ASIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Networked to New Frontiers in 2008
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As of December 31, 2008.

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* Acting Chairman from 10 July to 20 November 2008
CHAIRMAN’S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, please allow me to share my pride and sense of accomplishment that comes with the conclusion of another successful year at the Asian Institute of Technology.

The year 2008 was highly significant for AIT. It saw the final evolution of the new Charter, which will be open for signing and ratification by states and international entities, including those which are currently on the AIT Board as well as new states and international entities. Under this new AIT Charter, the Institute will fully operate as a non-profit, non-political, autonomous, regional organization, international / inter-governmental in status, and respectful of diversity in management, staffing and operations.

This is of vital importance since it is education which serves as the foundation for positive social and economic development of any society, country or region. Founded in 1959, AIT has played an important role in the development of scientific and technological competence and capacity for the Asian region and beyond.

In an interconnected world, AIT’s internationality is its true strength. The Institute’s international vocation and its close interactions with institutions throughout the region and the world have uniquely positioned it to reach out to stakeholders at all levels in Asia and around the world. By acting as a bridge between the local, regional and global, AIT enhances opportunities for partners to lift their knowledge base, raise their technological and scientific expertise, analyze needs and set priorities that would propel them into regional and global agendas.

While continuing to serve Southeast Asia, South Asia, and East Asia, AIT is expanding its coverage to Central and West Asia as well as to the Middle East and Africa. It is by extending learning, research and outreach in this way, through mutually beneficial partnerships into areas in need of expertise and education, that AIT proves its uniqueness and value as a force for progressive change and sustainable development for the world as a whole.

Even as much was accomplished in 2008, many challenges lie ahead, but with every new challenge comes an opportunity. As Chairman of the Board of Trustees, I wish to thank the members of the Board, the faculty, staff, students, alumni, partners, stakeholders and friends for their valuable contributions over the course of the year. It is their dedication and support which keeps the Institute dynamic and sustains its move forward in the years to come.

H.E. Dr. Tej Bunnag
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ASIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

This Annual Report presents an overview of the main work and activities of the Asian Institute of Technology in 2008. The year was full of memorable highlights and some landmark initiatives that bode well for the future of our Institute. It is hoped that this report tells some of the story of the dedicated work done by our faculty, staff, students, alumni, partners and stakeholders who contribute to making AIT such a special and unique institution of higher learning.

I am pleased to report several favorable outcomes in terms of finances, student enrolments and in the development of new and innovative approaches to academics and research. By stressing overall efficiency and quality in terms of our administrative structure, we were able to preserve vital resources for AIT’s core work of research, education and outreach activities. Indeed, AIT aimed to build on its successful past performances by strengthening its ability to deliver quality teaching and learning against the backdrop of a rapidly changing landscape for higher learning. In response to changing priorities of our funding and development partners active in the region, AIT emphasized strategic public-private partnerships across key domains.

As an “Asian Institute of Technology” situated in the region experiencing the greatest growth in demand for higher education, AIT avoided of encouraging opportunities in emerging markets in Central Asia, West Asia, and Africa. In the 21st century, learning is very much a lifetime endeavor, and AIT worked during 2008 to capitalize on the increased demand for education for professionals. Consequently, we committed ourselves to working closely with the professions by launching a number of new professional programs as well as unified or integrated bachelor-master and master-Ph.D. programs with partner institutions. To respond to the emerging needs of the region, AIT also initiated work on developing a new five-year strategic framework for 2009 to 2013 to be called Strategy 2013. The new AIT Charter, which will accord our Institute full-fledged international and intergovernmental organization status, will contribute to our long term success by enabling AIT to take on a much stronger and proactive regional as well as global role, together with our partners.

During the year we undertook bold steps to deliver appropriate education and expertise to new frontiers of the continent through progressive approaches for building capacity of people and institutions. AIT reaffirmed its core strength as a Regional Network Institute by assisting people and institutions to participate in economic and development networks. A notable example of this approach was the Poverty Reduction and Agriculture Management (PRAM) initiative, which was the Greater Mekong Sub-region’s first international professional bachelor program. With AIT acting as the bridge, Asia-Africa collaboration in science and technology also took hold during the year in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand. Moreover, through our partnership with the Ministry of Higher Education, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and the World Bank, in 2008 AIT supported the strategic planning, and implementation of the development and reform program of higher education institutions in Afghanistan.

The year 2008 may well be remembered as a watershed moment when global warming and collapsing economies jarred the planet’s collective consciousness to consider sustainable approaches to living. As AIT approached its 50th anniversary, it responded to these great challenges by positioning itself as a regional educational and research thought leader to combat climate change and poverty. Significantly, in March, AIT was designated by the United Nations as the world’s first Regional Center of Excellence on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This recognized AIT as the permanent regional site dedicated to the promotion and achievement of the MDGs in Southeast Asia (ASEAN) through education and training. AIT also began to focus its research on climate change. Together with a number of partners, AIT laid the groundwork for an eventual center of excellence for the study of climate change adaptation and mitigation in the developing world.

Finally, it remains for me to express my deep appreciation to the members of the Board of Trustees, the Executive Committee, and all faculty, staff, students, alumni, partners, and friends for their hard work and dedication to making the Asian Institute of Technology great in 2008.

Professor Said Irandoust
PRESIDENT
ASIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
For nearly fifty years the Asian Institute of Technology has served the Asia-Pacific region and beyond with high-level academic education and research in engineering, technology, environment, development and management. AIT’s vision is to be the continent’s knowledge center and thought leader in technological innovation for sustainable development to foster a vibrant, prosperous Asia that leads the world in innovative responses to the greatest challenges of the 21st century: global climate change and poverty.

Situated 40 kilometers north of Bangkok, Thailand, in Pathumthani province, AIT is home to approximately 2300 students from more than 40 countries, some 150 academics from 30 countries, 100 research staff, 500 support staff, centers in Vietnam and Indonesia, and about 250 research and outreach projects. The AIT community extends far beyond its campus, including an extensive network of partners, over 16,000 alumni, and former faculty and staff working in a wide range of sectors within the region and around the world.

AIT is comprised of the School of Engineering and Technology, the School of Environment, Resources and Development, the School of Management, more than 30 established postgraduate programs, several research and outreach centers, and a continuing professional development center called the AIT Extension. Today, AIT’s beautiful 160-hectare campus contains all the necessary facilities and elements for graduate students from many different cultures to live, study, learn, work, and thrive together.

Climate Change Research

Studying ways to mitigate the impacts of climate change on threatened rural areas in Asia was high on AIT’s agenda in 2008. Research conducted by the Asian Regional Research Program on Environmental Technology (ARRPET) (pictured) at the School of Environment, Resources and Development, was a prime example of AIT’s approach.
INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

January

NEW ALUMNI PRESIDENT AND ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

Mr. Somprasong Boonyachai, Executive Chairman of Shin Corporation Plc. and Advanced Info Service Plc. became the new AIT Alumni Association (AITAA) President, succeeding General Boonsrang Niumpradit, Commander-in-Chief of The Royal Thai Army. In 2008, the Alumni Association forged relationships between its 27 national chapters through meaningful exchanges and projects. AITAA embarked on several social responsibility activities ranging from an outreach program conducted with the AIT Student Union at a primary school in Chantaburi province, Thailand, to various charitable events held in Bangkok. AITAA also formally recognized two outstanding graduates, Mr. Cesar Ortinero (Philippines) and Mr. Nguyen Phan Bach Su (Vietnam), for their high academic achievements during the year.

March

KIDS-D: AIT TO BUILD DIGITAL LIBRARY FOR SCHOOLS

On March 17, 2008, AIT entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Thailand’s Office of Basic Education Commission (OBEC) and Srinakharinwirot University (SWU) to build a digital repository called KIDS-D, for use by primary and secondary schools. AIT’s functions as the system developer by performing installations, capability training of staff, management and administration while OBEC and SWU supervise the content creation.

May

[V]THESIS COMPETITION AND YOUTUBE LAUNCH

In the run-up to the planned launch of AIT’s video sharing YouTube site, a video competition for students called [v]thesis was organized by the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA), the Student Union (SU) and the Media and Communications Unit (MCU). The competition measured contestants’ abilities to convey an academic idea or research focus through video in a clear, concise and entertaining way. Eight graduating students presented creative visual interpretations of their research.

June

AIT OFFICIALS MEET NOBEL LAUREATE PROF. MUHAMMAD YUNUS

A delegation of officials representing the Asian Institute of Technology called on 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Professor Muhammad Yunus, during his brief stay in Bangkok. The delegation, led by Acting AIT President Prof. Peter Haddawy, offered its welcome to the Nobel Laureate and exchanged a number of possibilities for future collaboration.

July

SEMANTIC ON “BECOMING A WORLD CLASS UNIVERSITY” WITH ASAHL

AIT and the Association of Southeast Asian Institutions of Higher Learning (ASAHL) conducted a seminar on “Becoming a World Class University Through Benchmarking & Innovation” in cooperation with Scopus and Quacquarelli Symonds (QS). The conference brought together over 70 participants from prestigious universities in Thailand and within the region. This knowledge exchange put forth current tools and technologies that gauge, compare and rank universities all over the world. Representatives from recognized independent agencies like QS, Elsevier and experts from top universities such as Kyoto University, Japan, delivered talks on topics on new university ranking methodologies, management strategy mapping, and emerging solutions for academic administrators. Originally based in Thailand, ASAHL has since expanded beyond Southeast Asia to include 166 member universities in 17 countries across the Asia-Pacific region.

August

ALUMNI TRACER STUDY BEGINS

A comprehensive survey by the External Relations and Communications Office (ERCO) of AIT’s alumni began in August 2008. The Alumni Tracer Study sampled the opinions of one-quarter of AIT’s more than 16,000 alumni. The study aimed to solicit empirical evidence of its performance to inform future strategic planning. AIT’s first tracer study was completed in 1971. The periodic survey of alumni focuses on updating the alumni directory and gathering certain information required for the improvement of AIT’s curriculum, teaching, learning, research, extension, and networking. This latest tracer study, which will be completed in January 2009, will include two reports. The first report focuses on all AIT graduates, and the second is specific to AIT graduates supported by Norwegian scholarships. The Government of Norway financed a major part of the Alumni Tracer Study.

During the year AIT housed the ASAHL-Scopus Young Scientist Awards, a competition open to outstanding young scientists and researchers in the Asia-Pacific region who made significant contributions to scholarship and research.
Corporate social responsibility

CSR Asia Summit 2008

The Asian Institute of Technology was the final destination for representatives of global corporate giants and civil society who arrived to participate at the CSR Asia Summit 2008, Asia’s most notable annual conference on corporate social responsibility (CSR).

Organized by Hong Kong-based partner CSR Asia, the two-day conference was hosted by AIT Extension from 3-4 November. The event brought together over 350 participants from Europe, North America and Asia, representing a wide array of social enterprises and private sector interests interested in advancing the cause of CSR in Asia. AIT was the first academic institution in Southeast Asia to host the annual summit.

CSR Summit 2008 targeted global and Asian experts and practitioners in the fields of social, environmental and corporate governance. Attracting delegates from more than 20 countries, practitioners, experts and like-minded people explored emerging topics unique to the Asian context, which brought new insights for businesses, governments, NGOs and other CSR practitioners.

In 2008 the unfolding global economic crisis and its potential adverse implications for CSR activities struck a chord with participants. CSR Asia Chairman, Dr. Richard Welford, told the large opening day audience that companies engaging in innovative and meaningful CSR initiatives would be better able to cope with the economic downturn than those ignoring social responsibility. Each international summit delegate arriving in Thailand was required to purchase renewable energy offsets to ensure a zero carbon footprint for the event. Carbon offset sponsors were Anemone Green Capital, Climate Care, RESET (HK) Ltd.

Partnership with United Nations

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon endorses
ASEAN Regional Center of Excellence on MDGs for AIT

This year the Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Ban Ki-moon, gave his full endorsement for the creation of the ASEAN Regional Center of Excellence on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the Asian Institute of Technology. The UN Head’s message of endorsement was presented in a video address on March 25 to an international stakeholders meeting held at AIT titled “ECOSOC’s Promotion and Achievement of Millennium Development Goals through Education and Outreach.”

The two-day ASEAN Regional Center Roundtable brought together over 100 high-level civil society members, including policy makers, opinion makers, as well as representatives of the United Nations, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and academia, to deliberate on the challenges facing South-East Asian countries in achieving the eight Millennium Development Goals in time for 2015.

The creation of the ASEAN Regional Center of Excellence took place during a regional roundtable meeting on 24-25 March 2008 which was co-organized by the NGO section of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), UN ECOSOC and AIT.

In his video message to the international meeting, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the launch of the ASEAN Regional Center of Excellence on MDGs at AIT. Secretary-General Ban said: “The new Center and its local and regional affiliates will provide continuity for your initiatives. They will also serve as key MDG hubs promoting development activities throughout the region.”
September

ORGANIC SYMPOSIUM AND REGIONAL WORKSHOP

AIT is one of the main institutes in Thailand spearheading efforts in organic farming. By partnering with the National Innovation Agency (NIA), the Ministry of Science and Technology Thailand and the Thai Organic Trade Association (TOTA), AIT organized a national symposium that aimed to assist formulation of policies to enhance the development of the Thai organic produce market. The symposium concluded with a declaration on the application and promotion of organic agriculture within the South-East Asian region titled the “Bangkok Declaration on Cooperation to Facilitate Organic Agriculture.”

TWO-STAGE MASTER’S DEGREE PROGRAM LAUNCHED WITH INdia’s VSIS

During the year, AIT partnered with India-based Vishwakarma School of International Studies (VSIS) to offer a new Two-Stage Master’s Degree Program. The program will allow participating students to benefit from an international curricula taught by world-class faculty and scientists. Participating students will be exposed to the teaching, research and academic life of both institutions. The programs were initially offered in mechatronics and energy technology. Both programs will be conducted in two stages; with the initial stage at AIT and the latter at VSIS, depending on each individual’s work plan. Students will be eligible to compete for AIT scholarships, fellowships and student assistantships. Graduating students will earn a master’s degree awarded by AIT.

AIT AND ASIAN UNIVERSITY LAUNCH THAILAND’S FIRST UNIFIED BACHELOR – MASTER’S PROGRAM

AIT entered into a unique academic partnership with Thailand’s Asian University (AU) to launch a five-year-long ‘Unified International Bachelor – Master’s Degree Program’. The new joint program is the first of its kind in Thailand and provides a fast-track opportunity for students to complete a bachelor’s degree and master’s degree (recognized by both schools) in less time and at lower cost than traditional programs. The new partnership was formalized through a Memorandum of Agreement signed during Asian University’s 10th Anniversary celebrations held in Bangkok on September 27. The strategic tie-up will initially cover the academic fields of systems engineering and electrical and electronic engineering.

November

HRH PRINCESS MAHA CHAKRI SIRINDHORN VISITS AIT BOOTH AT CRMA EDUCATION EXHIBITION 2008

AIT was one of nineteen educational institutions from around Thailand invited to join the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy (CRMA) Education Exhibition 2008 on 12 November in Nakhon Nayok, Thailand. Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand presided over the opening ceremony of the event organized to promote public awareness of knowledge derived from research in engineering, science, social sciences, and the military. AIT’s Vice President for Research, Prof. Sudip Rakshit, led AIT’s delegation which included Prof. Chongrak Polprasert, Dr. Preeda Parkpian and Dr. Kyosuke Honda. Faculty members were given a brief opportunity to explain the main elements of their research to HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn as she toured the various exhibits.

CAREER FAIR

Despite indications of an economic slowdown impacting the region, Career Center organizers reported that more companies participated at this year’s November event than the year before. The AIT Career Center also recorded more job and internship postings on its website than at any time in the past. Close to eight hundred job seekers attended AIT’s Career Fair on 2 November in Nakhon Nayok. AIT Career Center organizers report a significant increase in the number of participating companies. AIT Career Center organizers report that more companies participated at this year’s November event than the year before.

December

PARTNERSHIP WITH CHULABHORN RESEARCH INSTITUTE AND MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY

AIT signed a second Memorandum of Agreement with the Chulabhorn Research Institute (CRI) and Mahidol University (MU) for an inter-university post-graduate education program in environmental toxicology, technology and management.

HRH Princess Chulabhorn, Ph.D., President, Chulabhorn Research Institute, presided over the official partnership signing ceremony on 22 December 2008 at the Chulabhorn Research Institute in Bangkok. The AIT and CRI / MU international program is intended to foster academic cooperation between three of Thailand’s leading research institutions and facilitate joint-conferred master’s and doctoral degrees in the field of environmental toxicology, technology and management.

The new joint program builds on an earlier AIT-CRI partnership signed in 1996 which supports the training of scientists in basic and applied research in the area of environmental toxicology, technology and management.
AWARDS AND DISTINCTION

VP RESEARCH JOINS EDITORIAL BOARD OF RECENT PATENTS ON BIOTECHNOLOGY

Professor Sudip Rakshit, Vice President for Research, joined the editorial board of the new journal Recent Patents on Biotechnology published by Bentham Science Publishers. Bentham Science Publishers are indexed by the major indexing media such as, Medline / PubMed, and the Science Citation Index.

AIT MBA TEAM REPRESENTS SOUTH-EAST ASIA AT THE GLOBAL SOCIAL VENTURE COMPETITION: ASIAN REGIONAL FINALS

March 2008

An academic team of AIT MBA students led by faculty members Dr. Barbara Igel from the School of Management (SOM), and Dr. Joydeep Dutta from the School Engineering and Technology (SET), took the runners-up prize at the Global Social Venture Competition: South-East Asia (GSVC-SEA). The School of Management students then represented the South-East Asia region at the Asian Regional Finals held at the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad, India in March 2008. The winning business plan was based on a new type of solar technology (Dyesensitized Solar Cell) developed by Dr. Joydeep Dutta and his team at the AIT Nanotechnology Center of Excellence. This was an effort to formulate the commercialization of technologies developed from AIT’s basic and applied research. GSVC is a global MBA student business plan competition that began in 1999 at the Haas School of Business of the University of California at Berkeley, USA. GSVC was the first competition to promote entrepreneurial start-ups which not only offered financial returns, but also provided measurable social or environmental benefits. The competition has grown to be one of the most prestigious globally through the participation of the top schools such as Columbia Business School, London Business School, Indian School of Business and the Yale School of Management.

“LOW ENERGY HOUSE” WINS AT THAILAND ENERGY AWARDS 2008

July 2008

AIT alumnus Dr. Juntakan Taweekun won a prestigious award from the Ministry of Energy of the Royal Thai government for her project “Low Energy House”. Rungrot Kitsaboonloha, who is an AIT alumnus (2008) and a student at the Master of Environmental Science program at AIT, won first-place award for oral presentation made during the International Symposium on Sustaining Fish Diversity, Fisheries and Aquacultures in the Mekong Basin. Both doctoral students are enrolled in AIT’s Aquaculture and Aquatic Resources Management (AARM) field of study at the School of Environment, Resources and Development. The symposium was jointly organized by Ulbon Rachathani University (Thailand); Universite Paul Sabatier (UPS), France; Department of Fisheries (DoF), Thailand; Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia-Pacific (NACA); and Mekong River Commission (MRC), and was fully endorsed by Thailand’s Commission of Higher Education, Ministry of Education.

NANOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCHER RECEIVES AWARD

August 2008

Mr. Rungrot Kitsaboonloha, who is an AIT alumnus (2008) and a former researcher at AIT’s Center of Excellence (CEC) in Nanotechnology, was awarded for his work on the “Direct Writing Growth of ZnO Rods through Ink Jet Techniques” during the second Thailand Nanotechnology Conference in August. He placed second place overall. His work was also featured in Bangkok Biz News, a product of the Thai newspaper, The Nation. Mr. Rungrot Kitsaboonloha is currently pursuing his doctorate at the University of California, Berkeley.

ALUMNI PRESENTED WITH NEPAL ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

September, 2008

Mr. Uttam Shrestha was presented with the Nepal Bidhya Bhushan Padak Khosa and Nepal Academic Excellence Award by the President of Federal Republic of Nepal, Ram Baran Yadav, during World Literacy Day and National Education Day celebrations. This prestigious honor is awarded to Nepali citizens who achieve academic excellence in their undergraduate-level studies, either from a program in Nepal’s university system or abroad. Mr. Shrestha graduated from AIT in August 2008 with an outstanding CGPA of 4.00/4.00. He also produced excellent research work on regional disparities in Nepal as part of his master’s degree in the Regional and Rural Development Planning Field of Study, School of Environment, Resources and Development (SERD).

TWO AIT STUDENTS WIN AWARDS AT SYMPOSIUM

September 2008

Mr. Toung Hoang Minh and Mr. Chavan Balu Ramdas won the first and third-place awards respectively for oral presentation made during the International Symposium on Sustaining Fish Diversity, Fisheries and Aquacultures in the Mekong Basin. Both doctoral students are enrolled in AIT’s Aquaculture and Aquatic Resources Management (AARM) field of study at the School of Environment, Resources and Development. The symposium was jointly organized by Ulbon Rachathani University (Thailand); Universite Paul Sabatier (UPS), France; Department of Fisheries (DoF), Thailand; Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia-Pacific (NACA); and Mekong River Commission (MRC), and was fully endorsed by Thailand’s Commission of Higher Education, Ministry of Education.

Award-Winning Doctoral Thesis Looks at Bridging the Digital Divide

November 2008

Dr. Areeyata Sripetch received a second-level award from the Thai-British Educational Society (EBSE) on November 9 in Taipei, Taiwan. After receiving the award, Professor Worsak gave a presentation for the Japanese Language Lectures in honor of the late Professor Fumio Nishino. A former AIT faculty member, Professor Fumio-Nishino also served as AIT’s Vice President for Academic Affairs during the mid-1990s. He founded the series of EASEC Conference in 1986 while he served as the Vice President for Academic Affairs. At that time Professor Worsak served as the Conference Secretary.

A former AIT alumnus, Dr. Juntakan Taweekun (left) won a prestigious award for her project “Low Energy House”.

AIT MBA students are enrolled in AIT’s Aquaculture and Aquatic Resources Management (AARM) field of study at the School of Environment, Resources and Development (SERD). Two AIT students, Ms. Thitikan Satchabut and Ms. U-Thumporn, took top places at the Thai National Best Business English Speaker Competition held at the Saxin Institute of Business Administration (SIBA), Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. Thitikan Satchabut placed third in the entire competition and was awarded a cyber dictionary, a mobile phone, and a free English Course at Cambridge ESOL’s Business Language Testing Service (BULATS).

AIT Climate Change Expert Awarded for Going the "Extra Mile" in Air Quality Research

November 2008

Dr. N.T. Kim Oanh was awarded the “Extra Mile” Special Award at the Better Air Quality 2008 (BAQ08) Conference Series organized from November 12-14 in Bangkok, Thailand, for her proactive academic contributions to the study of air quality and atmospheric pollution. Dr. N.T. Kim Oanh’s team of master’s and doctoral students was also the leading delegation in terms of the number presentations during conference. She presented one of her signature studies on black carbon in six Asian cities which highlighted the importance of addressing the situation of black carbon particles in the air. These particles interact directly and indirectly with the earth’s radiation energy balance and can subsequently impact global climate patterns, Dr. Kim Oanh warned.

Mr. Uttam Shrestha (left) with the President of Federal Republic of Nepal, Ram Baran Yadav.

Mrs. Akiyo Nishino presented the Nishino Medal to Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai, Dean of the School of Engineering and Technology (SET), who was awarded the first Nishino Medal for his internationally recognized contributions in the fields of structural engineering and construction. The medal was presented to Professor Worsak at the opening ceremony of the Eleventh Asia Pacific Conference on Structural Engineering and Construction (EASCE-11) on November 19 in Taipei, Taiwan. After receiving the award, Professor Worsak gave a presentation for the Japanese Language Lectures in honor of the late Professor Fumio Nishino. A former AIT faculty member, Professor Fumio-Nishino also served as AIT’s Vice President for Academic Affairs during the mid-1990s. He founded the series of EASEC Conference in 1986 while he served as the Vice President for Academic Affairs. At that time Professor Worsak served as the Conference Secretary.

Ms. Thitikan Satchabut placed third in the entire competition and was awarded a cyber dictionary, a mobile phone, and a free English Course at Cambridge ESOL’s Business Language Testing Service (BULATS).

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The figures are the average of two semesters in 2008.

As of December 3, 2008.

*The figures are the average of two semesters in 2008.

*As of December 31, 2008.
AIT has engaged Africa through its Asia-Africa Initiative for Higher Education in Science and Technology for Sustainable Development, which is supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand. By acting as a bridge between local, regional and global concerns, AIT enhances opportunities for potential partners in Africa to lift their knowledge base, raise their technological and scientific expertise, analyze needs and set priorities for progressive and sustainable development. In 2008, AIT counted 50 alumni from Africa.

New frontiers 2008

Bridging continents through the Asia-Africa Initiative

Please turn to Page 31 for a comprehensive list of AIT’s partners.
Developing a Five Year Future Plan

AIT enjoys an international reputation based on the proven value of its work and its dedication to applying academic knowledge and skills to address the emergent challenges of the region. It exists to elevate the Institute’s partners’ understanding of global changes and their impact in Asia, and to influence and enable sustainable development for the better.

As a multicultural and multinational educational hub for a global network of development partners, AIT is dedicated to the generation and transfer of knowledge, and the strengthening of capacity across borders.

Building on the Asian Institute of Technology’s core values, its capabilities in innovative teaching and learning, research and outreach, and a thorough analysis of emerging trends in the external environment for higher learning, the Institute will develop a five-year strategic framework for 2009 to 2013. During the year considerable focus was given to developing AIT’s five year Strategy 2013, which is expected to comprise four Strategic Themes:

1. Internationality as a Regional Network Institute
2. Excellence and Relevance in Education, Research and Outreach
3. Positioning and Branding
4. Development and Resources Management
As the leading network institution of higher learning in the region, AIT has always been at the forefront in initiating new ventures. Through the Institute’s focused academic activities and new strategic directions, AIT continues its dedicated service to the region in partnership with like-minded stakeholders in the public and private sectors. The maximum potential for growth in higher learning lies in Asia, and AIT is situated at the crossroads of the continent. As development efforts in Africa and other countries intensify, AIT is committed to providing the highest quality teaching and learning to develop highly qualified and committed leaders for tomorrow.

Academics
Most countries in the region face two critical challenges: poverty and climate change. By conducting basic and applied research, the Institute seeks to address today’s crucial issues. Research skills have been the cornerstone of the Institute’s success in partnering with international organizations and institutions of higher learning for education, research and development and outreach activities. AIT’s research focus can play a role in achieving a new global paradigm that includes increased balance, inclusiveness, and sustainability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Research

Extension, Outreach and Centers

AIT committed itself to assisting higher learning in conflicted Afghanistan

In 2008, the Asian Institute of Technology took a major step forward with its plans to assist the development of higher education in Afghanistan. It inaugurated a branch office at Balkh University (BU) to manage the US$ 1.5 million University Partnership Program to assist the Faculty of Engineering at Balkh University in Mazar-i-Sharif.

The outreach initiative was the first for AIT in the war-torn country. The overall goal of the two-year program partnership with the Ministry of Higher Education, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, which is financially supported by the World Bank, is to upgrade the teaching capability of Balkh University’s Faculty of Engineering as a way to elevate the overall quality of its undergraduate engineering programs. AIT supports the strategic planning and implementation of the development and reform program of higher education institutions in Afghanistan.

Balkh University is one of six universities in Afghanistan receiving World Bank financial aid to strengthen higher education. The initiative aims to lift BU’s current curriculum to the same standard of AIT. Emphasis is given to the capacity building of the current faculty members and includes strengthening the geology and mining, building construction, and design and chemical technology fields of study. Information and communication technology (ICT) is a key focus. Projects include enhancing BU’s physical infrastructure to support information technology and the Internet, and enhancing faculty members’ skills in Internet communications, online information search, and use of electronic library resources to conduct teaching, information retrieval and administration. An English-language enhancement program is to be developed and implemented.

Other plans include an effort to create a computer science undergraduate program as well as the possible upgrade of some general education courses in math and physics to full degrees. The overarching aim of the landmark project is to improve the engineering curriculum of Balkh University to an international level of quality. AIT’s physical presence in Afghanistan signals its intention to take a leading role in assisting the development of tertiary education in the country in partnership with the government of Afghanistan.

The Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) seeks to ensure that the broadest possible impact is reached by conducting innovative and responsive activities geared towards the needs of national governments, overseas development agencies, multilateral agencies, development institutions, the private sector, investment banks, consultants and nongovernmental organizations. AIT hosts several top centers that concentrate on emerging issues such as the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), nanotechnology as the twentieth century’s manufacturing unit, trans-boundary water issues and sustainable agricultural practices. AIT operates international Centers in Vietnam and Indonesia and is involved in key academic consortia across the Asia-Pacific region.

Key Achievements in 2008

In 2008, AIT committed itself to assisting higher learning in conflicted Afghanistan. This was achieved by initiating a branch office at Balkh University (BU) to manage the US$ 1.5 million University Partnership Program to assist the Faculty of Engineering at Balkh University in Mazar-i-Sharif.

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ACADEMICS

This year AIT witnessed a 6% increase in applications and welcomed 4,577 new students. The increase came despite tighter admissions requirements, specifically for English language skills. A number of academic policies were enhanced in 2008. These included a new grading policy outlined by the Institute Education Council, and a reliable mode for credit transfer in the doctoral program. The average Student-To-Faculty ratio for the Institute was 22. Across the three schools the Student-to-Faculty ratios were as follows: at the School of Engineering and Technology (SET) the ratio was 18; at the School of Environment, Resources and Development (SERD) the ratio was 15; and at the School of Management (SOM) the ratio was 33.

ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENTS
An Office of Summer Programs was established within AIT Extension and the coordinator was hired during the year. The new office will be responsible for developing, marketing, and coordinating the programs. The main target is study abroad students from the United States and Europe.

Directorships for specific academic initiatives were established and appointments made for: Director Undergraduate Programs, Director Unified Programs, Director Academic Quality Assurance and Accreditation, and Director Professional Programs.

A Masters Leading to PhD program was implemented, following the initial development of guidelines and their refinement by the Academic Senate.

New policies: Credit transfers, part-time programs, refinement of English language requirements, and streamlining of policy on extension of study limits for PhD students were all introduced.

QUALITY ASSURANCE
Peer Teaching Review: AIT decided to formulate a uniform procedure of all Schools to implement peer teaching review.

Research Performance Evaluation and Benchmarking: A regional initiative on research quality assurance in partnership with leading universities and government research funding agencies began in 2008. This will take the form of workshops in each country. During the year, materials were developed in collaboration with National Taiwan University.

AIT Research Benchmarking: The Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs began an exercise to benchmark AIT research productivity against peer institutions. The year saw Fields of Studies and the School of Management begin to provide lists of peer institutions.

Becoming a World-Class University: Seminars on university rankings and research quality issues were held at AIT, as well as in Indonesia and the Philippines, in collaboration with Elsevier, and the ministries and commissions of higher education in those respective countries.

Center for Learning Innovation and Quality (CLIQ): A proposal for this initiative was approved by AIT Investment Committee. A 1-day workshop was held at AIT on the topic of Change Management for Teaching and Learning.

ADMISSIONS, FINANCIAL AID, AND REGISTRY
A new information analysis and visualization capability was added to the Admissions Information System, which provided important analysis of trends in applications over time broken down by country and field of study. The system has enabled the Schools to analyse and target their responses to fluctuations in applications.

Poverty Reduction and Agricultural Management connects Laos
Together with partner Wetlands Alliance Programme (WAP), and with the support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), AIT spearheaded the region’s first vocational and professional bachelor program to tackle poverty in Lao PDR called the Poverty Reduction and Agriculture Management (PRAM) initiative. By attempting to fill the gaps in education that exist marginalized areas, PRAM strives to equip rural leaders with skills and knowledge that they can readily apply in their villages. Fitness for purpose is a quality assurance measure used by AIT to ensure that this unique program achieves its goals.
School of Engineering and Technology

The School of Engineering and Technology (SET) at AIT develops leaders for a sustainable and technologically-driven future. The School values creative research and a solid understanding of the fundamentals in many cutting-edge fields of study in engineering and technology. Together with our globe-spanning network of partners and alumni, SET graduates are engineering technological solutions to meet today’s global challenges for a better tomorrow.

In 2008, SET’s activities were focused on increasing the School’s social impact regionally and internationally. This was achieved through several promotional and academic events in target countries such as China, India, Indonesia, Vietnam, Myanmar and Pakistan. By striving to maintain high quality faculty and staff from diverse backgrounds, SET continues to attract top students who are often endorsed by their home countries and current employers. This year, efforts were also concentrated on cultivating strategic alliances with partner universities, the private sector and governments. In a span of three years, SET initiated a total of 164 projects.

School of Environment, Resources and Development

A key strength of AIT is its ability to respond to regional needs by mobilizing and enhancing capabilities for socially, economically and environmentally sound development through the School of Environment, Resources and Development (SERD). The School emphasizes an interdisciplinary approach that integrates technology, and natural and social science knowledge in its academic, research and training activities.

This year over 50% of SERD’s incoming students were women, many of whom focused on deepening their skills in sustainable development related fields. In addition to co-launching the Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation and Management (DPMM) Program with the School of Engineering and Technology, SERD also initiated two new programs: Agribusiness Management; and Gender Transportation and Development.

School of Management

At AIT’s School of Management (SOM), students learn and embrace dynamic principles of management through experiential learning in an internationalized setting. The School provides education for the promotion of technological change and its management, and develops corporate leaders for the present and future. Academic programs are internationally recognized and adapted to the needs and challenges of an increasingly competitive region.

Special attention is given to the relationship between SOM alumni and the School’s current students. Through regular exchanges and ongoing dialogue, lasting professional relationships are created and maintained which are integral to students’ future careers. Some key activities implemented during the year were the Business Plan Competition Workshop and the International Exchange Students Meeting. There were also several promising discussions with prospective industry partners such as the Amata Group Thailand, Siam Commercial Bank, and Siemens Thailand.

Intensified Presence in Vietnam

Vietnam is fast developing as one of the region’s manufacturing hubs. Vietnamese professionals must elevate their competence to contribute more broadly to development scenarios. This year, programs in project management, industrial engineering and management, and geosystem exploration and petroleum geoenvironment were initiated to respond to this need.

Launch of Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation and Management (DPMM) Program

August 2008

The frequent occurrence of natural disasters in Asia leading to loss of life and destruction of infrastructure has called the Asian Institute of Technology to action.

DPMM is designed to equip civil servants, managers and engineers with the skills necessary to address these catastrophes. AIT’s experts from SET and SERD have combined their efforts to offer a leading program designed to produce professionals able to deal with disasters and to reduce their cataclysmic effects on populations in the Asia-Pacific region.

Partnership with Kasetsart University

This year marked SERD’s new alliance with Kasetsart University’s Faculty of Forestry of Thailand for the establishment of a three-year multifaceted academic cooperation agreement. Kasetsart University, which was primarily established by the Royal Thai Government for specialized studies in agriculture related endeavors, is one of Thailand’s top ranked universities. Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), both institutes intend to widen their shared scope of academic exchange and collaboration, including joint research activities and publications and the possibility of a double degree program.

CSR and Sustainability

SOM is working closely with the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs to integrate sustainability studies into AIT’s post-graduate education and research. One of the School’s priorities this year was to formulate a research agenda that reflects and integrates both the interests of the faculty and students respectively. Corporate Social Responsibility and sustainability were identified as the School’s central research thrust for the years to come. These themes are communicated to aspiring students not only to respond to the global interest but, more importantly, to build competencies in these fields and improve SOM’s research profile.

New SOM Website

A new SOM website went live in April, primarily to attract a new breed of scholars interested in pursuing executive careers in international business and service as their field of choice. Online student ambassadors were employed to facilitate information exchange between the School and its applicants. A study showed that over 90% of the current students accessed the website before applying.
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

CIVIL & INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEERING GROUP
- Construction, Engineering & Infrastructure Management
- Geotechnical & Geoenvironmental Engineering
- Structural Engineering
- Transportation Engineering
- Water Engineering & Management

INDUSTRIAL SYSTEMS ENGINEERING GROUP
- Industrial & Manufacturing Engineering
- Mechatronics
- Microelectronics

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS GROUP
- Computer Science
- Information Management
- Remote Sensing & Geographic Information Systems
- Telecommunications

INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS
- Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation & Management
- Geosystem Exploration & Petroleum Geotechnology
- Offshore Technology & Management
- Information & Communications Technologies
- Nanotechnology

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT

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

INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS
- Agribusiness Management
- Cleaner Production
- Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation & Management
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management
- Sustainable Development

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

- Executive MBA Program
- EMBA in Bangkok, EMBA - Human Resources Management (EMBA-HRM), International EMBA in Vietnam (iEMBA Vietnam)
- Dual Degree Arrangements
- Two degrees - AIT’s MBA degree and a specialized degree from one of Europe’s premier business schools
- Exchange Program Arrangements with partner institutions in Asia or Europe
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Program
- Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) Program
- Professional Doctoral Program in AIT Thailand, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Taiwan, and India
In 2008, AIT initiated 123 research projects and programs, including grants for sponsoring conferences and capacity building trainings. The majority of sponsored projects were undertaken in developing countries. AIT faculty members accumulated 674 publications, which included peer-reviewed journals, book chapters, conference proceedings and mainstream media articles.

During the year, considerable work was completed to re-orient AIT’s research under the emerging thematic research knowledge area to called Sustainable Development in the Context of Climate Change.

Overall, 459 sponsored and contracted projects were conducted by the faculty and staff from Fields of Study (FoS) of the three Schools: School of Engineering and Technology (SET), School of Environment, Resources and Development (SERD); and School of Management (SOM); as well as from AIT Extension, Internet Education and Research Laboratory (IntERLab), and Institute-wide projects.

To encourage the development of innovation, and to help actualize original ideas into real world applications or ventures, the “IDEA” (Innovation Development to Entrepreneurship Actualized) fund was set up. IDEA 2009 was open to all students, faculty and staff. AIT proactively searched for new technologies, products, services and software programs that showed marketable potential. Consideration was given to establishing a specialized and possibly autonomous entity for providing professional consulting services.

One key development was the approval of the Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window (EMECW) mobility project. The mobility project grant involved 11 partner institutes of higher learning (including five Asian partners). The Office of the Vice President for Research made considerable efforts to increase project preparation and support by increasing infrastructure for projects’ call searches.

### Third Annual AIT Master’s Thesis Competition

The Third Annual AIT Master’s Thesis Competition, organized by the Office of the Vice President for Research, was held on May 4. The annual competition is one of the most anticipated and prestigious scholarly campus events. In 2008, the competition was composed of seven categories, namely; Energy and Environment, Resources, Development, Industrial Systems Engineering, Information and Communications Technologies, Civil Engineering, and Management.

Students with excellent grades in their thesis were nominated to represent their respective field of study. The presentations were judged according to their relevance, originality, scientific and societal contribution, general knowledge of the field, future potential for innovation, and presentation. Invited judges from the public and private sectors, international organizations, academia and the media selected the winners. (Indicated below.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Adviser</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Cesar Ortinero</td>
<td>Improvement of Nucleic Acid-Based Detection Techniques through the Use of Nanomaterials</td>
<td>Dr. Oleg V. Shipin</td>
<td>Energy &amp; Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Mohammed Al-Amin Sadek</td>
<td>Possibility of Improving Tillage Performance by Using Nanosurfaces on Tillage Tools</td>
<td>Dr. Hemantitha P. Jayasinghe</td>
<td>Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Husein Mohamed</td>
<td>Vulnerability of Maldivian Islands to Climate Change and Extreme Weather Events: A Study of Perception, Impacts and Adaptation</td>
<td>Dr. LUC Pasqual Ferres</td>
<td>Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Mohamad Al-Amin Sadek</td>
<td>Gas Sensors Based on Zinc Oxide Nanomaterials</td>
<td>Prof. Joydeep Dutta</td>
<td>Industrial Systems Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sivapragasam Kangboonkrong</td>
<td>Performance evaluation of smart grid equipment for enhanced and reliability of power grid systems</td>
<td>Prof. Kaif Ahmed</td>
<td>Information and Communications Technologies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. RCP Lahara</td>
<td>Assessment of fishery harbor for livelihood improvement: A case study of Hikkaduwa Harbor, Sri Lanka</td>
<td>Dr. Scrat Wenasak</td>
<td>Civil Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Nanayong Ratanakoon</td>
<td>Enhancing Navigation Safety from the Perspective of Knowledge Management: The Case of a Shipping Company in Thailand</td>
<td>Dr. Barbara Igel</td>
<td>Management</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VISION

Vision-based Industrial Robotic Bin-picking System
Duration: 1 Oct 2008-30 Sep 2009
Project Investigator: Dr. Matthew Dailey
Sponsor: Solimac Co. Ltd.
Total Contracted Amount: (Baht) 765,000

Product Design and Development for SCG Building Materials
Duration: 1 Jul 2008-31 Dec 2008
Project Investigator: Pisut Koomsap
Sponsor: SCG Building Materials Co. Ltd.
Total Contracted Amount: (Baht) 486,850

Development of Force Feedback Exoskeleton system for Virtual Reality
Duration: 1 Nov 2008-31 Oct 2009
Project Investigator: Manukid Parnichkun
Sponsor: Royal Thai Government
Total Contracted Amount: (Baht) 952,000

Disk Drive Automated Test Operation
Duration: 15 Sep 2008-15 Sep 2010
Project Investigator: Nitin Afzulpurkar
Sponsors: Seagate Technology Th Ltd., Royal Thai Government
Total Contracted Amount: (Baht) 900,000

Photocatalytic thin film coating technology
Duration: 16 Jun 2008-30 Jun 2009
Project Investigator: Joydeep Dutta
Sponsor: National Electronic and Computer Technology Center, National Science and Technology Development Agency, Thailand
Total Contracted Amount: (Baht) 1,870,940

Poverty Mapping and Reduction Strategies
Duration: 1 Aug 2008-30 Nov 2008
Project Investigator: Lal Samarakoon
Sponsor: Government of India
Total Contracted Amount: (Baht) 2,438,818

MASTER PLAN

Master Plan for Earthquake Disaster Mitigation in Thailand
Duration: 29 Jul 2008-31 Aug 2009
Project Investigators: Dr. Pennung Warnitchai, Dr. Kawin Worakanchana
Sponsor: Panya Consultants Co. Ltd.
Total Contracted Amount: (Baht) 1,600,000

Nigeria Crossing Bridge
Project Investigator: Dr. Naveed Anwar
Sponsor: Advance Engineering Consultants, Lagos, Nigeria
Total Contracted Amount: (Baht) 1,020,000

Seismic Vulnerability and Risk Assessment of Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet City (Bangladesh) Corporation Areas
Duration: 6 Jan 2008-31 Jul 2009
Project Investigators: Dr. Pennung Warnitchai, Dr. Kawin Worakanchana
Sponsor: Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC)
Total Contracted Amount: (Baht) 4,250,000

Climate Change impact and Adaptation Study for Bangkok Metropolitan region
Duration: 1 Dec 2008-30 Nov 2009
Project Investigator: Mukund S. Babel
Sponsor: Panya Consultants Co. Ltd.
Total Contracted Amount: (Baht) 686,940

Photocatalytic thin film coating technology
Duration: 1 Feb 2008-31 Jan 2011
Project Investigator: Ram C. Bhujel
Sponsor: European Commission through University of Strirling, United Kingdom
Total Contracted Amount: (Baht) 3,000,010

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Sponsor: Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC)
Total Contracted Amount: (Baht) 4,250,000

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Duration: 1 Dec 2008-30 Nov 2009
Project Investigator: Mukund S. Babel
Sponsor: Panya Consultants Co. Ltd.
Total Contracted Amount: (Baht) 686,940

Sustainable Aquaculture Research Networks in Sub-Saharan Africa
Duration: 1 Feb 2008-31 Jan 2011
Project Investigator: Ram C. Bhujel
Sponsor: University of Strirling, United Kingdom
Total Contracted Amount: (Baht) 3,000,010

Capacity Building for Gender, Poverty and Mobility Analysis of Road Transportation Development in the GMS Region
Duration: 1 Jan 2008-01 Jul 2010
Project Investigator: Kyoko Kusakabe
Sponsor: ASEAN Foundation
Total Contracted Amount: (Baht) 10,889,238

Socially and Gender Responsive Natural Resource Management in the Context of the Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative Project
Duration: 1 Jul 2008-31 Jan 2010
Project Investigator: Julakha B. Hossain
Sponsor: Asian Development Bank
Total Contracted Amount: (Baht) 3,400,000

Part of the ProSPER.Net Joint Project on Integrating Sustainability in Business School Curricula (ProSPER.Net)
Duration: 1 Nov 2008-1 Nov 2009
Project Investigator: Mark Neal
Sponsor: Participants, The Ministry of the Environment of Japan through UNU-IAS
Total Contracted Amount: (US$) 49,500

Development of Methodology Database for ABC Emissions Inventory of Selected Countries
Duration: 1 Jan 2008-31 Jul 2009
Project Investigators: Ram M Shrestha, Kim Oahn, Rajendra Shrestha
Sponsor: UNEP RBC AP
Total Contracted Amount: (Baht) 4,235,945

Enabling Bio-innovation for poverty alleviation in Asia
Duration: 8 Mar 2008-31 Dec 2011
Project Investigators: Sudip Rakshit, Bernadette Resurreccion, Edsel Sajor
Sponsor: International Development Research Centre, Canada
Total Contracted Amount: (Baht) 17,232,280

Linking Thai Jasmine Rice Farmers with Markets using Participatory action research for sustainability of rain-fed lowland rice-based system in Northeast Thailand
Duration: 1 Jan 2008-31 Dec 2010
Project Investigators: Prabhat Kumar, Sudip Rakshit
Sponsor: Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) World Bank
Total Contracted Amount: (Baht) 8,262,000

Production of instant rice using combined microwave fluidized bed drying
Duration: 1 Nov 2008-31 Oct 2009
Project Investigator: Athapol Noomhorm
Sponsor: Royal Thai Government (RTG)
Total Contracted Amount: (Baht) 2,000,000

Evaluating innovative technology for rural transportation development in northern Thailand
Duration: 1 Jan 2008-01 Jul 2010
Project Investigator: Kyoko Kusakabe
Sponsor: ASEAN Foundation
Total Contracted Amount: (Baht) 10,889,238

Methodologies and Tools for Food Consumer Market Research (Food Consumer Market Research)
Duration: 2008-2010
Project Investigator: Rian Beise-Zee
Sponsor: Participants, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Total Contracted Amount: (Baht) 1,382,276

Comprehensive List of Initiated Research and Projects
Available online at http://www.ait.asia/publications
AIT Extension

AIT Extension offers short courses for participants from around the Asia-Pacific region. Its activities aim to nurture a vibrant learning community around the region and to promote intellectual exploration and exchange. This year, AIT Extension hosted approximately 70 distinctive training programs and special events ranging from small classrooms to full symposiums and conferences. Existing initiatives were strengthened and new partnerships were formed, such as with Nepal’s Central Bank, Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB – The Central Bank of Nepal). One-hundred twenty senior officials from NRB took part in intensive, customized programs at Extension. In March, Pakistan’s Government of Punjab also entrusted AIT (by signing a Memorandum of Understanding) to conduct a comprehensive human resource capacity building program for its technical department through the Punjab Resource Management Program (PRMP).

Operating Programs:

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

Managing at the Top 2 (MATT2), First Regional Exposure Visit Program

Date: 17 – 29 August 2008
Topics: Public Administration Reform, Performance Management and Service Delivery

Working closely with the Bangladesh’s Department for International Development (DfID) and the Ministry of Establishment, AIT Extension hosted a regional exposure visit program for 45 high ranking civil servants. The program was part of Bangladesh’s “Managing at the Top 2 (MATT2)” program that focuses on enhancing government officials’ skills for public administration. It was designed to draw lessons from best practices which might help to improve public service delivery across sectors and facilitate the transplanting of success stories to local settings.

120 Senior Officials from Nepal Rastra Bank (Central Bank of Nepal) trained

Date: May - July 2008
Topics: Central Banking Regulation and Supervision, Financial Management Auditing and Accounting, General Banking and Management in Central Banks, and Human Resource Management

Over the course of three months, AIT Extension hosted a series of customized training programs for 120 senior officials from Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB – The Central Bank of Nepal). The program’s primary aim was to comprehensively address the essential tools for planning and managing Central Banks. Additional to the rigorous pedagogic sessions, the participants were also exposed to relevant Thai government and private banking practices.
The year of 2008 was a decisive one for AIT's Center in Indonesia (AITCI) as several renowned institutions recognized its performance as a hub for academic excellence. One example was UNESCO-Jakarta Office's decision to entrust AITCI to co-lead one of its flagship projects called SwITCh-ASIA. SwITCh-ASIA is a 30-year endeavor devoted to developing sustainable urban water management strategies for the region's cities. AITCI was commissioned to conduct training programs for governments such as Bangladesh.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) appointed AITCI to conduct training programs on Integrated Urban Planning for Sustainable Development in collaboration with the Directorate General of Human Settlements. Launched in 2006 to serve as a focal point for AIT's activities in Indonesia, and to respond to the growing developmental needs of the country's Ministry of Pubic Works, AITCI has grown substantially and has positioned itself as a key builder of capacity for Indonesia and the region.

In 2008, AITCV's growing role as a nexus for education and development elicited interest from varying governments, academic institutes and organizations. The year saw the Vietnamese Government move to bolster the capability of its undergraduate universities. One of AITCV's main initiatives was to work with the Vietnamese Government towards implementing joint undergraduate programs. AITCV also served as the coordinator between AIT's graduate Schools (Thailand) and partner universities in and outside of Vietnam to develop and implement joint degree programs with the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) of Vietnam. MOET aims to produce 20,000 Vietnamese doctoral degree holders during from 2008-2020. AITCV partnered with private sector firms to provide academic programs which suit their professional development needs. One example of this was Vietnam Electricity (EVN), which regularly used AITCV as a primary venue for its staff training.

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Research and Outreach Centers

Center of Excellence (CoE) in Nanotechnology

The Center of Excellence (CoE) in Nanotechnology at AIT include research and development focused on the application of nanoparticles, nanomaterials, devices and sensors. The CoE supports innovative research suited to the region, education and training of highly qualified personnel and increasing public and industrial awareness of nanotechnology, amongst other activities like arranging conferences and workshops.

Current research encompasses work in “poor-man's nanotechnology”. The unifying concept in the laboratory is to make use of inexpensive wet-chemical methods to fabricate innovative materials and futuristic device components. Other interests include self-assembled functional materials and devices, use of microbial objects as templates for fabricating novel materials and application in specific devices. The Center has demonstrated fabrication of gold micro-wires by using these templates. It also carried out activities in developing an appropriate student training and research to contribute to the building up of human resources in nanotechnology.

A new graduate program in Nanotechnology has been approved to begin in 2009. The course curriculum has been prepared through intensive discussions with experts across the world to create an integrated program. The International Master of Engineering Program in Nanotechnology will prepare students to play an active role in shaping advanced materials in an international environment for the future growth of the economies in the region.

The Geoinformatics Center

The Geoinformatics Center was established at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) as a non-profit entity for imparting training and project services in information technology, especially in applications of geo-information technology and tools. The Geoinformatics Center provides knowledge and know-how to support the processes of planning and decision making for sustainable development through various short-term courses for mid-career and senior professionals.

Geoinformatics Center has been designated as the Data Node of Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency’s (JAXA) Sentinel Asia Project, which aims at acquiring and providing satellites data at during disasters on request from member countries of the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC). At present ADRC has 27 member countries from the Asia-Pacific region. The Sentinel Asia project is very similar to International Charter for ‘Space and Major Disasters’ and as of now four national spaces agencies, namely, JAXA-Japan, ISRO-India, KARI-Korea and GSI&D-Thailand are the data providers to the project. Geoinformatics Center processes the necessary data and provides value added products to the needy countries on such occasions. A copy of the acquired satellite data is also immediately made available to the Center for this purpose.

During the year the Center continued its close collaboration with several international institutes and agencies including International Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC) in the Netherlands, Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Institute of Industrial Science (RI) of Tokyo University, and United Nations University (UNU).

WHO Collaborating Centre

To organize meetings, workshops, seminars and conferences and to disseminate technical information on relevant topics. One of the major recent highlights of the WHO-AIT collaborations is participation in the global Network promoting household water use, water resources development, soil and air pollution in relation to human health; perform research on health impact assessment, health risk assessment and environmental management for health risk reduction; to use research outcomes to conduct specific studies and projects in support of the preparation of training materials and normative documents, such as manuals and guidelines, and reports for WHO, its Member States and development partners; to provide technical advice, guidance and consulting to WHO, its Member States and development partners; to educate and train engineers, scientists and health professionals in the environmental health fields, related to drinking water supply and waste disposal, water management and wastewater use, and other related areas; to organize meetings, workshops, seminars and conferences and to disseminate technical information on relevant topics.

Asian Center for Soil Improvement and Geosynthetics

Asian Center for Soil Improvement and Geosynthetics was successfully bid for the hosting of the 5th Asian Regional Geosynthetics Conference in 2012, when Prof. Dennis T. Bergado, ACSIg Director, and Mr. Sonny Montalbo, ACSIg Manager, attended the 4th Asian Regional Geosynthetics Conference in Shanghai, China. The Center also conducted Quality Assurance and Quality Control test for geosynthetics in support to the private industries and government agencies. The Center was involved in supervision of Mechanically Stabilized Earth for Nakawt Construction Company Ltd., as well as construction supervision of the bridge approach with high strength galvanized steel wire in Pattaya, Thailand. ACSIg was also involved in research in the enhancement of Prefabricated Vertical Drains (PVD) and vacuum (Vacuum-PVD).

Habitech Center

Habitech Center took up a major project on the Construction of Energy-Efﬁcient Technology Demonstration Center following the successful implementation of “Post-Tsunami Rehabilitation Project” in Baan Nam Khem, Phang-nga district of Thailand. Habitech Center along with SEQUA (Germany) undertook the project to demonstrate energy-efficient technologies in this community center, it carried out architectural and engineering design, construction and supervision for the construction of this building. Apart from the major project, Habitech Center was involved in technology transfer to many organizations and individuals. This includes Manual Brick Presses for production of interlocking bricks to Mrs. Gayley Yangzom (Bhutan), Mt. Thinyel Palden Djoji (Bhutan) and Intelligent Nepal Pvt. Ltd, Nepal; complete set of Habitech Building System to Shahi Alfah Construction Company (Iran) and Manual Brick Presses for production of interlocking bricks to Sitaga Buddhist Missionary Center (Myanmar) for the construction of primary schools in Cyclone Nurgis affected areas in Delta, Myanmar (5 Schools in 5 villages). Habitech Center also undertook technology dissemination activities by organizing an exhibition of Habitech Building Technology at the Thai-Cambodian border, Trai Province during the opening of Integrated Area Survey Project (land-missing clearing project) of Mekong Organization for Mankind, Thailand.

ACECONS

ACECONS-AIT conducted several training programs last year, both within and outside the country. A total of six training programs were conducted with participants who were practicing professionals in the field of Structural Engineering Design and Software. Apart from the training program, ACECONS-AIT is also collaborating with different companies such as Asian Concrete Construction Institute (ACCI) and Thai Concrete Association (TCA) to conduct training on green construction.

Several companies requested for collaboration, with ACECONS taking up 10 projects during the year. Half of the projects have been completed, while the other half are currently under progress. Expertise provided by ACECONS to clients includes special design, analysis, design review and failure investigation on projects ranging from the tallest building in Philippines to the Crossing Bridge in Nigeria. Many projects are undertaken in collaboration with the Structural Engineering Laboratory at AIT and the Wind Tunnel Laboratory at Thammasat University.

Thailand Accident Research Center (TARC)

TARC conducted a comprehensive study on the roadside hazards accidents under the project of “The Continuation of Thailand Accident Research Center: Road Safety Knowledge Development and Dissemination” sponsored by the Department of Highways and World Bank. It also conducted a research on “Safety Driving Speed” sponsored by the Thai National Health Foundation. The objective of this research was to gain a better understanding of the extent of illegal speeding in Thailand, factors associated with speeding, and public attitudes to speeding. The effects of speed camera enforcement on changes in speed behaviors were also investigated.

As a road safety expert, TARC manager was invited as a member of Board of Directors of the Thailand National Road Safety Center. TARC delivered lectures at conferences, seminars, and training programs at the annual meeting of the Transportation Research Board (TRB), Washington D.C., Bus Safety Improvement Seminar, Bangkok, Accident in Depth-Analysis Workshop by the Provincial Public Health Office in Thailand and the Thailand National Road Safety Seminar.

Beginning 2008, TARC has prepared and published 11 road safety articles in newspapers like Thairath, Daily News Newspaper and Manager Online. In addition, four interviews for television programs was also co-produced.

Asian Center for Transportation Studies (ACTS)

The Tripartite partnership project between ACTS, Toyota Motor Thailand Ltd., (TMTF), WHO Collaborating Center for Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion-Khon Kaen Hospital, and Department of Rural Highways helped improve road safety among the community with the help of public participation under the project of “Knowledge Dissemination to Improve Road Safety for Rural Community.” By setting up the group of community leaders and providing academic assistance at Ban Gota, Khon Kaen, a significant improvement in risk behaviors of motorists and a reduction in black spots were noticed.

ACTS also provided an in house road safety training program for 12 Vietnamese government officers from Hanoi, Vietnam.
The Greater Mekong Subregion Academic and Research Network (GMSARN) is an academic network composed of eleven of the region’s top-ranking academic and research institutions. GMSARN carries out activities in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), specifically in Cambodia, China (Yunnan and Guansui Provinces), Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. Its activities range from human resources development, joint research, and dissemination of information and intellectual assets generated in the GMS. GMSARN seeks to ensure that holistic intellectual assets generated, developed and maintained are shared by organizations within the region. Primary emphasis is placed on the complementary linkages found existing between technological and socio-economic development issues.

This year GMSARN released three editions of the GMSARN International Journal. The GMSARN International Journal is published regularly to facilitate knowledge exchange in Greater Mekong Sub-region countries on topics such as energy, natural resource management and development planning. The Third GMSARN International Conference 2008 was held in Kunming, China on 12–14 November and was organized by the Asian Institute of Technology, GMSARN, Kunming University of Science and Technology and Yunnan University.

In May AIT launched a multiphased international funding initiative to aid victims of Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar which included an initial cash pledge by AIT of US$ 45,000. The launch of the AIT-Myanmar Fund was announced May 15 by AIT President Said Irandoust who stressed the Institute’s financial contribution would fund immediate relief efforts in areas most devastated by the recent disaster.

AIT responded immediately by sending water, food, medicine and clothes to disaster affected people via our alumni network in Myanmar. Early plans included specific measures for human habitat and ecological recovery, coastal rehabilitation, and capacity building for victims’ self-recovery.

The AIT-Myanmar Fund opened up opportunities for long term sustainable development strategies in Myanmar, eventually leading to vocational trainings and educational opportunities for those in disaster affected areas. Water and Disaster Management courses at Yangon Technical University and Mandalay Technological University, both academic partners of AIT, were be strengthened through the Fund.

AIT also reacted to the destruction caused by Cyclone Nargis by offering capacity building opportunities to professionals integral to the relief, recovery and reconstruction operations in Myanmar.

An interdisciplinary disaster assessment team of AIT experts visited Myanmar in early June to assess ways in which the Institute could assist medium and long term recovery efforts. In addition, intERLab coordinated with Myanmar Egress (ME) and Myanmar Computer Professional Association (MCRA) for a post disaster recovery management and coordination program, which was useful in handling relief, recovery and resettlement activities in the aftermath of disaster.

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Located on the campus of AIT, the Internet Education and Research Laboratory (intERLab) is a regional hub for Internet human resources development, training and education. It works with people from across the Asia-Pacific region, especially from the Greater Mekong Sub-region, on developing cutting-edge information and communication technologies (ICT).

One of intERLab’s signature projects for the year was the Asian Internet Engineering Conference (AINTEC) 2008. Now in its fourth year, AINTEC ‘08 provided an international technical forum for experts from industry and academia to address issues pertinent to the Asia and Pacific region. This forum studied the vast diversity evident in the region’s socio-economic and networking conditions, and evaluated recent research results from the global Internet research community. Under the theme “Challenged Networks”, AINTEC 2008 solicited research papers focused on improving digital communications in diverse situations. The conference’s proceedings were published by the ACM Digital Library, a partner for the 2008 event.

The intERLab project has been endorsed by Thailand’s ICT Ministry to help enable countries in the region to keep up with rapid developments in the ICT field. The concept of establishing a fixed location for Internet human resources development has been discussed and endorsed by leading Asia-Pacific Internet organizations and several leading research institutions in Asia-Pacific and Europe.

This year, the 10th Asia Pacific Next Generation (APNG) Camp was hosted at AIT on 15 August 2008 and was supported by AIT’s Internet Education and Research Laboratory (intERlab). The Camp brought together more than 150 students and young professionals from over 25 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The event was sponsored by UniNet, National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT) Japan, Live! Japan as well as several other organizations.
Today’s universities have begun to reach out beyond the walls of academia to apply technical know-how to improve lives, strengthen communities and create livable cities. AIT’s graduates and academic practitioners are amongst those in the region taking leadership roles in managing urban environmental issues at the municipal, city and international level.

AIT-based Southeast Asia Urban Environmental Application (SEA-UEMA) Project applied this belief in 2008, organizing a networking event at the World Urban Forum 4 in Nanjing, China in November. The networking event entitled “Can Universities Make a Difference in Building Livable Cities?” made use of SEA-UEMA’s experiences to highlight lessons learned on how academic institutions can create meaningful partnerships with various stakeholders and organizations to effect lasting change in urban environment management, specifically in Southeast Asia.

During the networking event, professors from AIT’s Urban Environmental Management (UEm) field of study spoke of the role of university alumni and their networks in building public sector capacity for advocating better urban environmental management. All stressed the need for collaboration between academia and practitioners in developing a framework for gender analysis in urban and environmental management. AIT graduates are playing a significant role in the public sector and as social and environmental entrepreneurs. Experts said the main challenge today is to ensure that accumulated knowledge and innovation is channeled to ensure that rapid urbanization in Asia is sustainable.

The World Urban Forum is a biennial gathering organized by the UN Habitat that is attended by a wide range of partners, from NGOs, community-based organizations, urban professionals and academicians. It also attracts governments, local authorities and national and international associations of local governments. It gives all these actors a common platform to discuss urban issues in formal and informal ways in order to come up with action-oriented proposals to create sustainable cities. The 2008 forum attracted 15,000 participants from China and abroad.

The SEA-UEMA Project is a partnership of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Asian Institute of Technology. It aims to contribute to the improvement of urban environmental conditions in Southeast Asia covering Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam. The project is engaged in three key urban environmental sub-sectors: water and sanitation, solid waste, and air pollution. It strives to enhance collaboration among various UEm stakeholders and to strengthen institutions and networks in Southeast Asia in advocating gender-responsive urban environmental policies and effective practices.
In June 2008, AIT became a charter member of a new academic alliance called Promoting Sustainability in Postgraduate Education and Research Network (ProSPER.Net). ProSPER.Net is a consortium of 8 leading universities throughout the Asia-Pacific region. It is focused on integrating sustainable development into business school curricula, with financial support from the Ministry of Environment of Japan. AIT’s Professor Peter Haddawy, Vice President for Academic Affairs, was elected as Chairman of the Board for a 2-year term.

During the year, AIT opened an office to house the Association of South East Asian Institutions of Higher Learning (ASAIHL) to stimulate new initiatives, promote the organization, and increase the quality of service to members. One of the office’s key activities was the 2008 ASAIHL-Scopus Young Scientist Awards. This competition was open to outstanding young scientists and researchers in Asia-Pacific who made significant contributions to scholarship and research in four categories: 1) Life Sciences, 2) Engineering & Technology, 3) Medicine and, 4) Agricultural Sciences. The winners were formally announced and honored at a ceremony held at the Universiti Sains Malaysia, in Penang, Malaysia on 3 December 2008.

International Media
Together with CSR Asia, in 2008 AIT staged an international press conference on the topic of Corporate Social Responsibility in Asia at the Foreign Correspondents’ Club of Thailand in Bangkok.

Connecting academia with the private sector
AIT engages the private sector in many ways. Late in the year, AIT hosted an international Sustainable Papermaking Seminar. The event brought together leading academic researchers and pulp and paper companies to review the latest findings on clean and efficient pulp and paper technologies and practices.

Partnership with the public sector
A typical example of AIT’s approach to partnership with the public sector was a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Asian Institute of Technology and Thailand’s Software Industry Promotion Agency (SIPA).
FACULTY MEMBERS

HONORARY FACULTY

The Institute is deeply grateful that Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn has seen fit to share her expertise and experience with faculty, staff and students, as an Honorary Faculty Member. In this singular position, Her Royal Highness is associated with the Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems Field of Study.

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B.Eng., Odessa Hydrometeorology Institute, Ukraine;
M.Eng., D.Eng., AIT, Thailand
Assistant Professor, Environmental Engineering & Management

Weerakom Ongsakul
B.Eng., Chulalongkorn University, Thailand;
M.S., Ph.D, Texas A&M University, U.S.A.
Assistant Professor, Environmental Engineering & Management

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M.Com., Ph.D, University of Delhi,
Visiting Professor, School of Management

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B.Sc., Moratuwa University, Sri Lanka;
M.Sc., Ph.D, University of Manitoba, Canada
Associate Professor, Telecommunications

Preeda Parkphan
B.Sc., Kasetsart University, Thailand;
M.Sc., Mississippi State University, Ph.D, Texas A&M University, U.S.A.
Associate Professor, Environmental Engineering & Management

Manukid Pamichkun
B.Eng., Chulalongkorn University, Thailand;
M.Eng., Ph.D, University of Tokyo, Japan
Assistant Professor, Urban Assistant Environmental Management

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DSc, Ecole Polytechnique de Lorraine, Nancy, France;
Ph.D, University of Montpellier II, France
Visiting Associate Professor, Joint appointment with the School of Engineering & Technology, and School of Environment, Resources & Development

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B.Eng, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand;
M.S., Ph.D, Illinois at Urbana Champaign, U.S.A.
Assistant Professor, Geotechnical & Geoenvironmental Engineering

Chongrak Polprasert
B.Eng., Chulalongkorn University, Thailand;
M.S., Ph.D, Texas A&M University, U.S.A.
Assistant Professor, Environmental Engineering & Management

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B.S.E., Princeton University, M.S., Ph.D, Massachusetts Inst. of Technology, U.S.A.
Associate Professor, Telecommunications

Edsal Sajo
B.Sc., University of the Philippines; M.A., Ph.D, ISS, The Hague, The Netherlands
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B.Tech, Mahatma Phule Agricultural University, India;
M.Eng, University of Sukhbaa, Inner Mongolia, D.Eng., AIT, Thailand
Assistant Professor, Agricultural Systems & Engineering

Ravi Shankar
Ph.D, Industrial Engineering/ Operations Management, Indian Institute of Technology, M.Tech; Regional Engineering College Jamshedpur, India;
MBA, Systems & Operations Management, University of Allahabad, India
Assistant Professor, School of Management

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B.Sc., Freiburg University, Germany;
M.Sc., University of Saskatchewan, Canada;
Ph.D, Heidelberg University, Germany
Associate Professor, Natural Resources Management

Oleg Y. Shipin
M.Sc., University of Saratov, D.Sc., Inst. of Biochemistry and Physiology, Russia
Assistant Professor, Environmental Engineering & Management

Ganeesh P. Shrivakuti
B.Sc., M.S., Udaiapur University, India;
Ph.D, Michigan State University, U.S.A.
Associate Professor, Agricultural Systems & Engineering, and Natural Resources Management

Rajendra Shrestha
B.Sc., Haryana Agricultural University, India;
M.Sc., D.Tech.Sc., AIT, Thailand
Assistant Professor, Natural Resources Management

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M.Eng, Ph.D, AIT, Thailand
Assistant Professor, Energy

Sununta Siengthai
B.Sc., Chulalongkorn University, Thailand;
M.Eng, Ph.D, University of Illinois, U.S.A.
Associate Professor, School of Management

"
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B.S., B.L., University of Calcutta, India
Visiting Associate Professor, School of Management

Chettiyappan Visvanathan
B.Tech., IIT, Madras, India, M.Eng., AIT, Thailand
D.Eng., Institute National Polytechnique, Toulouse, France
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Balad Youssef
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M.Sc., University of Putha Malaysia
M.Sc., PhD., The Swiss Federal Institute of Technology-Lausanne, Switzerland
Assistant Professor, School of Management

Southeast Asia and the Pacific
• Department of Home Affairs, Vietnam
• Department of Mineral Resources, Ministry of Energy, Thailand
• Department of Mineral Resources (DMR), Thailand
• Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Philippines
• Department of Science and Technology, Vietnam
• Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT)
• Electricity of Vietnam-Telecom, Vietnam
• Ministry of Education and Training (MoET), Vietnam
• Ministry of National Development Planning, Indonesia
• Ministry of Public Works, Indonesia
• National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS), Indonesia
• National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), Thailand
• Pollution Control Department, Thailand
• Srinakhorn International Environmental Park Foundation, Thailand

ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES

Australia
• Deakin University
• Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
• The International Centre of Excellence in Water Resources Management
• University of Wollongong

By Harsono Widjava
B.Eng., Univ. of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia
M.Eng., AIT, Ph.D., University of Technology, Sydney, NSW, Australia
Visiting Associate Professor, Offshore Technology & Management

Africa
• Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ethiopia

Central Asia
• Ministry of Communication and Information Technologies (MKT), Azerbaijan

East Asia
• Ministry of Education, China
• Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
• Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)
• National Space Development Agency, Japan

Europe
• Austrian Development Agency (ADA), Austria
• Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland
• Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, France
• Embassy of France, Thailand
• French Regional Cooperation
• Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands
• Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway
• National Centre of Competence in Research North-South (NCCR NS), Switzerland
• Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)

North America
• Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

South Asia and West Asia
• Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development (COMSATS), Pakistan
• Higher Education Commission, Pakistan
• Iranian Space Agency (ISA), Iran
• Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Iran
• Ministry of Human Resource Development, Sri Lanka
• Ministry of Science and Technology, Nepal
• Royal Service Commission, Bhutan

South East Asia and the Pacific
• Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development (COMSATS), Pakistan
• Education Commission, Pakistan
• Ministry of Education, Thailand

GOVERNMENTS

Asia
• Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ethiopia

Central Asia
• Ministry of Communication and Information Technologies (MKT), Azerbaijan

East Asia
• Ministry of Education, China
• Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
• Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)
• National Space Development Agency, Japan

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• Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development (COMSATS), Pakistan
• Higher Education Commission, Pakistan
• Iranian Space Agency (ISA), Iran
• Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Iran
• Ministry of Human Resource Development, Sri Lanka
• Ministry of Science and Technology, Nepal
• Royal Service Commission, Bhutan

Southeast Asia and the Pacific
• Department of Home Affairs, Vietnam
• Department of Mineral Resources, Ministry of Energy, Thailand
• Department of Mineral Resources (DMR), Thailand
• Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Philippines
• Department of Science and Technology, Vietnam
• Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT)
• Electricity of Vietnam-Telecom, Vietnam
• Ministry of Education and Training (MoET), Vietnam
• Ministry of National Development Planning, Indonesia
• Ministry of Public Works, Indonesia
• National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS), Indonesia
• National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), Thailand
• Pollution Control Department, Thailand
• Srinakhorn International Environmental Park Foundation, Thailand

ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES

Australia
• Deakin University
• Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
• The International Centre of Excellence in Water Resources Management
• University of Wollongong

Asia
• Centre for Geoinformatics (C2G), University of Salzburg
• American International University, Bangladesh (AUB)
• Institute of Water Modelling (IWM)
• Royal University of Law and Economics (RULE)

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• Universite de Montreal

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• Chinese Academy of Engineering
• Chinese Academy of Surveying and Mapping (CASM)
• Guans University
• Kumming University of Science and Technology (KUST)
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• School of Economics and Management, Thaung University
• Guanghua School of Management, Peking University
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• LM Lyon
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• Université Paris-Dauphine (K. Paris Dauphine University IX)
• Université Paris-Sorbonne Paris IV (University of Paris IV Panthéon-Sorbonne)
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• Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee
• Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur
• Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur
• Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur
• Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur
• Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur
• Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur

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• Ministry of Communication and Information Technologies
• Ministry of Communication and Information Technologies

Japan
• National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST)
• National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST)
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• Universiti Teknologi Malaysia
• Universiti Teknologi Malaysia

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• University of Technology, Eindhoven
• University of Technology, Eindhoven
• University of Technology, Eindhoven

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• University of Auckland
• University of Auckland

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• Higher Education Commission, Pakistan
• Higher Education Commission, Pakistan

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• Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)

Thailand
• Asian Institute of Technology
• Asian Institute of Technology
• Asian Institute of Technology

Turkey
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• Middle East Technical University (METU)
• Middle East Technical University (METU)

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• Higher Education Commission, UAE

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• Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
• Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

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• Vietnamese Academy of Science and Technology (VAST)
• Vietnamese Academy of Science and Technology (VAST)

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• Chulalongkorn Royal Military Academy  
• Department of Environmental Quality Promotion (DEQP)  
• Environmental Research and Training Center (ERTC)  
• Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University  
• Mahidol University  
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• Danang University of Science and Technology  
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• Habitat for Humanity, Thailand  
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• International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Nepal  
• Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN)  
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• The Bridge Fund (TFB), United States  
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• The University of Texas at Austin  
• The University of Toledo

Yugoslavia  
• University of Novi Sad
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITOR’S REPORT

To the Board of Trustees of Asian Institute of Technology

I have audited the accompanying balance sheet of Asian Institute of Technology as at 31 December 2008, and the related statements of revenues and expenses, changes in fund balances and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Organization’s management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. The financial statements of Asian Institute of Technology Limited for the year ended 31 December 2007 were audited by another auditor whose report dated 14 March 2008 expressed an unqualified opinion on those statements.

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

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Asian Institute of Technology as at 31 December 2008, and the revenues and expenses, the changes in fund balances and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles appropriate for non-profit organization as set out in Note 2 to the financial statements.

(Atchara Suknaibaiboon)
Certified Public Accountant
Registration No. 4642
KPMG Phoomchai Audit Ltd.
Bangkok
11 March 2009

BALANCE SHEETS
as at 31 December 2008 and 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>148,976,413</td>
<td>257,962,516</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current investments</td>
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<td>609,535,835</td>
<td>200,732,194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
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<td>78,938,755</td>
<td>51,126,998</td>
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<tr>
<td>Receivables from Program fund</td>
<td></td>
<td>18,004,086</td>
<td>20,057,266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventories</td>
<td></td>
<td>111,803</td>
<td>140,968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assets held on behalf of donors</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>523,882,777</td>
<td>695,006,197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assets held on behalf of UNEP RRC.AP</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0,68,075</td>
<td>60,6,229</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other current assets</td>
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<td>53,694,855</td>
<td>27,647,872</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total current assets</td>
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<td>1,543,825,599</td>
<td>1,502,790,240</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-current assets</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted deposits of financial statements</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15,273,741</td>
<td>30,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property and equipment</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>678,370,400</td>
<td>721,402,921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total non-current assets</td>
<td></td>
<td>693,644,141</td>
<td>751,402,921</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total assets</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,237,469,740</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liabilities and fund balances</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current liabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>142,123,952</td>
<td>124,936,285</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advances from Program fund</td>
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<td>212,367,774</td>
<td>203,904,501</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deposit payables</td>
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<td>6,337,132</td>
<td>6,513,385</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amounts due to donors</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>329,882,777</td>
<td>695,006,197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amounts due to UNEP RRC.AP</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>110,681,075</td>
<td>160,116,229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total current liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td>995,392,710</td>
<td>1,190,476,397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund balances</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment fund balances</td>
<td></td>
<td>160,481,765</td>
<td>155,998,631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital funds balances</td>
<td></td>
<td>693,306,321</td>
<td>736,352,707</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General reserve</td>
<td></td>
<td>388,288,944</td>
<td>171,385,206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total fund balances</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,242,077,030</td>
<td>1,063,716,564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total liabilities and fund balances</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,237,469,740</td>
<td>2,254,193,161</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.
## Assets

### Current assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>114,817.28</td>
<td>114,844.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-term investments</td>
<td>25,762.52</td>
<td>25,789.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>9,442,629</td>
<td>9,429,589</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventories</td>
<td>162,721.68</td>
<td>162,758.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total current assets</td>
<td>10,704,780</td>
<td>10,727,313</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Non-current assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment</td>
<td>2,935,068</td>
<td>2,935,068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total non-current assets</td>
<td>2,935,068</td>
<td>2,935,068</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total assets</td>
<td>13,639,848</td>
<td>13,662,381</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Liabilities and fund balances

### Current liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>6,687,649</td>
<td>6,687,649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total current liabilities</td>
<td>6,687,649</td>
<td>6,687,649</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total liabilities and fund balances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total liabilities and fund balances</td>
<td>6,687,649</td>
<td>6,687,649</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Statement of revenues and expenses for the years ended 31 December 2008 and 2007

### Revenues

- Tuition and other fees - net: 569,067,645
- Research grants and contracts: 174,034,397
- Support operations: 165,288,098
- Training: 270,712,254
- Other contributions: 17,491,616
- Faculty secondments: 62,415,369

Total revenues: 1,259,539,379

### Expenses

- Salaries and benefits: 1,038,064,753
- Materials, supplies and services: 263,530,449
- Contracted services: 3,709,840
- Communication and travel: 73,030,200
- Utilities and insurance: 5,364,479
- Total expenses: 1,238,420,111

Net income: 21,119,268

### Non operating income/(expenses)

- Investment income: 35,250,318
- Other income: 1,602,420
- Gains (losses) on disposal of assets: 2,896,747

Net income: 42,487,146

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.
### Statements of fund balances
#### For the years ended 31 December 2008 and 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Restricted funds</th>
<th>Restricted capital funds</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restricted current fund</td>
<td>155,594,683</td>
<td>17,135,206</td>
<td>172,730,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted current fund</td>
<td>155,594,683</td>
<td>17,135,206</td>
<td>172,730,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted endowment fund</td>
<td>155,594,683</td>
<td>17,135,206</td>
<td>172,730,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted and other rec. net</td>
<td>155,594,683</td>
<td>17,135,206</td>
<td>172,730,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research grants and contracts</td>
<td>155,594,683</td>
<td>17,135,206</td>
<td>172,730,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching activities</td>
<td>155,594,683</td>
<td>17,135,206</td>
<td>172,730,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other contributions</td>
<td>155,594,683</td>
<td>17,135,206</td>
<td>172,730,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted endowment program</td>
<td>155,594,683</td>
<td>17,135,206</td>
<td>172,730,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General and liquid assets</td>
<td>155,594,683</td>
<td>17,135,206</td>
<td>172,730,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General and liquid assets</td>
<td>155,594,683</td>
<td>17,135,206</td>
<td>172,730,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>172,730,890</strong></td>
<td><strong>34,270,412</strong></td>
<td><strong>206,901,302</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

### Statements of revenues and expenses
#### For the years ended 31 December 2008 and 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Restricted funds</th>
<th>Restricted capital funds</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and other fees - net</td>
<td>474,226,527</td>
<td>89,265,025</td>
<td>563,491,552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research grants and contracts</td>
<td>3,297,776</td>
<td>412,477</td>
<td>3,710,253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching activities</td>
<td>12,270,269</td>
<td>1,500,815</td>
<td>13,771,084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other contributions</td>
<td>2,710,790</td>
<td>210,532</td>
<td>2,921,322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty secondments</td>
<td>2,710,790</td>
<td>210,532</td>
<td>2,921,322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>513,414,392</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,125,668</strong></td>
<td><strong>514,540,060</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.
### Statements of cash flows
For the years ended 31 December 2008 and 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash flows from operating activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening fund balances</td>
<td>1,063,716,564</td>
<td>1,011,176,368</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing fund balances</td>
<td>1,242,077,030</td>
<td>1,063,716,564</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movement in fund balances</td>
<td>178,360,466</td>
<td>52,540,196</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustments to reconcile movement of fund balances</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doubtful debts</td>
<td>6,822,723</td>
<td>15,086,556</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Gains) losses on disposal of assets</td>
<td>235,425</td>
<td>2,896,746</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>71,653,774</td>
<td>84,313,130</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrealised (gain) loss on exchange rate</td>
<td>-9,378,643</td>
<td>9,057,966</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>before changes in operating assets and liabilities</td>
<td>247,754,745</td>
<td>167,949,097</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Changes in operating assets and liabilities: | | |
| Accounts receivable | -35,660,762 | 5,983,068 |
| Receivables from Program fund | 2,093,180 | 17,890,777 |
| Inventories | 29,165 | 154,429 |
| Other current assets | -26,046,983 | 245,533 |
| Advanced deposits | -2,345 | 2,425 |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | 17,196,877 | 21,061,313 |
| Advances from Program fund | 8,463,273 | 22,667,713 |
| Deposit payables | -176,253 | -109,698 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 213,604,618 | 188,293,052 |

| Cash flows from investing activities | | |
| Increase in current investment | -315,161,901 | 121,084,557 |
| Proceeds from sale of equipment | 4,054,182 | 3,008,018 |
| Purchase of property and equipment | -32,910,860 | -21,494,280 |
| Bank under commitment | 14,726,259 | - |
| Net cash used in investing activities | -329,292,320 | -139,550,019 |

| Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | | |
| Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | -115,687,702 | 48,743,033 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | 257,962,516 | 225,888,176 |
| Effects of exchange rate changes on balances held in foreign currencies | 6,701,599 | -16,661,693 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of year | 148,976,413 | 257,962,516 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

### Notes to the financial statements
For the years ended 31 December 2008 and 2007

1. **General information**

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

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

2. **Basis of preparation of financial statements**

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

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

The Institute has adopted the following new and revised Thai Accounting Standards (TAS) which were issued by the fAP during 2007 and effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2008:

- TAS 29 (revised 2007) Leases
- TAS 35 (revised 2007) Presentation of Financial Statements
- TAS 39 (revised 2007) Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors

The adoption of these new and revised TAS does not have any material impact on the Institute’s financial statements.

3. **Management and administration**

The Institute is managed by its Governing Board, a five-member body elected by the AIT Board of Trustees. The Governing Board is responsible for the strategic development of the Institute and for the ongoing operations and performance of the Institute.

The Institute is staffed by an experienced and dedicated team of employees from throughout the world.

Other financial information and figures are available in the financial statements. These notes form an integral part of the financial statements.

These notes are prepared in accordance with Thai Accounting Standards (TAS) which were issued by the Federation of Accounting Professions (fAP) and with generally accepted accounting principles in Thailand.

1. **Fund accounting**

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

The purposes and objects of the funds are as follows:

- **Unrestricted Current Fund (Fund 10)**
  - This fund is the operating account of the Institute. It is available for normal operating purposes without restrictions, such as might be imposed by a grant agency or donor.

- **Restricted Fund-General (Fund 21)**
  - The use of this fund is restricted to those units holding non-profit making status. This includes: AIT Center, AIT Centre in Vietnam, certain campus services, academic-related services supporting academic units and certain administrative functions.

- **Restricted Endowment Fund (Fund 22)**
  - The Endowment Fund is used where donors have stipulated, as a condition of their gift, that the principal is to be maintained inviolate and in perpetuity. Some, or all, of the income from the investments may be used for furthering the objectives of the endowment.

- **Restricted Fund-General Reserve (Fund 23)**
  - Donors and other agencies have granted funds to the Institute on the basis that the principal is held inviolate and in perpetuity. The income from the fund is available to the Institute to be expended in accordance with agreements.
established by the gifting party at the point of the donation or grant. The Board of Trustees stipulates that the surplus of the unrestricted current fund, restricted fund – general and the excess of the activities under Program fund which were completed during the year each year are transferred to the General Reserve and that the funds must be held for future use.

**Sponsored Program Fund (Fund 30)**

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

**Capital Fund (Fund 41)**

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

**Capital Fund - Liquid Assets (Fund 42)**

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

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

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

### 3. Significant accounting policies

**a) Basis of preparation**

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

**Branch**

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

**b) Foreign currencies**

**Foreign currency transactions**

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

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

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

Foreign entities

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

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

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

**c) Cash and cash equivalents**

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

**d) Accounts and other receivables**

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

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

**e) Inventories**

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

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

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

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

(f) Property and equipment

**Owned assets**

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

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

**Depreciation**

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

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

No depreciation is provided on assets under construction.

**f) Provisions**

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

**k) Revenue**

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

Tuition and fees

Tuition and fees is recognised on an accrual basis.

**Grant income**

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

**Donations**

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

**Contribution in kind**

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

**Investment income**

Investment income is recognised on an accrual basis.

**(f) Expenses**

Operating leases

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

**Expenses**

Expenses are recognised in the period they are incurred.

Interest expense is recognised in the statement of revenues and expenses as it accrues.

**Interest expense**

Interest expense is recognised in the statement of revenues and expenses as it accrues.
As at 3 December 2008, fixed deposits of Baht 5.27 million

As at 3 December 2007, fixed deposits of Baht 30.0 million

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

4. Cash and cash equivalents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Cash and deposits at financial institutions</th>
<th>Cash and cash equivalents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>148,976</td>
<td>257,963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>90,965</td>
<td>128,342</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fixed deposits with maturity more than three months or less

Less: Deposits pledged as collateral (5,274) - (30,000)

Cash and cash equivalents 148,976 257,963

As at 31 December 2007, fixed deposits of Baht 30.0 million were pledged as collateral for bank overdraft and outstanding letters of guarantee issued by the same bank (see note 14).

As at 31 December 2008, fixed deposits of Baht 15.27 million were pledged as collateral for bank overdraft and outstanding letters of guarantee issued by the same bank (see note 14).

4. Cash and cash equivalents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>(in thousand Baht)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>148,976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>90,965</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Current investments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>(in thousand Baht)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>148,976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>90,965</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Depreciation charge for the year 1,406 28,535 39,758 2,124 12,490 - 84,313

At January 2007 4,869

Advance received from donors 4,052 7,724

Accrued expenses 0,992 8,589

Other expenses 64,525 46,981

Advance from students 4,052 7,724

Provision for insured saving fund tax 5,520 6,544

Payables to staff 5,579 2,360

Accrued expenses 60,936 37,695

As at 3 June 2007, fixed deposits of Baht 875.47 million were pledged as collateral for bank overdraft and outstanding letters of guarantee issued by the same bank (see note 14).

As at 3 December 2008, fixed deposits of Baht 1,012.04 million (2007: Baht 875.47 million)

The gross amount of fully depreciated property and equipment that was still in use as at 31 December 2008 amounted to Baht 1,682,063 (2007: Baht 1,611,139).

6. Accounts receivable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>(in thousand Baht)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>100,848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>62,079</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Property and equipment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>(in thousand Baht)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>142,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>124,936</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. Accounts payable and accrued expenses

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>(in thousand Baht)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>142,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>124,936</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9. Assets held on behalf of, and amounts due to, donors

The agency fund represents amounts held on behalf of donors and other agencies and is disbursed in accordance with their instructions. The Institute has no title to these funds or the associated revenues and expenses. The fund balances as at 31 December 2008 and 2007 and revenues and expenses for the years then ended were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funds received from donors</td>
<td>419,676</td>
<td>689,946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application of funds</td>
<td>6,375</td>
<td>7,207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Salaries and other benefits</td>
<td>521,662</td>
<td>381,828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Scholarships</td>
<td>64,633</td>
<td>51,436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Contracted services</td>
<td>3,523</td>
<td>5,616</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total funds applied: 446,087

Surplus (deficit) for the year: (176,317)

Assets held on behalf of donors:
- Cash and deposits at financial institutions: 126,822
- Fixed deposits: 395,418
- Accounts receivable: 1,643

Total assets held on behalf of donors: 523,883

Amounts due to UNEP RRC AP:
- Balance at 1 January: 685,085
- Balance at 31 December: 510,586
- Liabilities: 12,297

Total amounts due to UNEP RRC AP: 523,883

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funds received from UNEP RRC AP</td>
<td>75,640</td>
<td>139,603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total funds applied</td>
<td>119,021</td>
<td>190,411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deficit for the year</td>
<td>43,381</td>
<td>50,808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assets held on behalf of UNEP RRC AP:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and deposits at financial institutions</td>
<td>107,421</td>
<td>152,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>1,844</td>
<td>6,472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed assets</td>
<td>1,416</td>
<td>1,084</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total assets held on behalf of UNEP RRC AP: 110,681

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenues</td>
<td>88,258</td>
<td>78,177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>40,133</td>
<td>9,319</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. Personnel expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wages and salaries</td>
<td>433,843</td>
<td>429,263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social security costs</td>
<td>6,409</td>
<td>6,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution to provident fund</td>
<td>17,330</td>
<td>17,584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal income tax of employees</td>
<td>7,460</td>
<td>9,686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other costs</td>
<td>21,701</td>
<td>26,969</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 485,945

Provident Fund and Insured Saving Fund

The Institute and its staff jointly operate the Insured Saving Fund, a defined contribution scheme. Effective from 1 January 2004, a Provident Fund has replaced the Insured Saving Fund. The Institute contributes to the fund at the rate of 10% of their basic salary, and the employees contribute to the fund at rates 3% to 10% of their basic salary. Effectively from 1 April 2006, the Institute contributes to the fund at the rate of 5% of their basic salary, and the employees contribute to the fund at rates 3% to 5% of their basic salary. The fund is managed by TISCO Assets Management Co., Ltd. The assets of the Insured Saving Fund were substantially transferred to the new Provident Fund.

Interest rate risk

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

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

Currency foreign risk

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

The exposure of the foreign currency risk to the Institute relates primarily to the receipts for tuition and sponsored funds, and the receipts and payments for sponsors and donors.

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Currency</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States Dollars (USD)</td>
<td>78,173</td>
<td>91,194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euro (EUR)</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>1,802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swedish Krona (SEK)</td>
<td>2,221</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 80,553

Net exposure: 73,420

12. AIT Center in Vietnam (AITCV)

The Institute has a branch operation in Hanoi, Vietnam, of which the purpose of the its operation is to:
- Educate and train students, technocrats, business managers and other professionals; and
- Organize research outreach and development activities as well as the transfer of technologies as required by the economic development of the country.

Credit risk

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

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

Liquidity risk

The Institute monitors its liquidity risk and maintains a level of cash and cash equivalents deemed adequate by management to finance the Institute’s operations and to mitigate the effects of fluctuations in cash flows.
Fair values

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

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

14. Commitments

Land lease

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

Furthermore, the Lease is contingent on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the University and the Institute. The MOU provides that the Institute will make available and fund a total of sixty scholarships over the thirty-year life of the Lease.

Scholarships made in accordance with the MOU will cover tuition fees for qualified lecturers from the University, selected by the University, to pursue a Doctoral degree at the Institute. As at 31 December 2008, the scholarship commitment amounted to totalling Baht 77.8 million (2007: Baht 77.8 million).

Bank guarantees

As at 31 December 2008, bank guarantees which were issued by the bank on behalf of the Institute in respect of bank overdraft facility and certain performance bonds as required in the normal course of operations of the Institute amounted to totalling Baht 5.5 million (2007: Baht 6.8 million).

15. Contingent liabilities

As at 31 December 2008, there are five labour cases pending for trial at the Court involving with the claims under the Labour Protection Law and the Labour Relation Law. Four cases have been decided by the Central Labour Court favourably to the Institute. However, the four cases are still pending in the Supreme Court. Another case is pending for trial in the Central Labour Court. The Management believes that the outcome of all these cases will be in favour of the Institute.

16. Thai Accounting Standards (TAS) not yet adopted

The Institute has not adopted the following new and revised TAS that have been issued as of the balance sheet date but are not yet effective. These new and revised TAS will become effective for financial periods beginning on or after 1 January 2009.

- TAS 36 (revised 2008) Impairment of Assets
- TAS 54 (revised 2008) Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations

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

17. Reclassification of accounts

Certain accounts in the 2007 financial statements have been reclassified to conform to the presentation in the 2008 financial statements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before Reclassify</th>
<th>2008 Reclassified</th>
<th>2007 After</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Statement of income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other contributions</td>
<td>23 (16)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and benefits</td>
<td>511 (21)</td>
<td>490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracted services</td>
<td>61 (21)</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The reclassifications have been made because, in opinion of management, the new classification is more appropriate to Institution.