



STUDENTS FROM 23 COUNTRIES MAKE AIT THEIR NEW HOME

Students from 23 countries joined the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) as the campus reopened for the January 2019 semester, with the new batch including a significant number who arrived as exchange students.

Incoming students hail from Europe (France, Germany, and Hungary), Africa (Nigeria), and Asia (Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, People's Republic of China, Thailand, Taiwan, and Viet Nam).

The diverse range of students is reflective of AIT's international orientation and partnerships. Eight Eu-

ropean universities have sent their students to AIT under international exchange agreements. These include Polytech Nice-Sophia, EDHEC Business School, and Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (all of them from France); Technical University of Munich and Bauhaus University of Weimar (Germany); UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education (The Netherlands); and Budapest Technical University, Hungary.

Additionally, students from Tunghai University, Taiwan have also joined AIT under a Double Degree Master Program, while another batch joined from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (India) under the Unified Bachelor-Master program.

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AIT is Extremely Popular in Bangladesh: Ambassador



Top: Delegation from the Embassy of Bangladesh at AIT
Bottom: Exhibition by Women's Empowerment Organization.

“AIT is extremely popular in Bangladesh, and students aspire to study in the Asian Institute of Technology.” This was stated by H.E. Mr. Md Nazmul Quanine, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Thailand, during his visit to AIT on 7 January 2019. Accompanied by Ms. Shahnaz Gazi, Minister (Political), the Ambassador stated that Bangladesh wishes to enhance its cooperation with AIT. “As we move towards the fourth industrial revolution, we will focus on research that is relevant to the emerging needs of our society,” the Ambassador said.

Welcoming the Ambassador, AIT President Eden Y Woon highlighted his vision of AIT, and stated that the Institute will focus on entrepreneurship and innovation. AIT was represented by Prof. Sivanappan Kumar, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Prof. Rajendra Shrestha, Dean, School of Environment, Resources and Development, Prof. Nazrul Islam, Dean, School of Management, Prof. Pennung Warnitchai, Dean, School of Engineering and Technology, Prof. Joyashree Roy, Bangabandhu Chair Professor at AIT, Dr. Jonathan Shaw, Executive Director, AIT Extension, Mr. Karma Rana, Institute Secretary, Mr. Shawn Kelly, Director, Office of External Relations (OEXR), and Ms. Sumana Shrestha, Senior Program Officer (OEXR). Later, the visiting delegation also met with members of the Bangladeshi community. Subsequently, on 29 January 2019, The Women's Empowerment Organization of Bangladesh also organized an exhibition of products manufactured by small-scale entrepreneurs.

Indian Ambassador Pays First Visit to AIT



Top: H.E. Mrs. Suchitra Durai (right) with Dr. Eden Y Woon.
Bottom: Ambassador Durai interacting with Indian students.

Ambassador of India to Thailand, H.E. Mrs. Suchitra Durai paid her first visit to AIT on 11 January 2019. Complimenting AIT for its exemplary work, she stated that it was heartening to learn about the contributions made by AIT, and how it has shaped the lives of so many people. She was accompanied by Mr. Ashwin M Kotnis, Counsellor (Science, Education and Consular).

AIT President Dr. Eden Y Woon mentioned that his vision is to establish the spread of AIT to other parts of Asia. There will be an increased focus on student exchange programs for students, and industry internships, President Woon added. The visiting delegation met with Prof. Sivanappan Kumar, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Prof. Rajendra Shrestha, Dean, School of Environment, Resources and Development (SERD), Prof. Nazrul Islam, Dean, School of Management, Prof. Matthew Dailey, Head, Department of Information and Communication Technologies, School of Engineering and Technology, Prof. Joyashree Roy of SERD, Mr. Karma Rana, Institute Secretary, and Ms. Sumana Shrestha, Senior Program Officer, Office of External Relations. The visiting delegation also interacted with students from India.

The President Visits Top Universities in China



Dr. Eden Woon and Prof. Jinlong Yang, Vice President of University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei.

In mid-January, President Eden Woon visited four universities in China. He also visited the China Scholarship Council to discuss the possibility of expanding scholarships for students from China. The universities visited were the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, the University of Science and Technology, University of China in Hefei, the Shanghai Tech University, and Shanghai University in Shanghai. The first three universities are in the Chinese Academy of Sciences system and are highly ranked in China and globally. The purpose is to promote AIT to these universities with the intention to forge agreements with them in students exchanges, faculty exchanges, workshops and training, research collaboration, and degree cooperation.

At each university, the President described the mission and status of AIT, and laid out for the leadership



Meeting with the Secretary General of China Scholarship Council, Beijing.

of the host universities his vision for the future of AIT. He found that there is great interest in AIT's capacity building research and education and training, and there is interest in either directly collaborating with AIT in our core strength research areas or in complementarily collaborating with AIT by seeing if the leading-edge innovation research they are engaged in can be applied in our social impact research areas. In short, relationships will be developed between AIT and these prestigious universities, with AIT beneficiaries being students and faculty who will be able to interact in exchanges and research with these top universities in China. Follow-up actions to result eventually in concrete agreements have begun. This visit is part of the President's vision to expand AIT's global footprint and relationships and influence, and visits to top universities in other parts of the world will continue.

6 AIT Students Attend NPU Winter Program

Six AIT students attended the Winter Program organized by the Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU) in Xi'an, China from 4-17 January 2019. The six students -- Mr. Sanguansak Pithaksenakul (Thailand), Mr. Kenneth Daniel Quesada (Philippines), Mr. Chanpisith Phal (Cambodia), Ms. Sirapa Malla (Nepal), Ms. Su Myat Kyaw (Myanmar), and Ms. Somaly Oum (Cambodia) joined other international students from Russia, South Korea, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Pakistan in the winter program. Students participated in a wide range of activities ranging from learning about satellite control systems to Chinese history and language, and workshops on laser paper cutting.



Participants at the NPU Winter Program.

Three AIT Vice Presidents Approved by the Board of Trustees

On January 31, 2019, the AIT Board of Trustees unanimously approved the appointment of the three new Vice Presidents. The three new VP's are:



Professor Deepak Sharma

— Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA), Professor Deepak Sharma. Professor Sharma has been Director of the Center for Energy Policy and Professor of Energy Planning and Policy at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS). He has been a UTS faculty member ever since receiving his PhD at AIT in 1991. He also received his master's degree at AIT. The new VPAA will oversee the Schools and will work with Deans and faculty to inject more innovation into our research and teaching, and to ensure the implementation of our internationalization and more relevant education agenda. He will report for duty on April 1, 2019.



Mr. Russell Bruce Rein

— Vice President for Administration (VPA), Mr. Russell Bruce Rein. Mr. Rein is currently the Head of Business Services/Director of Operations with the International Schools Group Jubail in Saudi Arabia and formerly performed the same role at the United Arab Emirates University and the American University of Phnom Penh. The VPA will oversee finance, human resources, purchasing, facilities, the International School and other operations to ensure a caring and smooth and efficient running campus. He will report for duty May 1, 2019.



Dr. Naveed Anwar

— Vice President for Knowledge Transfer (VPKT), Dr. Naveed Anwar. Dr. Anwar has been a long time Executive Director of AIT Solutions, as well as Affiliated Faculty in Structural Engineering, performing outreach, consulting and developing solutions with the business sector in our core strength and innovative areas. He received his PhD from AIT in 2004. The VPKT will oversee the new Entrepreneurship Center, technology transfer policy at AIT, commercialization of research, and industrial relations. He will also work with the VPAA on making the curriculum more relevant. He will report for duty on April 1, 2019.

On the three new Vice Presidents, President Eden Woon said: "I am extremely pleased with the three high-quality individuals the Board has approved to be on the leadership team of AIT with myself. I am confident they will dedicate themselves to work with the AIT family to bring AIT up to the next level, incorporating into what we do daily more innovation, internationalization, enterprise relevance, entrepreneurship, and care-taking of our campus and stakeholders. We are fortunate to have these new very qualified Vice Presidents help lead AIT. Let us all give them a warm welcome when they begin their duties!"

Dr. Mohana Sundaram Shanmugam Joins as Assistant Professor



Dr. Mohana Sundaram Shanmugam

Dr. Mohana Sundaram Shanmugam has joined the Water Engineering and Management program at Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) as an Assistant Professor.

Dr. Shanmugam obtained his PhD from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras, and completed his postdoc from University of Nebraska at Lincoln. His research interests include irrigation water management, groundwater recharge estimation, soil moisture monitoring and modelling in unsaturated zone, chemical leaching modelling into groundwater systems, remote sensing and GIS applications for water resources and agriculture and time series and geostatistical modelling of environmental observations.

AIT Alumnus Appointed CEO of Mekong River Commission



Dr. An Pich Hatda

Dr. An Pich Hatda, an AIT alumnus, has been appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Mekong River Commission (MRC). He assumed office on January 18, 2019.

Dr. Hatda is the second person from a riparian Mekong country to hold this position. He replaces Pham Tuan Phan of Viet Nam. Dr. Hatda earned a Master's in Agricultural Systems from AIT in 1997, after which he completed a doctorate in Development Studies at the University of Tokyo.

EEM Alumnus Appointed DG, Wastewater Management Authority



Mr. Chira Wongburana

Mr. Chira Wongburana, an AIT alumnus has been appointed Director General of the Wastewater Management Authority of Thailand. He graduated with a Master's in Environmental Engineering and Management (EEM) from AIT's School of Environment, Resources and Development (SERD) in 2007. He has served as Director of Wastewater Management, Deputy Director General for Operations, and Deputy Director General for Technical and Planning.

Seminars / Workshops



Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) Training

14-18 January 2019



Seminar on "Emotional Intelligence for Professional Growth" by Mr. Venugopal Lakshmiapuram

15 January 2019



ICT seminar on "The Evolving Field of VR180 and 360 Immersive Storytelling." by AI Caudullo

23 January 2019



Workshop on "Sustainable Urban Development and Climate Change"

28 January 2019

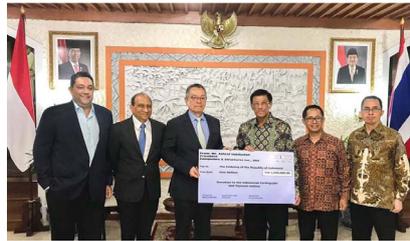


Talk on "Construction Industry and Environmental Issue: Alternatives and Solutions" by Prof. Jahangir Mirza

30 January 2019

CSI Donates Two Million Baht toward Disaster Relief

Computers and Structures Inc. (CSI) USA has donated two million baht to the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) toward disaster relief. The donation includes a one-million-baht donation for the victims of the 2018 Sulawesi earthquake and tsunami. Following deliberations with Dr. Naveed Anwar, Executive Director of AIT Solutions, CSI President and CEO Mr. Ashraf Habibullah announced a one-million-baht



AIT hands over 1 Million Baht donation at the Embassy of Indonesia.

donation to the Sulawesi victims and an additional one million baht for disaster relief support activities

organized by AIT.

The one-million-baht donation for victims of the Sulawesi disaster was handed over to the Ambassador of Indonesia to Thailand, H.E. Mr. Ahmad Rusdi by AIT President Dr. Eden Y. Woon on 11 January 2018. President Woon was accompanied by Dr. Naveed Anwar, Executive Director, AIT Solutions, and Mr. Sanjeev Jayasinghe, Director, Office of Advancement.

Alumnus Colonel Dr. Yanyong Phataralaoha Donates 5 Million Baht to AIT

Alumnus and Member of the AIT Board of Trustees Colonel Dr. Yanyong Phataralaoha, donated 5 million Baht toward scholarships, fellowships, and research fund support to AIT students. Dr. Yanyong, Managing Director of Thai Pipe Co.Ltd., graduated with a



Colonel Dr. Yanyong Phataralaoha (second from right) hands over 5 Million Baht to AIT.

Ph.D. from AIT's Industrial Engineering and Management program in 1986. AIT President Dr. Eden Y. Woon and Mr. Sanjeev Jayasinghe, Director, Office of Advancement, thanked Dr. Yanyong and Ms. Wintica Phataralaoha for their generous support.



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