Inside: Exclusive Interview with HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

Plus: AIT becomes International Intergovernmental Organization

AIT Day 2010 Special Issue

Inaugural Hall of Fame Inductees
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Message from Chairman of Board of Trustees</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Message from President</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Message from AITAA President</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Era Beckons for AIT</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- New Charter Makes AIT International Intergovernmental Organization</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Times have changed, and AIT needs to change as well: Thai Foreign Minister</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Headquartered in Thailand, connected to Asia and the World</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exclusive Interview: HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hall of Fame 2010</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Creative Global Leaders of Tomorrow</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIT Endowment Fund Campaign 2010-2016</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIT Alumni Affairs Office</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recent developments at AIT, particularly the signing of the new AIT Charter and the Institute’s plans for expansion, herald the beginning of a new era in our history. The signing of the new AIT Charter marks the fulfillment of the dreams of our founding fathers.

It has been a long journey since eight students graduated with a Master’s degree from the then SEATO Graduate School of Engineering in 1961. Since then, over 17,500 graduates have emerged from the corridors of the Asian Institute of Technology and have performed exceptionally well, contributing to the development of their countries and the world.

AIT alumni have played an historic role – that is of helping people, countries and regions join together. AIT alumni have forged relationships which go beyond the confines of their respective countries. While studying at AIT, students form friendships that transcend national boundaries. These links are strong and last a lifetime and help forge global understanding.

The Asian Institute of Technology is proud of its illustrious alumni who continue to carry the torch forward – a torch whose flame was lit one bright morning in September 1959 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The inaugural issue of the AIT Alumni Magazine is dedicated to all our alumni who have become the torchbearers of the vision of our founding fathers.

H.E. Dr. Tej Bunnag

Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Asian Institute of Technology
The Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) has been a premier regional network institute not only in Asia but also beyond. It has been proud of its internationality which has now been reaffirmed by AIT gaining international intergovernmental status with the new AIT Charter.

For over five decades, AIT has forged partnerships with numerous international organizations all over the world. Our students, faculty and staff come not only from different nations, but also from diverse backgrounds. In this context the internationality of our alumni assumes great importance. To the majority of our alumni, their first international multicultural experience is at AIT.

It is not just the classrooms, but beyond the confines of the lecture halls that their get they first taste of internationality. The friendships, networks and partnerships that they form at AIT, serve them for a lifetime. It is in this context that our most recent initiatives assume tremendous significance. Some of the innovative initiatives we have launched include the setting up of the ASEAN Regional Center of Excellence of MDGs, Yunus and CSR Asia Centers, Center for Learning Innovation and Quality, Center of Excellence on Sustainable Development in the Context of Climate Change, AIT Consulting, plans to establish a Center for Technology Licensing and Commercialization, launching of undergraduate, unified and variety of professional programs, including steps to put in a new funding model as part of AIT’s regional growth strategy through the setting up of “satellite campuses” in targeted countries, planned activities under our Asia-Africa initiative, especially now that we have the first African country, namely Seychelles, as a signatory to the new AIT Charter.

The AIT Hall of Fame is meant to salute the excellence of our alumni and those who contribute to the mission of AIT. It is indeed a happy moment when AIT looks at its former students and takes pride in their achievements. It also reminds our alumni that we do not forget them once they leave AIT.

The AIT Endowment Fund is another initiative that would help future students. It is an opportunity for all well-wishers of AIT to contribute towards the development of not just AIT, but for our collective future to forge better graduates who make a lasting impact on society. Over the past five decades, many of AIT’s alumni benefitted from generous scholarships. Courtesy scholarships and grants, AIT’s alumni were able to excel in life. This is your chance of ensuring that the next generation also gets a chance for a better future.
Defining Moments of Change

There have been many defining moments in the rich fifty-one year history of the Asian Institute of Technology. One memorable occasion was when His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand inaugurated the official opening of AIT’s new Pathumthani campus on 14 February 1973. H.M. The King of Thailand is seen (photo above) being escorted by President Dr. Milton E. Bender Jr. Another landmark moment in AIT’s history was the recent signing of the new AIT Charter on 25 August 2010. Seen together at the Official Signing Ceremony at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangkok, Thailand (from left) are Prof. Said Irandoust, President of the Asian Institute of Technology; H.E. Dr. Tej Bunnag, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Asian Institute of Technology; and H.E. Mr. Kasit Piromya, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, after the Signing Ceremony of the new AIT Charter.

AIT becomes International Intergovernmental Organization, see story on page 6
Message from AITAA President: Chaovalit Ekabut

In 2009, AIT marked its Golden Jubilee with a great success. This year, AIT celebrates its 51st Anniversary with remarkable achievement, which commemorates the signing of the new AIT Charter as well as by organizing AIT Day 2010 to mark its new phase of future achievement. It is my great pleasure that I could attend both commemorative events where I enjoyed pleasant exchanges of new ideas as well as refreshing good memories about my AIT days.

As you may know, this special event highlights the inauguration of AIT Hall of Fame, kickoff the AIT Endowment Fund Campaign and an array of several fascinating activities. It is the wonderful opportunity especially for the alumni to visit the campus and see the improvements, renew old friendship and meet new people to reminisce about some memorable experiences and share stories of success together.

I would like to extend my profound gratitude and appreciation for the generous cooperation of all AIT staff members and everyone who have organized this milestone event.

Though years pass, friendship and bonds between AIT and its alumni grow and get closer and stronger. AIT Alumni Association (AITAA), as the representative of all alumni, is committed to maintaining strong support to make AIT a better place for the future generations as well as promoting more connection and ties to enhance constructive activities and cooperation among all AITAA National Chapters.

Our journey has been a great journey. There are many challenges we have to face and overcome for the long-term development of our beloved institute. With strong spirits of all AIT family and friends, I am hopeful and confident that AIT will continue to prosper and begin to write a new history of success from this moment.

Congratulations on this AIT Day 2010.

Chaovalit Ekabut
President
AIT Alumni Association (Mother Chapter)
New Era Beckons for AIT

New Charter Makes AIT Intergovernmental, International Organization

A new era dawned at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) on 25 August 2010 when the Royal Thai Government, represented by Minister of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), H.E. Kasit Piromya, signed the new AIT Charter, thereby initiating the process to grant AIT the status of an International organization. A landmark development in the fifty-one year history of AIT, the new AIT Charter makes AIT the first international organization in the field of higher education in Thailand.

H.E. Dr. Tej Bunnag, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of AIT, and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Thailand, thanked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and stated that the New AIT Charter is the Institute’s most significant legal development since its founding in 1959 as the SEATO Graduate School of Engineering and subsequent establishment as the Asian Institute of Technology under a Royal Charter signed in 1967.

Dr. Tej said the new AIT Charter was the fulfillment of the dream of the founding fathers of AIT, who had envisioned the creation of an international institute of higher learning in Asia.

Prof. Said Irandoost, President of AIT, remarked that the mission and vision of AIT has been to impart international level higher learning with an Asian perspective. “AIT foresees itself playing a lead role in ensuring that Thailand emerges as a destination hub for international students.”

The New AIT Charter is the Institute’s most significant legal development since its founding in 1959 as the SEATO Graduate School of Engineering and subsequent establishment as the Asian Institute of Technology under a Royal Charter signed in 1967.

Representatives of 12 countries and International Organizations after the signing of the new Charter of the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT). The new Charter was signed by the Foreign Minister of Thailand, H.E. Mr. Kasit Piromya and opened for countries and international organizations for signature. 12 countries namely Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, Timor Leste and United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) signed the new AIT Charter on August 25, 2010. The new charter will impart the status of an international intergovernmental organization to AIT.
H.E. Mr. Kasit Piromya, Foreign Minister of Thailand has stated that AIT is a center of excellence in research and knowledge in Southeast Asia. The Foreign Minister stated this during the adoption and signing ceremony of the New Charter of the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangkok, Thailand, on 25 August 2010.

The Foreign Minister remarked that from the beginning, AIT took on an international, independent and non-political character, and has actively sought partners in Asia and beyond. He added that times have changed, and AIT needed to change as well. “We realized some time ago that, for AIT to further prosper and continue to contribute to our economic growth, AIT had to be able to operate effectively, with the flexibility to search for and cooperate with new partners and stakeholders, and with a reach that has to be not only regional but also global,” the Minister said.

While announcing that the Royal Thai Government fully endorses the new AIT Charter, he stated that AIT continues to contribute to the region’s dynamism and prosperity. “AIT’s role will be even more important as our growing economy is ever more reliant on our capacity to harness knowledge and creativity,” the minister added.

The Minister later signed the new AIT Charter and opened it for countries and international organizations to ratify.

“AIT’s role will be even more important as our growing economy is ever more reliant on our capacity to harness knowledge and creativity.”

– H.E. Mr. Kasit Piromya
Based in Thailand, connected to Asia and the World

Located in Pathumthani province just north of Bangkok, the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) is a leading international institution of engineering and technology, environmental resources and development, and management dedicated to world-class higher learning with an Asian perspective.

More than a half-century since its inception in 1959, AIT is Thailand’s preeminent international institute of higher learning. It also ranks as one of Asia’s most connected and cosmopolitan institutes of higher learning, with 17,000 alumni from over 80 countries and more than 25,000 short course trainees from around the globe, including Thailand’s HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

The Institute promotes technological change and sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond through higher education, research, outreach and capacity development.

Today, AIT aspires to ensure that Thailand emerges as a top destination for international students and becomes the regional hub of education.

“Today, AIT aspires to ensure that Thailand emerges as a top destination for international students and becomes the regional hub of education.”
research staff, 450 support staff, centers in Vietnam and Indonesia, and over 400 research and outreach projects.

AIT’s mission is to develop highly qualified professionals and researchers who will play a leading role in the sustainable development of the region and its integration into the global economy. Its unique independence, autonomy and internationality confer it the ability to engage with public and private sector partners throughout the region and with some of the top universities and international organizations around the world.

Its multicultural dimension has catalysed harmonious Asian integration for over five decades; a facet which fetched it many international awards including the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1989 and the Friendship Order of Government of Vietnam in 2006.

**AIT pushes across Asia**

Owing to its internationality, and its close relations with institutions throughout Asia, AIT is uniquely positioned to reach out to different stakeholders at all levels in the region. By acting as a bridge between the local, the regional and the global, AIT enhances opportunities for its partners to scale up their knowledge, to analyze needs and to set priorities that bring them into regional and global agendas.

AIT’s neutrality is a unique source of strength. It allows AIT to nimbly work with Asian countries in post-conflict situations, engaging with countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Timor Leste and DPR Korea to provide higher learning and professional capacity building opportunities for their people. Its modest size and great diversity of its staff and faculty confer it the agility to be a pioneering force, exploring and providing training in newly emerging areas of importance to Asia.

To adapt to the dynamic region where it operates, today AIT aims to extend these strengths across Asia with new satellite model which includes the goal of creating six or seven full-fledged AIT universities in many Asian countries. To ensure long term sustainability of these satellite campuses, AIT is exploring a Public Private Partnership (PPP) as a new funding model in the field of higher learning. AIT is today working more intensely with the private sector in the fields of research and innovation which will lead to a more knowledge based industry and environmentally and socially sustainable economic growth.

**Research is our Strength**

**AIT is leading “per head” research Institute in Thailand**

In an era of strong internationalization of higher learning, AIT impacts Asia and the world with high-level academic education and peer-recognized research in engineering, technology, environment, development, management, entrepreneurship and innovation.

AIT punches above its weigh. A recent national study by Thai Research Fund (TRF) on the research output of Thai universities confirmed that AIT scored the highest rating in four engineering subject areas. This was the first time that
AIT participated in Thailand’s nation-wide evaluation, based on the research output in 2007-2008. AIT was rated the highest among all Thai universities in Civil and Infrastructure Engineering, Information and Communications Technology, Environmental Engineering and Management, and Industrial Systems Engineering. Based on the TRF criteria, AIT’s engineering fields of study received the highest overall rating in comparison with similar programs in Thai universities. In all cases AIT stood out in the number of international publications per faculty headcount, implying the highest order of research productivity and quality of its individual faculty members.

Why AIT?

As the global center shifts towards Asia, AIT is playing a significant role as the leading regional network institute, which collaborates with virtually all the top global international organizations. Asia is the place where the maximum growth is taking place in education, and AIT is happily positioned right at the heart of global activity.

AIT also has great competitive advantages. It gathers students from many different nations together to Thailand, imbuing all with a truly international experience. It enables networking across frontiers and promotes greater understanding of perspectives other than national.

AIT rigorous academic programs and award-winning research promote a mix of technical and social competency that fosters internationally-oriented leaders with an Asian perspective. Higher learning at AIT is grounded in the deep realities of a world facing many challenges. Academics are not confined to laboratories or classrooms, and students are encouraged to apply their learning and skills to address real-life needs and issues in their home countries.

In tune with humankind’s great challenge to promote development that is inclusive sustainable, AIT is ideally placed to develop research and graduates appropriate for the multiple contexts of Asia in the 21st century.
Fulfilling AIT’s Mission with New Initiatives

Moving forward, the Asian Institute of Technology will not rest on its laurels. A "Yunus Center at AIT" has been launched in partnership with Nobel laureate Prof. Muhammad Yunus to address the issues of food security, social business, and to encourage research that will have a positive impact on the lives of poor people.

Two centers, namely the AIT Center of Excellence on Sustainable Development in the context of Climate Change and the Corporate Social Responsibility Center Asia at AIT, have also been launched to involve everyone in issues related to sustainability. AIT has been endorsed by the United Nation Secretary General, H.E. Ban Ki-moon as the site of the world’s first Regional Centre of Excellence on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

AIT has also ventured into purposive mission-oriented and employability targeted undergraduate programs, since there is a huge undercapacity in undergraduate programs in Asia.

For AIT, the next 50 years will be different than the first half-century. While capitalizing on its achievements in advanced engineering and technology, AIT will address challenges of the new century like sustainability and climate change.

Asia has changed tremendously and AIT must change as well. As Asia blooms, so will AIT.

“AIT will address challenges of the new century like sustainability and climate change.”
Thailand’s “Princess of Technology for Sustainable Development”

HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn is endearingly referred to by Thai people as Phra Thep meaning “Princess Angel.” But due to her passion for applying science and technology for education and sustainable development, she also became the “Princess of Technology.” HRH attended the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in 1984, obtaining a certificate in Remote Sensing Technology. Since that time, she has extensively applied her knowledge in development and education projects in Thailand and the region. Today, HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindorn is a globally recognized voice on the use of information and communications technologies (ICTs) to harness knowledge and technology for sustainable development. On 7 September 2010, HRH became the first ever inductee into the Asian Institute of Technology’s Hall of Fame. Prior to her induction, Her Royal Highness spoke with AIT’s Shawn P. Kelly about her time at the Asian Institute of Technology, the importance of AIT as an international institute, the AIT Endowment Fund Campaign, and issues close to her heart concerning sustainable development and innovative education. Excerpts:

Chitralada Palace, Bangkok
SHAWN P. KELLY: Your Royal Highness, thank you very much indeed for agreeing to this interview. Your Royal Highness, you are the very first inductee into AIT’s Hall of Fame, I wonder if you could share your thoughts on this special award.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS MAHA CHAKRI SIRINDHORN:

Well, I feel honored. People at AIT have always been my good friends. Even though I haven’t got as many opportunities to visit AIT as often as before, I still have friends from AIT who come here every year for the award presentation of Their Majesties the King and Queen of Thailand’s scholarships. My AIT classmates come to visit from time to time too. Even when I travel abroad, alumni visit me, and this is a way I continue to connect with AIT.

You have personally donated funds to support AIT’s future. As Royal Patron of the AIT Endowment Fund Campaign, how important is it that people continue to support AIT?

I feel that nowadays governments provide less support because of other priorities. Long time recipients sometimes get less notice and less attention. So I’m afraid that governments are allocating funds elsewhere. But AIT is an educational institute and has many alumni. AIT graduates, who got such a means of life, should think of the later generations and give support so that the Institute can go on working for the next generations to come and provide good opportunities, just as they received themselves.

I know so many people that have come from very difficult backgrounds who have had the opportunity to attend AIT and earn degrees. Many have become very successful in life. I think they should think about the Institute that formed them and gave such opportunity to them.

Your Royal Highness, what prompted you to study Remote Sensing Technology at AIT in 1984?

In fact I was a trainee at AIT. I had worked for a long time in the area of rural development, and for this work it’s important to be knowledgeable of geographical features. In university I studied many courses in geography, including cartography and survey courses through private lessons. I felt I needed to know how maps were made in order to plan my work. I got involved in interpreting aerial photographs that touched on the subject of photogrammetry even before my undergraduate studies. So I knew how to handle such equipment.

It was at that time that I came to know about remote sensing technology, which was still in its infancy. Many people said it was only a rich man’s toy, and that it could not be of much use to a country like Thailand. Some people said this technology was just a curiosity for technologists or scientists. Still, I had noticed that countries like the United States and Australia were making good use of remote sensing. I had heard all the comments, but I wanted to know the reality for myself. So I attended AIT. At that time, other universities did not offer such a short course in remote sensing technology.

“AIT helped me to be integrated into the global technological society.”
Your Royal Highness, do you feel that AIT contributed to your passion for applying technology for sustainable development solutions?

Yes. When I had the opportunity to know more about advanced technology, I could really use this knowledge in interpretation, and apply it in real projects. For example, I identified deserted fields through satellite imagery and we then studied how and why they came to be that way. We found that the land was water-clogged. From there, we learned how to arrange the land and change the variety of crops. We managed to get one crop of rice from this work and then returned the land to the owner. We called the rice “satellite rice!” This type of application of technology is so useful and interesting and I was able to manage to this level of technology. Later, I tried to follow the new developments in remote sensing, but it became difficult for me to attend other courses as I had many other obligations. A group from the United States gave me an award for technology management. I don’t use the technology myself but I manage other people to use technology. AIT helped me to be integrated into the global technological society. For example, at AIT it was the first time that I studied something in English and it was the first time also that I had classmates who were Sri Lankan, Indian, or Chinese. AIT mingles people together and you don’t feel you are Chinese or Thai or Indian. My instructors at that time were mainly American and some French. In those days in Thailand no one dared to speak English because most thought their spoken English was poor. When Thai people went abroad they would look left and then right, and only then try to speak English with foreign people. But at AIT I soon discovered that I was no worse than others. In fact, we were all the same. It was about communication and I was able to understand my lectures and enjoy my time with classmates. AIT contributed a technological part to my life and a social part.

Your Royal Highness, do you see any connection between Their Majesties the King and Queen of Thailand’s tremendous financial support for scholars from around the region and the role of AIT as an international hub for education in this country?

Yes. My parents have given scholarships to students in AIT ? which are officially arranged ? but in fact they have helped people from other countries in private ways too. I try to do this as well. I have had the opportunity to arrange for international students to come to Thailand and to give them scholarships to study in their own countries, which is often easier.
Your Royal Highness, with reference to your keynote address delivered at the 12th Ministerial Meeting of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in 2008 in Africa, could you explain how information and communication technology can play a role in development?

Since we cannot physically keep records of everything, information and communication technology helps people record their everyday lives, their stories, and it even helps in protecting their culture. These communication tools are so important. Today we can all use the internet to access information and enrich our lives. It can be used to store our thoughts and our work as well. I am not a very methodical person, so if I lose some papers I know they are also in electronic form and I can retrieve the documents. You mentioned my speech. I can also easily find my old speeches in digital form. Sometimes when I am invited to places and they talk about things I cannot grasp, I record keywords in my notebook and later I search online for the information. All people can do this. At 12th UNCTAD Ministerial Meeting, I pointed out the importance of not only the digital divide but also the divide of other things. In some places where we don’t have electricity, we make use of solar panels to power communities. But some people don’t know how to maintain the solar panels and the batteries. This is a problem that we are trying to tackle through training, so that people can look after their batteries in places that are off the electricity grid. Many students also want to learn but they do not know the language.

I try to encourage them to apply technology to study English, and Thai – as there’s plenty of content in Thai now, unlike when I first used computers and there were no Thai fonts at all. Sometimes people do not use their computers in a way that benefits themselves or society. I call this the “laziness divide” because they are lazy and do not want to study. I try to assure people that if they have internet access they can learn English and Thai lessons online. They can even learn to read online so that if they don’t have enough books in the library they can learn this way too. This type of learning can be applied to languages and basic sciences and many other subjects. Using other media for teaching can work too. If you go and look at trees in your garden, you can learn. I teach children languages with a pickle fruit bag.

“At AIT it was the first time that I studied something in English... AIT contributed a technological part to my life and a social part.”

I get students to fold newspapers into bags used to carry and sell pickles or some small snacks. They can then read from that snack bag. You can learn a lot of things from a snack bag made this way or even from the signs along the road.
Speaking of innovative approaches to development, Nobel Laureate Prof. Muhammad Yunus, who has jointly opened a center with AIT, has famously said that he would like to see poverty end up in the world’s museums. Your Royal Highness, do you have any similar dream?

I met Prof. Yunus some months ago in Bangladesh. He mentioned to me about this center at AIT and I promised him that I would come back to Thailand and have a look at the center. But up to now I haven’t gone to AIT to see it. But I believe it is something like putting his ideas into an exhibition. Sometimes they emphasize a lot of techniques with no content— that doesn’t work. I try to make sure that the ideas of the content go into the exhibition so that people who come are able to link the ideas to their own situation.

In fact, since I was very young my father had the idea that it is important to be able to link knowledge together. Situations might not be the same everywhere, but you can draw theories from that experience and use that theory or rule to apply to some other thing that you may encounter. Now I am starting my new project in Bangladesh. It’s a brand new initiative. I was in Bangladesh early this year and was quite impressed with the people. I saw that it is a promising country. I travelled many hours overland with officials from America’s Johns Hopkins University’s School of Health. In the car I saw on both sides of the road how active people were. Now we have contacted the Ministry of Education and the minister’s team. Two teachers from two schools in Bangladesh have come to Thailand to study some schools here. We can work together!

May all of you who have similarly benefited from an AIT education look back fondly, as I do, and support the AIT Endowment Fund to ensure that AIT’s noble mission continues and that together we help inspire AIT’s “Creative Global leaders of Tomorrow.”

May I wish the Asian Institute of Technology many more productive years of success in all of its enriching endeavors.
Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn attended AIT in 1984 to study at the Asian Regional Remote Sensing Training Centre. Applying Her AIT classroom experience to practice, Her Royal Highness applied remote sensing technology to land use and land cover map project for Narathiwat Province, southern Thailand. Her Royal Highness has supported AIT through numerous endeavors including donations, support of technology education and implementation of technology in developing regions, and promoting AIT as a center of technology and education.

HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously unveiling the “Santamary Center” sign at St. Joseph Mae Jam School, Amphoe Mae Jam, Chiang Mai, 21 January 2009.


HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously presiding over the opening of “The 2nd Young Farmer in Land Reforming Area Forum”, at Royal Folk Arts and Crafts Center at Bang Sai, Amphoe Bang Sai, Ayutthaya, 8 June 2009.

HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously jointly constructed the conservation weir together with villagers of Bann Yaloh, Tambon Toed Thai, Amphoe Mae Fah Luang, Chiang Rai, 15 January 2010.


HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously visiting Banung No. 112 Border Patrol Police School, Tambon Mae Salong Nai, Amphoe Mae Fah Luang, Chiangrai, 19 February 2009.

HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously granted an audience to Abdullah, a handicapped student on the occasion of HRH’s visit to Somboonsat School, Tambon Pa Tae, Amphoe Yaha, Yala, 2 February 2010.


HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously viewing physical equipment work and medical rehabilitation work at Phath Polpyahasena Hospital, Kanchanaburi, 29 January 2010.

HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously transplanting Chainat 1 variety rice seed into the paddy field under the Terrace Rice Farming Royal Development Project, Bann Yukeh, Tambon Manong, Sukarin, Narathiwat, 4 February 2010.
Dr. Subin Pinkayan, M. Eng. 1961

Dr. Subin followed his M. Eng. degree at AIT with a Ph.D. at Colorado State University, and returned to AIT as a faculty member. Dr. Subin then became instrumental in water resource policy as a consultant with the Mekong Committee (now the Mekong River Commission), after which he established the Southeast Asia Technology Co., Ltd. (SEATEC), an environmental and water resources consulting company. Dr. Subin has also been an active participant in government affairs holding several ministerial posts and has contributed to the guidance of several universities as a member of their board of directors. Dr. Subin has had a well-rounded high-achievement career in education, government service and private sector in which he was a pioneer for Independent Power Producer (IPP) and has continually supported AIT throughout his career.
Dr. Subin Pinkayan graduated with a Master in Hydronics from the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in 1961.

A distinguished professional engineer, Dr. Subin is the Chief Honorary Advisor to SEATEC (Southeast Asia Technology Company Limited) Group of Companies. He has served as President of SEATEC from 1974-1985 and has been an advisor in management of Thai consulting engineering firms engaged in numerous projects in Thailand and in Southeast Asia with emphasis on water resources development, environmental engineering, civil and structural design and agro-industrial development.

He has been a Member of the Board of the Council of Engineers (Thailand). Dr. Subin is former Executive Director of Engineering Institute of Thailand, Former Vice President of the Thai Consulting Engineers Association of Thailand, and former Director of International Water Resources Association.

Dr. Subin has led a very active public life. He has served as Minister in the Royal Thai Government in the capacity as Minister of Foreign Affairs (August 28-December 14, 1990), Minister of Commerce (August 10, 1988-August 27, 1990), Minister of University Affairs (August 12, 1986-August 9, 1988), and Deputy Minister of Finance (January 15-August 11, 1986). He was a Member of Parliament from Chiangmai, Thailand. He has also been Member of the House Standing Committee for Sciences, Technology and Energy (1983-85) and Vice Chairman of House Standing Committee for Sciences, Technology and Energy (1983-85). He has also served as advisor to the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives (1984-85) and Advisor to the Minister of Industry (1980-83).

Apart from serving as a professional engineer and as a politician, Dr. Subin is an accomplished academician as well. He is former Associate Professor at AIT; former member of Board of Trustees of AIT, Chiangmai University and Kasetsart University. Presently, he is Chairman of Board of Trustees of NTU, Thailand and special lecturer in Regional Development at Chiangmai University.

Dr. Subin is also honorary advisor to MDX group of companies for industrial estate development, as well as honorary advisor to GMS Power Public Company Limited. He was the recipient of the 1991 personal service award in “National and International Prestige” by the Colorado State University and a recipient of the 2003 Outstanding Alumni Award in “Social Achievement” by the AIT Alumni Association of Thailand.

Dr. Subin has been awarded the Knight Grand Cordon (Special Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant in 1989; Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant in 1987; Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand in 1986; Commander (Third Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant in 1985 and Commander (Third Class) of the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand in 1983.
Prof. Srisakdi Charmonman, M. Eng. 1961

Dr. Srisakdi obtained his Ph.D. in Computations at the Georgia Institute of Technology, and subsequently had a successful academic career in North America and Thailand including Professorships at the State University of New York, the National Institute of Development Administration and Distinguished Professor (C11) of Computer Engineering at King Mongkut’s Institute of Technology, Ladkrabang. Dr. Srisakdi has also succeeded in university administration and the private sector having directed several academic units through the university level and also having founded KSC internet service provider, one of Thailand’s original internet related companies. Dr. Srisakdi has been called Asian Computer Man of the Year, Father of Thai Internet, and Father of Thai E-Learning.

In 1973, Dr. Srisakdi was Director of the US NSF Grant to organize a Teach-the-Teacher program for Chairmen of Computer Departments from various universities.

In 1981, the Editor of Computer-Asia in HK presented the printing plate for the front cover of the magazine naming Dr. Srisakdi Asian Computer Man of the Year.

The Father of the World Internet with Dr. Srisakdi who has been referred to as “The Father of Thai Internet” by Bangkok Post, the Nation, and others since 1998.
Prof. Srisakdi Charmonman graduated with Master in Hydraulics in 1961. Later, in 1964, he became the first Thai national to earn a Ph.D. in a computer-related field. He became Director of Graduate Studies in Computer Science at the University of Missouri-Columbia; full Professor of Computer Science at the State University of New York in the US; a full Professor at NIDA; a C-11 Professor at King Mongkut’s Institute of Technology Ladkrabang, and Founder and Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the College of Internet Distance Education.

He has served as Directors of Research Projects supported by US National Science Foundation, National Research Council of Canada, UNESCO, Ford Foundation, USAID, UNCTC, IDRC, IFIP, and ICID. He has written over 1,600 IT-related articles.

Prof. Charmonman was Founder and Chairman of KSC, the ISP once valued at one billion US dollars, and was elected Chairman of eASEAN Business Council. Within the Government of Thailand, Prof. Charmonman was at the level of C11, which is the same rank as the Field Marshal in the armed forces, and one rank higher than the Provincial Governors. He has served as chairman of many committees such as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Copyright Protection of the National Copyright Board, Chairman of five subcommittees to Establish National Labor Standards, Chairman of the Committee to Organize Thai Font Software Competition, Chairman of IT Curriculum Committee of the Ministry of University Affairs, and Vice Chairman of the Extraordinary Commission on Copyright Law of the House of Representatives. He was also a member of University Service Commission chaired by the Prime Minister; as well as the Chairman of the Associate Judge Club of the Central Intellectual Property Court.

Prof. Charmonman was Founder and President of Thailand Chapter of the ACM, Founder and Chairman of Thailand Chapter of the Computer Society of the IEEE, Founder and President of the Thailand Chapter of ISOC. He has been actively involved with AIT, where he has served as President of AITAA and as a member of the AIT Board of Trustees in 1989-1993. He delivered the Graduation Address at the 58th Graduation Ceremony in April 1990, and was awarded the AITAA Distinguished Award 2003. Prof. Charmonman was named Asian Computer Man of the Year 1981 by Computer-Asia magazine published in Hong Kong, named Father of the Internet in Thailand by Bangkok Post and several other publications. He was named Father of Thai E-Learning by the International Biographical Centre of Cambridge in England. Thailand’s Assumption University built “Srisakdi Charmonman IT Center” costing 650 million baht in his honor.
Prof. Anat Arbhabhirama, M. Eng. 1962
Dr. Anat completed his Ph.D. at Colorado State University and returned to AIT where he had an outstanding academic and university administrative career finishing as Professor and Vice President of Academic Affairs. Following AIT, Dr. Anat worked in both the public and private sectors, holding ministerial positions in the Royal Thai Government and serving as the Governor of the Petroleum Authority of Thailand, and President and Chief Executive Officer of Bangkok Mass Transit System Public Co. Ltd. He was also one of the initiators of the Thailand Development Research Institute, and was the founding president of the AIT Alumni Association. Throughout his career, Dr. Anat has promoted AIT in the public and private sectors and also counseled AIT in several key initiatives.

Prof. Anat, Assistant Professor of Hydraulic Engineering, explaining the operation of the aerodynamic smoke tunnel – fitted with a sailboat model – to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej at the AIT’s Eighth Graduation (4 May 1968).

Prof. Anat welcoming His Majesty Carl XVI Gustaf, King of Sweden, during his personal royal visit to Bangkok Mass Transit System Public Company Limited (13 October 1999).

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn granted a royal audience to Prof. Anat and the management of Bangkok Mass Transit System Public Company Limited to present a cash contribution to the Chaipattana Foundation on the occasion of His Majesty the King of Thailand’s 80th Birthday celebration (5 December 2007).
Dr. Anat Arbhabhirama graduated from the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) with a Master in Hydraulics in 1962. As President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Bangkok Mass Transit System Public Company Limited from 1992-1996, Dr. Anat played an instrumental role in introducing modern transport facilities in Bangkok.

After serving as President and CEO, Dr. Anat is presently Director and Advisor to the Board of Directors to Bangkok Mass Transit System Public Company Limited.


Dr. Anat has been actively associated with AIT, having been the Head of Regional Research and Development Center at AIT from 1981-1984. He was Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at AIT in 1979-1980. He also worked as Chairman of Division of Water Resources Engineering at AIT (1975-1979) and as Assistant Chairman in 1974. Dr. Anat was Assistant Professor in AIT from 1968-1975. He was Chairman of Mathematics and Computer Center between 1966-1970.

Dr. Anat has been the recipient of many awards and decorations including the Knight Grand Gordon (Special Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant; Knight Grand Gordon of the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand; Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant; Knight and Cross (First Class) of the Most Order of the Crown of Thailand; Grand Companion (Third Class, higher grade) of the Most Illustrious Order of Chula Chom Klao; the Royal Cypher Medal (Third Class); Knight Grand Commander (Second Class, lower grade) of the Most Illustrious Order of Chula Chom Klao; and the Knight Grand Commander (Second Class, higher grade) of the Most Illustrious Order of Chula Chom Klao.
Dr. Tongchat Hongladaromph, M. Eng. 1962

Dr. Tongchat completed his Ph.D. at Northwestern University after which he worked in the USA as an engineering consultant. Returning to Thailand, Dr. Tongchat taught at AIT before entering public service as the Governor of the Expressway and Rapid Transit Authority of Thailand and later founding the Petroleum Authority of Thailand, presently known as PTT Public Co. Ltd., and being its Governor. During his tenure as Governor Dr. Tongchat has had a significant impact on the development of energy resources and policy in the country, and his participation on several boards and companies related to energy and finance reflect Dr. Tongchat’s continuing role in Thailand’s energy sector. Throughout his career, Dr. Tongchat has counseled, promoted and supported AIT, and currently serves as Chair of AIT’s Board of the School of Engineering and Technology and he is also on the AIT Board of Trustees.

Dr. Tongchat, Governor of Petroleum Authority of Thailand, welcoming His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit during the Royal Inauguration of PTT Gas Plant in Rayong, 18 April 1985.

Dr. Tongchat, as President of University Council of King Mongkut’s University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT), welcoming Her Royal Highness Princess Mah Chakri Sirindhorn during Her Royal Highness’ presiding over KMUTT’s Graduation, 10 November 2009.

Dr. Tongchat, Governor of Petroleum Authority of Thailand, welcoming H.E. Pol. Gen Pramart Adireksarn, Thailand’s Minister of Industry, during his presiding over the signing of Petroleum Concession to PTT Exploration and Production Public Company Limited at the Ministry of Industry, 2 August 1990.
Dr. Thongchat Hongladrump graduated with a Master in Engineering in Structures from the Asian Institute of Technology in 1962. As a founder of Petroleum Authority of Thailand (PTT), Dr. Thongchat is one of the leading private sector figures in Thailand. PTT later became a public sector company and has emerged as one of the leaders in the energy business.

His expertise is not restricted to the petroleum industry, but also includes business management, finance and telecommunications.

An active life implies that Dr. Thongchat is currently serving many organizations in various capacities, ranging from being president of a company to being a director or advisor in another. Despite his busy life, he contributes considerable time to the Asian Institute of Technology and the AIT Alumni Association. Dr. Thongchat was awarded as the Best Outstanding AIT Alumni in the field of State-Enterprise and Mass Organization in the year 2003.

Apart from establishing the Petroleum Authority of Thailand (PTT), his major achievements include setting up of the AIT Regional Computer Centre, the National Petrochemical Corporation (NPC) as well as the PTT Exploration and Production Co. Ltd., (PTTEP).

Currently he is Chairman, Board of Directors of Thai Industrial Gases Company Limited, Chuchawal-Royal Haskoning Limited, as well as Samart Corporation PCL. He is also Chairman of the Council of King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi. He is also Director, Council of Trustees of Petroleum Institute of Thailand as well as Director of National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA).

Dr. Thongchat is an advisor to the Chulalongkorn University Engineering Alumni and an honorary advisor to Science Technology and Innovation Association of Thailand. He also serves as Independent Director to Bangkok Polyethylene PCL.
Prof. Ricardo Palabrina Pama, M. Eng. 1964

Prof. Pama obtained his Ph.D. at Queens College University of St. Andrews, Scotland, where he also taught. Returning to AIT, Prof. Pama had a successful academic and administrative career finishing as Professor, Vice President for Development (1978-1992) and Vice President for Academic Affairs (1992-1996). On his return to his country, Prof. Pama continued his contributions to higher education by serving as president of two different universities and as consultant to the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and to the Presidential Assistant on Education, Office of the President, Republic of Philippines. Throughout his career, Prof. Pama has significantly improved higher education policy and institutions so as to better meet the needs of developing regions. Prof. Pama’s support of AIT is reflected in his continued mentoring and networking of AIT faculty, students and alumni, and promoting AIT as a center of higher education for technology.
Dr. Ricardo Pama graduated in Structural Engineering from the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in 1964. After completing his doctoral studies from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, Dr. Pama returned to AIT as a faculty member in 1970. He rose from the rank of Assistant Professor to full Professor in 1978. He was appointed as Vice President for Development (VPD) in 1978 and became Vice President for Academic Affairs in 1992.

In 1996, he chose early retirement as VPAA from AIT and returned to the Philippines. Since his return to his native Philippines, he devoted his life to higher education, thereby rehabilitating two institutions and turning them into top universities in the Philippines.

In 1999, he joined Baguio College’s Foundation as President. This college of 8,000 students was founded in 1946 and had struggled to become a university. As President, Dr. Pama inspired the faculty and encouraged them to pursue higher studies, conduct research and publish in refereed journals. When he joined this institution in June 1999, only 30% of the faculty of about 300 had master and doctoral degrees. By November 2003, when the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) officials came for inspection, 81% possessed graduate degrees following which CHED was declared a University. The college was renamed the University of the Cordilleras.

In mid-2004, he left the University of the Cordilleras and joined Angeles University Foundation (AUF). When he retired from AUF in July 2009, AUF was rated nationally as No. 5 in the whole country.

In September 2009, Dr. Pama took up another challenge by returning to the University of the Cordilleras as President. On June 9, 2010, CHED granted Autonomous Status to the University of the Cordilleras (UC). Presently, UC is ranked at number 12 in the Philippines.

In September 2008, Dr. Pama accepted a part-time appointment as technical consultant in the Office of the Chairman of CHED. As technical consultant, Dr. Pama reviewed many antiquated rules and procedures dating back to the early 1970s imposed during the martial law era and replaced them with rules and procedures more attuned with the times. Dr. Pama has been instrumental in changing the requirements for University Status, Autonomous Status, Deregulated Status of Colleges and Guidelines for the award of Center of Excellence and Center of Development to Programs.

Dr. Pama is actively involved in developing a new accreditation instruments for all engineering programs in the Philippines under the umbrella of the group called the “Philippine Accreditation Board of Engineering, Computing and Technology” or PABECT.

Dr. Pama helped raise US $250 million in grants for the Asian Institute of Technology. He has also established the International Ferrocement Information Center, the only center of its kind in the world.

His textbook on Ferrocement is the first-of-its-kind and has been translated into Spanish, French and Polish. His textbook on Bridge Deck has been translated into Polish. He is the only Filipino Civil Engineer to win the prestigious Henry Adams Award of the Institution of Structural Engineers in the United Kingdom for outstanding research.
Dr. Shamsuddin M. Qureshi, M. Eng. 1965

Dr. Qureshi graduated Ph.D. at the University of Sheffield and returned to Pakistan as Reader and then Professor in Civil Engineering at the Sindh University Engineering College in Jamshoro. He was appointed as Member and Vice Chair, Pakistan Science Foundation to promote science and technology for socioeconomic development in the country. He developed the College into Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro and served as its founding Vice Chancellor for eleven years. Dr. Qureshi was appointed Federal Secretary in the Ministry of Education. He has held several other ministerial posts and chaired councils and commissions on higher education and research. Dr. Qureshi has been an active supporter of AIT throughout his career, through the alumni association and as a member of the AIT Board of Trustees.
Dr. Shamsudin Qureshi graduated with a Master degree in Structural Engineering from the Asian Institute of Technology in 1965. Born in May 1936 in a small town Bubak in Pakistan, Dr. Shamsudin Qureshi obtained a rare first-class Bachelor of Civil Engineering degree from Government Engineering College, Karachi in 1959. He obtained his Master degree from AIT (then known as the SEATO Graduate School of Engineering) in 1965 and Ph.D from University of Sheffield, United Kingdom in 1971.

Dr. Qureshi is the founder, Vice Chancellor of Mehran University’s Institute of Science and Technology Development (MUISTD), Jamshoro. He is also Chairman, Charter Inspection and Evaluation Committee (CIEC), Government of Sindh (Honorary Advisor to Governor of the province of Sindh).

He has served in a number of ministries in Pakistan, including the ministries of Education, Science and Technology, Youth Affairs, and Housing and Works. He has served as Chairman University Grants Commission (UGC), Chairman of the Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF); Chairman of the Pakistan Council for Science and Technology (PCST); and Secretary to National Commission Science and Technology (NCST). He was elected as Vice Chairman of United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD).

He enjoys a stellar reputation as a renowned engineer and scientist, an educationist, an administrator, and a social worker. Dr. Qureshi is very widely traveled and has participated and led many Pakistan delegations at regional and international forums. He has received many distinguished awards, which include Gold Medals from the Governor of Sindh and Lifetime Achievement Award Pakistan Engineering Council.

Dr. Qureshi has been strongly associated with both AIT and AITAA. He was the first recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus award instituted by AITAA for service rendered in the public sector. He has been patron of its AITAA Pakistan Chapter for two decades. In May 2005, Dr. Qureshi delivered the Graduation Address at the AIT Convocation. He has served as a Member of Board of Trustees of AIT.
Dr. Prasert Patramai, M. Eng. 1971, D. Eng. 1973

Dr. Prasert obtained his M. Eng. and D. Eng. at AIT, and has since made significant contributions to the development of Asia through consulting work, professional leadership and support of AIT. Dr. Prasert co-founded TEAM Consulting Engineering and Management Co. Ltd. (TEAM Consulting) in 1978 and has led TEAM Consulting to become the TEAM Group that comprises 13 affiliated companies that have been involved in over 1,200 projects throughout Asia, with about 60 AIT alumni currently working under its umbrella. Dr. Prasert has contributed to the development of Asia through his promotion of excellence in engineering practice, continuing education for practicing engineers and involvement in professional engineering societies. In addition to his success and contributions to the practice of engineering, Dr. Prasert has supported AIT through his active involvement in the AIT Alumni Association, having served in several offices over the years.

Dr. Prasert delivers the Graduation Address at the 113th AIT Graduation Ceremony at the AIT Conference Center Auditorium on May 26, 2010.

Dr. Prasert and AIT alumni in the TEAM Group join forces to meet global and regional development and environmental challenges.

At the “Conference on Climate Change: Call for Action” organized by the TEAM Group in cooperation with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) on November 13, 2008, Dr. Prasert joins with representatives from ADB and SET along with honorary speakers from the World Bank, ADB, EU and JICA.
Dr. Prasert Patramai graduated from the Asian Institute of Technology with a doctoral degree in the field of Water Resources Engineering in 1973. He obtained a Master’s degree in the same subject from AIT in 1971. A founding member of TEAM Consulting Engineering and Management Co. Ltd. in 1978, Dr. Prasert has led the firm into one of the most successful consulting companies in South-East Asia.

As Chairman of the Executive Board of the company and as Chairman of the TEAM Group of Companies, TEAM Group consists of 13 affiliated companies to provide comprehensive services which provide feasibility study, environmental impact assessment, planning, design, construction supervision, operation and maintenance, project management and IT services among others.

Over the past three decades, under the leadership of Dr. Prasert, TEAM has continually developed its consulting services efficiently and has been widely recognized among public and private sectors, including international organizations.

Dr. Prasert has been active in the social area, having served as the President of the Consulting Engineers Association of Thailand during 2001-04. He has contributed immensely to the AIT Alumni Association. Dr. Prasert was Vice President of the AIT Alumni Association from 1999-2001 and advisor to the Executive Committee from 1995-98. He has been committee member (1993-97), general secretary (1989-1992 and 1975-76) as well as in-charge of Public Relations (1986-1988).

Dr. Prasert co-founded The Federation of Design and Construction Service of Thailand in 2001. He has been committee member of The Engineering Institute of Thailand as well as advisor to The Consulting Engineers Association of Thailand.

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<th>Education</th>
<th>Institute</th>
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<tr>
<td>B.Eng. (Hons)</td>
<td>Chulalongkorn University, 1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.Eng.</td>
<td>AIT, 1971</td>
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<tr>
<td>D.Eng.</td>
<td>AIT, 1973</td>
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As the President of the Consulting Engineers Association of Thailand, Dr. Prasert visits Doha City, Qatar, on January 19, 2001, for business promotion on consulting services and construction of infrastructure for the Asian Games project. The Thai mission includes representatives from the Department of Export Promotion of Thailand, the Association of Siamese Architects, Thai Contractors Association under H.M. the King’s Patronage, and the Engineering Institute of Thailand under H.M. the King’s Patronage.

Dr. Prasert launches a biogas system for a primary school in Nakhon Nayok province on June 19, 2009 as part of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activity of the TEAM Group Foundation under the Renewable Energy Demonstration and Promotion Program. The pilot project showed the benefits of biogas from chicken manure in daily life.
Mr. Shih-Yi George Chen, M. Eng. 1972

Since completing his studies at AIT, Mr. Chen has been an integral contributor in the development of Chinese Taipei. Upon his return to Chinese Taipei, Mr. Chen worked on the Taiwan North-South construction project and also taught highway planning and design. Mr. Chen continued his career in public service working on large-scale projects, contributing to engineering codes and standards, drafting legislation affecting transportation, and administering and formulating transportation policy. Eventually, he rose to the ministerial rank in the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. Throughout his career, Mr. Chen has worked to improve the practice of engineering and satisfy the region's needs in transportation policy, planning and implementation. Mr. Chen has supported AIT through his active participation in the AIT Alumni Association, and continually promotes AIT.
Taiwan’s Mr. Shih-Yi George Chen graduated with a Master in Systems Engineering and Management in 1972. During his studies at AIT, he was elected President of the AIT Chinese student body and Vice President of AIT Study Body Organization (AITSB). After graduating from AIT, Mr. Chen started working as a junior engineer. After 30 years of active public service, Mr. Chen was appointed acting minister of Ministry of Transportation and Communication.

As the acting minister, Mr. Chen was instrumental in signing a Build Operate Transfer (BOT) contact with Taiwan High Speed Railway Corporation (THSRC) in 1996. At that time, it was the largest BOT project in the world. Courtesy this project, the travel time between the northernmost and southernmost part of Taiwan was reduced from four hours to one and a half hours.

As Deputy Director of Department of Taipei Rapid Transit System (1986-1990), Mr. Chen was instrumental in planning and design of 70 kms of underground rapid transit system. Taipei’s Mass Rapid Transit system carries an average of 1.3 million passengers daily.

As Deputy Director of Taiwan Highway Bureau, he was responsible for construction of the Superhighway Project that connected several main roads to form a complete highway network.

Mr. Chen has served as Commissioner, Department of Transportation, Taiwan Provincial Government; Director General of Taiwan Highway Bureau; and Director of Department of Traffic Control and Management, National Freeway Bureau in the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

Mr. Chen has also played a hugely important role in the China Mainland-Taiwan Cross Strait peace talks. In 2003, he was appointed to negotiate with China’s Mainland administration regarding the China-Taiwan Direct Chartered Flight Link. Following his retirement, Mr. Chen joined the think tank of the ruling party Kuomintang as convener of the Sustainable Development Division. He has been active in the social field as well. In May 2007, following the earthquake in China’s Sichuan Province, Mr. Chen organized engineers, geologists, architects and others to set up a disaster relief team.

Mr. Chen has been active in AIT activities throughout his career. In 2005, he was invited to deliver the Third AIT Prominent Alumni Lecture. AIT Alumni Association awarded him the AITAA Distinguished Alumni Award in 2003. He was honored with the Annual Award of Public Works (1995) by the China Road Foundation and the Professional Distinguished Achievement Award for Transportation Engineering in 1995 by the Chinese Institute of Civil Hydraulic Engineering.
Mr. Yen Yi Tseng, M. Eng. 1973

Mr. Tseng’s was the first of 120 engineers to attended AIT through sponsorship of the Retired Servicemen Engineering Agency (RSEA) of Chinese Taipei. Mr. Tseng returned to the agency at a time in which the agency was participating in the rapid development of Chinese Taipei’s infrastructure and resources. Mr. Tseng became Chief Engineer and Vice President, subsequently being elevated to President (1991-99). Mr. Tseng was also in charge of the RSEA’s overseas business expansion, with offices in North America, the Middle East, Africa, South East Asia and the South Pacific Ocean. During his tenure at the Agency, Mr. Tseng led the firm to be listed amongst the world’s top 500 ranked by the Engineering News Record magazine. At this time the Agency became a mega construction firm with a staggering annual turnover of over US$1 billion. Mr. Tseng has supported AIT continually since his graduation by encouraging sponsorship of scholarships, serving as Chairman of the national chapter of the AIT Alumni Association and serving as an AIT Board of Trustee, the first alumni to have held this position.
Mr. Yen Yi Tseng graduated with a Master degree in Systems Engineering Division from the Asian Institute of Technology in 1973. He served at the Ret-Ser Engineering Agency (RSEA), a construction corporation established by the government of Taiwan to undertake major infrastructural construction projects of the nation, such as the Ten Major construction projects in the 1970s and the twelve and fourteen major public engineering projects in the 1980s and the 1990s. Mr. Tseng was the first among the 120 engineers in his company who came to AIT to obtain a Master degree.

Mr. Tseng served at the Ret-Ser Engineering Agency from 1967 to 1999, a period when Taiwan’s infrastructure construction projects were widely promoted. He served as Chief Engineering, Vice President and finally as President of the Agency from 1991-99. In addition to public engineering works, Mr. Tseng was in-charge of the Ret-Ser Engineering Agency’s overseas business expansion, with offices in North America (US and Canada); Middle East (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Bahrain); Africa (Egypt, Liberia and Guine-Bissau); Asia (Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines and Singapore) apart from Solomon Islands and Tuvalu in the South Pacific Ocean. During his tenure, Mr. Tseng led Ret-Ser Engineering as one of the top 100 firms among the World’s Top 500 ranked by Engineering News Record (ENR) magazine. In the 1990s, Ret-Ser Engineering became a mega construction firm in Taiwan with a staggering annual turnover of over US $1 billion.

Mr. Tseng achieved distinction not just in the construction industry, but also in the academic events. He is highly respected both in engineering and academia. Mr. Tseng was elected as the President of the Chinese Institute of Civil and Hydraulic Engineering (CICHE) as well as the Chinese Institute of Engineers (CIE).

He has served as Chairman of the AIT Alumni Association and as a Trustee. He has been selected as an AIT outstanding alumnus several times. He has also served as Vice President of Harvard Alumni Association.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Tenure</th>
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<tr>
<td>1987-91</td>
<td>Vice President and Chief Engineer, Ret Ser Engineering Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>1991-98</td>
<td>President, Ret Ser Engineering Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991-98</td>
<td>President, Pan Asia Corporation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991-98</td>
<td>President of United Goldtech</td>
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<tr>
<td>1991-99</td>
<td>President Ruon Tai Co. Ltd</td>
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At the Fortieth Anniversary celebration of RSEA in May 1996, Dr. Sun Yun-suan, former Premier of Chinese Taipei, cuts the cake with one of AIT’s founders, Dr. James Soong.

Project site inspection of the Taipei MRT Project in 1997 with Chen Shui-bian, Mayor of Taipei and elected as President of Chinese Taipei in 2000.

Welcoming in the Chinese New Year in February 1998 by visiting a job site in eastern Chinese Taipei.
Dr. Boonsrang Niumpradit, D. Eng. 1978

General Boonsrang completed a career of public service in the Royal Thai Army in 2008 with his final assignment being the Supreme Commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces. General Boonsrang’s career has been oriented towards education in several ways; from 1973 to 1986 he served the Royal Thai Army in different capacities, and then moved on to be Director of the Strategic Research Institute, and Finally serving as Director of the National Defense College. During 2000-01, General Boonsrang had the responsibility for commanding the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor Peace Keeping Force, commanding over 8,000 peacekeepers from 36 countries. Since his graduation from AIT, General Boonsrang has been an ardent supporter and advocate of AIT. He has been President of the AIT Alumni Association’s Mother Chapter and continues as an advisor to AITAA.
General Dr. Boonsrang Niumpradit graduated with a doctorate in engineering in the field of Structural Engineering and Mechanics from the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in 1978. He rose to the position of Supreme Commander of the Royal Thai armed force and served in this position for two years 2007-08.

During his tenure as Supreme Commander, he was also elected as President of the AIT Alumni Association (Mother Chapter). He has served as director and advisor of the AIT Alumni Association and was honored as the Best Outstanding AIT Alumni in the field of Foreign Affairs in the year 2004.

He has received his education at various places, including a Bachelor of Science from the US Military Academy (West Point) and a Master degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He also studied at Norwich University, USA; the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy (CRMA) in Thailand, and the Armed Forces Academies Preparatory School. He went to the Command and General Staff College, Royal Thai Army as well as the National Defense College of Thailand.

General Dr. Boonsrang served as Director of Strategic Research Institute (SRI), National Defense College (NDC) as well as Director of Joint Operations, Supreme Command Headquarters. He has served as Director General, Office of Policy and Planning, Ministry of Defense and Chief of Joint Staff, Supreme Command Headquarters. He also served as Deputy Supreme Commander, Royal Thai Army before being appointed as Supreme Commander. A high point of his international military career was commanding 8,000 peacekeepers as Force Commander of the UNTAET in East Timor in 2000 –2001.

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>Supreme Commander</td>
<td>Supreme Command Headquarters</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>Deputy Supreme Commander</td>
<td>Royal Thai Army</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003-05</td>
<td>Chief of Joint Staff</td>
<td>Supreme Command Headquarters</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001-02</td>
<td>Director of Joint Operations</td>
<td>Supreme Command Headquarters</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999-2000</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>National Defense College</td>
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<td>1999-2000</td>
<td>Commandant</td>
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<td>1991</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Strategic Research Institute (SRI)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Assignment</td>
<td>Force Commander</td>
<td>UNTAET PKF (East Timor)</td>
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A familiar sight for General Boonsrang on mountain walk. The man chopped the palm branches for his pigs. (East Timor 16 May 2001)

General Boonsrang Niumpradit delivers the Convocation Address at the AIT Graduation on 16 December 2005.

General Boonsrang Niumpradit, Supreme Commander, together with the Commander-in-Chief of three services and the royal guards, participates in the Ceremony of Taking the Oath of Allegiance and the Ceremonial Parade of the Royal Guards on the occasion of His Majesty’s Birthday, at the Royal Plaza. (2 December 2007)
Prof. Djoko Santoso, M. Sc. 1982
Professor Santoso received his doctorate, Doktor Ilmu Teknik, from the Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB) and has pursued a career in academics and public service. Professor Santoso has been teaching at ITB since 1978, before attending AIT, and has achieved significant success in academics, university administration and public policy in higher education. In addition to Professor Santoso's being a Professor of Exploration Geophysics at ITB, he has held several administrative posts including Rector from January 2005 to 2010. Since June 2010, Professor Santoso has held the post of Director General of Higher Education for Indonesia's Ministry of National Education. Professor Santosa has supported AIT through several activities including promotion of AIT and mentoring alumni.

Meeting with the President of Republic Indonesia for ICT development in Indonesia (08/06/2005). The meeting finally ends with the development of the National ICT Board, which guides the ICT development policy in Indonesia.

MOU between the Rector of ITB and the Czech Technical University (CTU) signed in Warsaw. Recently, many Polish students and ITB students have become involved in graduate student exchange programs. Some joint research programs between ITB and CTU have been carried out.

Rector of ITB welcoming 20 African Ambassadors in Indonesia (February 2009). During their visit, ITB introduced some of its achievements concerning the development of technology for rural areas, as well as oil and gas exploration and production.
Prof. Dr. Djoko Santoso graduated from the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in 1982 in the field of Geotechnical and Transportation Engineering (GTE) from the School of Engineering and Technology (SET). He is currently the Director General of Higher Education in the Ministry of National Education, Government of Republic of Indonesia.

Formerly, Prof. Djoko was the Rector of the Institute of Technology, Bandung (ITB). During his career, Prof. Djoko was the recipient of a medal / certificate from the Government of the Republic of Indonesia. He is a professor of exploration geophysics, in the Faculty of Mining and Petroleum Engineering at ITB. Prof. Djoko completed his doctorate from ITB Bandung in 1990. He also studied for a post graduate diploma in Seismology from the International Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering.

Prof. Djoko has served as Chairman of Expert Group for Communication Forum of Oil and Gas Regional Community of Indonesia. He has been a private consultant to some national and international oil and gas companies, apart from being a consultant to the World Bank in an educational project in Indonesia. He has also served as Chairman of Indonesia University Rectors Council, Chairman of Indonesia Rector Forum Supervisor Group, Chairman of Indonesia Rector Forum, Chairman of Indonesia Geophysical Society, as well as Representative for Indonesia, Society of Exploration Geophysicist.

He was an adjunct professor at Curtin University of Technology, Australia, and has served as adjunct professor at Texas A & M University, College Station, USA.


<table>
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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Director General of Higher, Education Ministry of National Education</td>
<td>June 2010-2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rector of ITB</td>
<td>Jan 2005-2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITB teaching staff (Current position Professor of Exploration Geophysics, Faculty of Mining and Petroleum Engineering)</td>
<td>1978-present</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chairman of ITB Academic Senate</td>
<td>Jan 2002-Jan 2005</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice Rector of General Affair ITB</td>
<td>1997-2001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Head of Geophysical Engineering Study Program of Faculty of Mineral Technology, ITB</td>
<td>1989-1997</td>
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<tr>
<td>Head of Applied Geophysics Master Program, ITB Graduate School</td>
<td>1997-2003</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adjunct Prof. at Curtin University of Technology, Australia</td>
<td>1995-2000, 2000-present</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adjunct Prof. at Texas A &amp; M University, College Station, USA</td>
<td>1995-2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Head of ITB Publisher, 1998</td>
<td>1998</td>
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<tr>
<td>Head of Jurnal Teknologi Mineral Editor (Indonesia professional journal)</td>
<td>1990-1997</td>
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<tr>
<td>Head of Buletin Geologi Editor (Indonesia professional Journal)</td>
<td>1979-1995</td>
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For Creative Global Leaders of Tomorrow

AIT helped me to be integrated into the global technological society. AIT contributed a technological part to my life and a social part.

May all of you who have similarly benefited from an AIT education look back fondly, as I do, and support the AIT Endowment Fund to ensure that AIT’s noble mission continues and that together we help inspire AIT’s Creative Global Leaders of Tomorrow.

HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn
Certificate in Remote Sensing Technology, 1984
Royal Patron, AIT Endowment Fund Campaign 2010-2016
AIT Endowment Fund Campaign 2010 – 2016

For Creative Global Leaders of Tomorrow

Great institutions, like great people, make a difference. Great Institutions distinguish themselves. They excel because they never rest on their laurels and commit themselves to the search for excellence. They invest time and resources in continual self-improvement, and in the betterment of their community and society.

To assure accountability and transparency, the AIT Endowment Fund Foundation will be a separate legal entity, independent of AIT, with a separate board and executive committee members.

Our objectives:

• The Friends of AIT Heritage (FAITH) Foundation is a means to support Student Scholarships for academically gifted students.
• The Friends of AIT Heritage (FAITH) Foundation is a vehicle to support World-Class Visiting Scholars each year to catalyze research and vitalize academics.

Our fundraising priorities will allow the AIT to create the next generation of science and technology, protect the environment, and strengthen civil society by increasing professional managerial capacity. The AIT Endowment Fund Campaign provides an opportunity for the Asian Institute of Technology to achieve its objectives, continue the legacy that has been established after fifty years of success, and support Creative Global Leaders of Tomorrow!

AIT DAY 2010 Program

6 September 2010
12:00-17:00
Brainstorm Session
"Implementation of Satellite Model for AIT." All former faculty and alumni are invited. The AIT President makes presentation and the Director, AIT Extension moderates.

7 September 2010
Morning Noon Afternoon (14:00-17:30)
Open House for Three AIT Schools and AIT Extension
International Cuisines at Korea House and Cafeteria
HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Presides in AITCC Auditorium
Report from AIT President on AIT, Hall of Fame and Endowment Fund Campaign
Keynote Address by HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn
Report of Chairman of the Hall of Fame Panel of Judges
Chairman of the AIT Board of Trustees presents the first Hall of Fame Trophy to HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn
Each AIT Hall of Fame Inductee receives the Hall of Fame Trophy from HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn
AIT President Presents Seed Donors of AIT Endowment Fund and other Benefactors to Receive the AIT Medal of Appreciation from HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn
End of the Auditorium Session
Group Photo Session of the Inaugural 2010 AIT Hall of Fame Inductees
HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn unveils the Photos of the 2010 Hall of Fame Inductees.
HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn visits Exhibition Area on Citations of the Hall of Fame Inductees, the Yunus Center, the CSR Center at AIT, the ARCMDG Center, and the AIT-UNEP RRC.AP Center.
High Tea for HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn
Reception Dinner for Alumni and Former Faculty in front of Outreach Building

8 September 2010
12:00-15:00
Technical Tour to the National Bank of Thailand Museum and the Earth Retaining Wall along Chao Phraya Project Sponsored by AITAA Thailand.
New AIT Alumni Affairs Office

The office will serve as the main focal point for individual alumni and the AIT Alumni Association (AITAA) and liaise between AIT, AITAA and its National/Regional Chapters in a wide array of programs, including social activities, continuing education and professional development, among others.

In its fifty-one years of existence, AIT has produced more than 17,500 alumni from 85 countries and territories around the world. In June 2010, the AIT Alumni Affairs Office was established to provide a common platform to promote the pride and common interests of AIT and its alumni. It carries the mandate of developing strong commitments to establish lifelong relations between AIT, its alumni and alumni network, leading to increased support for the Institute’s vision, mission and goals. The office will serve as the main focal point for individual alumni and the AIT Alumni Association (AITAA) and liaise between AIT, AITAA and its National/Regional Chapters in a wide array of programs, including social activities, continuing education and professional development, among others. It will work to increase the effectiveness and regularity of alumni communications through all possible communications means, such as website, periodicals and alumni directory. The office will also actively create partnerships between AIT and alumni, and between alumni in areas of mutual interest. It will take a role in fostering interactions between the alumni and current students in the form of industrial mentorship, internship and job opportunities. Above all, the AIT Alumni Affairs Office will help in connecting, networking and enriching AIT alumni and its partners in supporting the strategic goals of their alma mater.