



## HRH PRINCESS MAHA CHAKRI SIRINDHORN INAUGURATES MODERNIZED AIT LIBRARY

*Princess blesses the AIT Renaissance event by unveiling AIT Clock Tower and Gate*

The Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) was blessed with auspicious royal patronage when Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn formally inaugurated the modernized AIT library, the AIT Clock Tower, and the new AIT Gate on 27 April 2018.

At a stellar function organized in the precincts of the AIT Library, Princess Sirindhorn inaugurated the new facilities, and by the press of a button digitally unveiled two new landmarks in real-time — the Clock Tower and the new Gate. The opening event was a showcase of AIT technologies where tradition merged with modernity, and the ceremonial unveiling of the curtain was acti-

vated by sensor-based technologies — all of which was streamed live for the participating audience.

The inauguration of the modernized library is an important milestone for AIT, since the entire ground floor facilities had been inundated by the ravaging flood of 2011. The movement to create a new library received royal patronage in January 2015, when Princess Sirindhorn blessed the campaign and provided seed money of 1 Million THB to launch the campaign. A brainchild of AIT President Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai, the Library Fundraising campaign ultimately emerged as the most successful fundraising event in AIT history, collecting nearly 80 million Thai Baht.



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## THE GRAND FINALE



27 April 2018 marked the grand finale of the AIT Library Modernization campaign when HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn not only unveiled the modernized AIT Library and inaugurated the AIT ClockTower and AIT Gate, but also honored major donors who contributed towards the fundraising campaign.

Dr. Subin Pinkayan, Chairperson of AIT Board of Trustees, expressed his gratitude at the august presence and patronage of the Princess. He stated that as an alumni, it has been a great honor and privilege to serve as Chairman of this prestigious institution. Narrating the challenges posed by the flood in 2011 which was the worst natural calamity in AIT's history, as well as the deadlock in the administration and a void in governance due to legal challenges, Dr. Subin mentioned how the continued use of the AIT Charter of 1967 (2510) and the accompanying AIT Enabling Act has provided the legal recourse to normalize AIT's relations with host country Thailand. Speaking about the AIT renaissance, the Board Chairman commended the leadership of the AIT President Professor Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai for having successfully and in a very systematic manner addressed the issues one by one, and for effectively implementing the strategies and directions outlined by the Board.

In his report to Her Royal Highness, Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai traced the challenges faced by AIT. These challenges and critical episodes provided AIT with an opportunity to reset itself for a new life, Prof. Worsak said. "My immediate task after taking over was to regain the trust of our host country. With the support of Your Royal Highness, AIT has succeeded in restoring the trust and the support from the Royal Thai Government," Prof. Worsak said.

He mentioned how the critical issue of relations with the



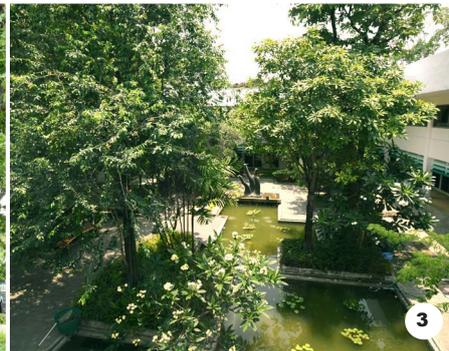
host country were resolved, and how the pressing issue of regaining public confidence in our academic standing was tackled by AIT making a mark in global university rankings. "The daunting task of my presidency was to renovate our campus which was damaged to a point where many thought that it could not be rescued after all," the AIT President said, as he highlighted the measures taken to overcome the financial and administrative crisis in AIT. Elaborating on the success of the AIT Library Modernization campaign, Prof. Worsak mentioned that AIT was "able to galvanize the faithful participation of AITians, friends and partners in presenting this wonderful gift to our beloved institute." President Worsak expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Princess Sirindhorn for guiding the Institute through this period and for serving as the Honorary Chair of International Advisory Committee of the AIT Library Modernization.

Princess Sirindhorn was greeted on her arrival by a bevy of international students dressed in their traditional attire, while Library Director, Ms. Pranek Kiriyanant welcomed here at the AIT Library. A special exhibition depicting the association of HRH Princess Sirindhorn with AIT was the highlight of the event. Two AIT faculty members — Prof. Weerakorn Ongsakul demonstrated the solar panel installation, while Prof. Manukid Parnichkun presented the Library Robot.

Also opened to the public was the new renovated administration building, which also hosted an exhibition of AIT innovations by AIT Solutions. Additional new campus renovations include a prominent AIT bus-stop, and a new annex at the AIT Conference Center. Another major upgrade is the infrastructure backbone and campus landscaping, with the Library surroundings now including a knowledge garden and a well-lit elegant patio.

## Photo Gallery





1, 3 Administration Building. 2 Coffee Shop. 4 Clock Tower. 5 New AIT Gate. 6 New AIT bus stop. 7 AIT Conference Center Annex.

## Dr Shobhakar Dhakal is Coordinating Lead Author for IPCC Sixth Assessment Report



*Dr. Shobhakar Dhakal*

Dr. Shobhakar Dhakal of AIT has been selected as the Coordinating Lead Author (CLA) for the Chapter on ‘Emission Trends and Drivers’ for the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Seven-hundred and twenty-one experts from 90 countries will participate as Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors, and Review Editors. They were selected among 2,858 experts representing 105 countries. Dr. Shobhakar and Ferenc Toth of Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, Global Environment Facility share the responsibility for being CLAs for Chapter 2 of the Working Group (III) of IPCC. “These author teams, drawn from the hundreds of excellent nominations the IPCC was fortunate to receive, provide us with the necessary expertise across a range of disciplines to conduct the assessment,” a statement released by the IPCC said.

## Dr Wenchao Xue joins AIT



*Dr. Wenchao Xue*

Dr. Wenchao Xue has joined AIT as Assistant Professor in Environmental Engineering and Management in the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change, School of Environment, Resources and Development. Dr. Wenchao received her PhD in Urban Engineering from the

University of Tokyo, Japan, and her M.E. and B.E. in Environmental Science and Engineering from Tsinghua University, China.

She has held positions at the Department of Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering of Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand as postdoctoral fellow, and later as a foreign lecturer teaching and supervising research of foreign postgraduate students.

## AIT student research selected as Elsevier Atlas article of the month



*Rajan Parajuli*

An article by AIT student Rajan Parajuli and Dr. Philippe Doney has been selected by Elsevier as the Atlas article of the month. The article “Exploring the role of telemedicine in improving access to healthcare services by women and girls in rural Nepal” has been selected from thousands of recently published articles for the Elsevier Atlas. Rajan is a doctoral student of Gender and Development Studies in the Department of Development and Sustainability in AIT’s School of Environment, Resources and Development.

The article was coauthored by Rajan with his advisor Dr. Philippe Doney, who serves as an Associate Professor at AIT. Every month, a single Atlas article is selected from published research from across over 3,800 journals on Science Direct by an external advisory board made up of individuals from NGOs. The panelists review the contribution to science and society, and analyze the societal impact of the article.

## SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS



**Seminar: Blockchain State of the Art and Novel Application.**

*Dr. Bhume Bhumiratana*

**4 April 2018**



**HR training on Excellence in Customer Service.**

**4 April 2018**



**Seminar: Big Data Analytics in Practice**

*Dr. Nimit Pattanasri*

**11 April 2018**



**Workshop: Sanitation and Hygiene Equity (SHE) Hub**

**20-21 April 2018**

*Participants came from 16 institutions from nine countries spread across Asia, Africa and Europe. The workshop was led by Cranfield University.*

## AIT Rises Again

A video titled “AIT Rises Again” was released on the occasion of the inauguration of the modernized AIT Library.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XpyBbWJCLS8>



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