements.

At AIT on 2 February 2016, a four-member delegation led by Anja Silvennoinen, Pöyry Executive Vice President identified energy and water as potential fields of collaboration. They welcomed the suggestion of working together in the field of hydropower, smart grids, and possibly pulp and paper. Ms. Anja Silvennoinen was accompanied by Mr. Knut Sierotzki, Director, Hydropower and Renewable Asia; Dr. Markku Oksanen, Vice President, Hydropower; and Mr. Petteri Harkki, Managing Director, Thailand.

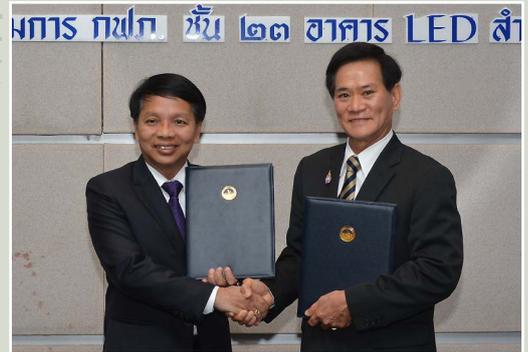
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PEA signs 20 Mil. Baht agreement with AIT to upgrade 24 staff

The Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA) of Thailand will send twenty-four of its staff to enroll in Master and Doctoral programs offered by AIT over the next four years, to support its plans for developing “Smart Network” energy services.

In a Memorandum of Agreement signed on 15 February 2016 by PEA Governor Sermsakool Klaikaew and AIT President Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai, five qualified staff will pursue their Master's degree at AIT each year, while one qualified employee will enroll in an Energy doctoral program each year for the next four years.

The MoA valued at 20 Mil. Thai Baht covers the academic areas of Energy, Computer Science, Telecommunications, ICT, and



PEA Governor Sermsakool Klaikaew (left) with President Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai.

Management, all of which are under the human resource development plan of PEA.

Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand ties up with AIT

Thailand state enterprise Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (I-EA-T) has entered into a multi-faceted three-year partnership with AIT, signing a Memorandum of Understanding



Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai (left) with Dr. Verapong Chaiperm.

(MoU) on 4 February 2016 for cooperation for the authority's new Excellence Center.

Under the MoU signed by I-EA-T Governor Dr. Verapong Chaiperm and AIT President Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai, both sides agreed to coordinate to enhance industrial development training, promote business and industrial investment and to generate business networks to strengthen the potential of investors of both parties with the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community. The deal is expected to underscore I-EA-T's drive to be one of the top three organizations in developing and administering industrial estates in Southeast Asia through its “ASEAN TOP 3” strategic excellence campaign.

Pruksa Real Estate PCL awards 1 Mil. THB Scholarship

Pruksa Real Estate Public Company Limited handed over a cheque of 1 Mil. Thai Baht (THB) to AIT on 23 February 2016 to support one student from India to earn his Master's degree in engineering at AIT.



From left: Mr. Udomsak Yanmoon, Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai, and Mr. Soumyshree Baraiki.

Mr. Udomsak Yanmoon, Executive Vice President, Pruksa PCL, made the donation to AIT President Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai, who accepted the gift on behalf of the Institute. Mr. Udomsak was accompanied by Mr. Dunyanit Udomwongsup, Pruksa Real Estate PCL Training and Development Manager, and Mr. Supachai Rakpanitmanee, Managing Director, Panya Consultants Co. Ltd. The first recipient of Pruksa's “Bonded Scholarship Support for Master's Degree Program in Construction Engineering and Infrastructure Management” is Mr. Soumyshree Baraiki, 25, from Odisha, India.

EMERITUS PROFESSOR



Prof. Dennes Bergado has been bestowed with the title of Emeritus Professor. Prof. Bergado graduated with a Bachelor's in Civil Engineering (1974) from Mindanao State University, Philippines; and obtained his Master's in Engineering (Soil Engineering, 1976) from AIT. He did his Ph.D. in Civil and Geotechnical Engineering as a

Fullbright Exchange Scholar from Utah State University, USA.

He joined AIT as an Assistant Professor in September 1982 and was promoted to the rank of Professor in 1997. He has served as a Professor at AIT for about 15 years, and has graduated 17 Ph.D. and 160 Master's students. His publication record includes two books, 24 edited books, 148 refereed journal articles, seven chapters in books, 227 papers in conference proceedings, 73 papers (theme papers, keynote lectures, invited and special lectures), 42 non-refereed publications and one patent under his name.



Prof. Vinod Jindal has been bestowed with the title of Emeritus Professor. Prof. Jindal obtained his Bachelor's in Science from Agra University, India (1963) and his second Bachelor's in Agricultural Engineering and Technology from G B Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, India (1967). He completed his Master's in Agricultural

Engineering from University of Nebraska, Lincoln, USA (1971); and his Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering (with specialization in Food Process Engineering) from the Pennsylvania State University, University Park, USA in 1975.

He joined AIT as an Assistant Professor in 1977, and he was promoted to the rank of Professor in 1989. He has served as Professor at AIT for about 16 years, and has graduated 19 Ph.D. and 160 Master's students. His publication record includes 79 publications in peer reviewed journals, 43 papers in conference proceedings, one book chapter, seven edited conference proceedings/research reports, 22 papers in workshops/conferences/conventions and seminars, and six consultancy reports/other publications.



Prof. Chongrak Polprasert has been bestowed with the title of Emeritus Professor. Prof. Chongrak completed his Bachelor's in Civil Engineering from Chulalongkorn University (1971), and his Master's in Environmental Engineering from AIT (1974). He obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Washington, Seattle, USA in 1977.

Prof. Chongrak joined AIT as Assistant Professor in 1977 and was promoted to the rank of Professor in 1989. He has served as Professor at AIT for about 20 years, and graduated 24 Ph.D. and 100 Master's students. His publication record includes three books, 34 book and monographs, and 112 refereed journal articles. He has also served AIT as Dean of the School of Environment, Resources and Development (SERD) for nine years.

PROFESSOR



Dr. Kyoko Kusakabe of School of Environment, Resources and Development (SERD) has been promoted to

the rank of Professor. Dr. Kyoko joined AIT as an Assistant Professor in the Gender and Development Studies (GDS) Field of Study (FoS) in June 1999.

She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (English language and arts, 1986) from Sophia University, Japan; and she obtained both her Master's (Rural and Regional Development Planning, 1991) and Ph.D. (Gender and Development Studies, 1999) from AIT.



Dr. Manukid Parnichkun of School of Engineering and Technology (SET) has been promoted to the rank of Professor.

Dr. Manukid joined AIT as Assistant Professor in Industrial Systems Engineering in November 1996, and he was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor in 2001. He obtained his Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering from Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, in 1991; and both his Master's (1993) and Ph.D. (1996) in Precision Machinery Engineering from the University of Tokyo, Japan.

The weekly grocery shopping just became more sustainable, courtesy of AIT Campus Sustainability Club



Members of the AIT Campus Sustainability Club.

The weekly trip to the market has now become more sustainable, courtesy of an initiative of the AIT Campus Sustainability Club (AITCSC). Moving beyond car-pooling that students and residents of AIT often practice when they travel from the Institute campus, the Club went a step ahead. They engaged a Songthaew, an indigenous mode of transportation, for the weekly grocery visit to the nearby Talad Thai market, which is one of the biggest markets of fresh farm produce in Thailand. This initiative has two targets — sharing of transport and replacing plastic bags with cloth bags.

What is unique is that the Club has also prepared an estimation of carbon emissions. A return trip to Talad Thai market covers 14 kilometers, and considering a mileage of 17 kilometers per litre, the Club estimated that it results in a reduction in carbon emission of 3.835 kg per trip for a cohort of 11 students — a small amount, but a large step towards a sustainable lifestyle.

AIT students act as social reporters at the ASEAN Conference on Biodiversity



AIT students at ASEAN Conference on Biodiversity.

Eleven student volunteers from AIT acted as ‘Social Reporters’ at the Second ASEAN Conference on Biodiversity (ACB) 2016 held on 15-17 February 2016 at Bangkok. As social reporters, AIT students documented the technical sessions, summarized the proceedings, provided inputs to the daily

bulletin, assisted in the field trip for delegates, and participated in discussions with policy makers, experts, NGOs, and government officials. Nine of the 11 student volunteers came from the Natural Resource Management (NRM) field of study, while one each came from Environmental Engineering and Management (EEM), Regional and Rural Development Planning (RRDP), and Remote Sensing and Geographical Information Systems (RS/GIS). The 11 students came from nine countries including two each from Thailand and India, and one each from Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Vietnam.

AIT Research Competition 2016: Call for Ideas



AIT Solutions has called for ideas for the AIT Research Competition 2016. The competition is a platform for AIT researchers to develop their research and business idea to scalable solutions by working with industry experts and venture capitalists. Winners will have the opportunity to access adequate funds, technical assistance, and guidance required to bring their innovative ideas to life. Open to AIT researchers, the deadline for call for

ideas is 15 February. The call is followed by submission of ideas (25 March), first round results (5 April), second round results (12 May), and final award (13 May). Details are available at this link:

<http://goo.gl/OXUIZP>

COMING UP!

- **AIT OPEN HOUSE**
11 March
<http://goo.gl/aukNCi>
- **AIT CAREER FAIR**
30 March
<http://goo.gl/CtNnjx>

Global Re-engagement with Former AIT Faculty Members

Aside from the official appointment of Emeritus Professor by the Board of Trustees, AIT has launched an innovative way to connect with its pool of former faculty members in the form of "Distinguished Adjunct Faculty (DAF)". To entertain their strong wish to contribute to AIT, this engagement opens an official channel for them to maintain their association with AIT. This pool also includes AIT's prominent alumni who have become professors in top universities all over the world.

In late October 2014, AIT President Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai invited all former faculty members "who had AIT in their hearts" to participate in a survey soliciting their professional support. The aim was to strengthen AIT's relationship with this diaspora of former faculty members, so that they could serve as AIT's academic ambassadors.

So far 73 former faculty members working at top universities around the world have accepted AIT's offer to join the DAF initiative. In addition, seven alumni who possess a professorial rank in renowned universities have also accepted to be DAF.

Under the DAF initiative, a former faculty member can maintain a professional affiliation with AIT by using AIT's ID, business card and email address. AIT would provide a common office space with secretarial support whenever DAF members are present at AIT. Although the association is voluntary, DAF members can be remunerated on spe-



cific services rendered to AIT Schools, Centers, research projects or other fund generating units by providing course teaching, research, outreach, consulting and developing new academic curricula.

The President wishes to invite all DAF members to visit the Institute, and also consider delivering a DAF seminar. Please communicate with the Institute Secretary, Mr. Karma Rana karma@ait.asia regarding the arrangements of your visit, and with the related Deans to explore short-term teaching, research, outreach and other opportunities at AIT.

In case any former AIT faculty member wants to reengage with AIT, please contact Mr. Karma. For more information, please visit DAF website <https://goo.gl/9yUINU>.

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