



# AITAA

Volume 1 / Issue 2  
December 2017

# FORWARD →

FACILITATE-OPPORTUNITY-RECOGNIZE-WISDOM-ADVOCATE-RECONNECT-DEVELOPMENT

## AITAA e-Gazette

a bi-monthly publication of the Asian Institute of Technology Alumni Association (AITAA) Headquarters, featuring highlights & updates from our Alma Mater and alumni all over the world, including activities by the National Chapters as well as appointments, promotions and other engagements. Contributions are highly encouraged. Please send your articles with 1-2 photos by email to [AITAA\\_HQait.alumni.association@gmail.com](mailto:AITAA_HQait.alumni.association@gmail.com) or [aitaa@ait.ac.th](mailto:aitaa@ait.ac.th)

The AIT Alumni Association (AITAA) was formed in 1969 to develop mutual understanding among the alumni, and between them and the Institute. The corporate power and management of the association is exercised, administered and controlled by the Governing Board. The Governing Board consists of the Executive Committee of Mother Chapter and Executive Committees or representatives of National Chapters.

**Vision:** AITAA is a global entity whose members are proud to be associated with AIT to share their values and experiences through AITAA's global network.

**Mission:** AITAA's mission is to enhance relationships among AIT alumni for contributing to continuous growth and development of AIT, the alumni, and the society.

## from the desk of AITAA President...

Dear fellow AIT alumni,

The tenure of the current AITAA Executive Committee (AITAA ExCom) will come to an end in 2017. Looking back these past 2 years, together we have accomplished a number of things, most notably, the conduct of two successful Governing Board Meetings in Cambodia (November 2016) and in Taiwan R.O.C. (November 2017) graciously hosted by our National Chapters in these 2 countries - these meetings provided us the avenue to come together for networking, sharing experiences, acknowledging excellent contributions from our fellow alumni, community outreach and agreeing on our Association's strategy and visions for the coming years. Another accomplishment of our Association was the re-establishment of the AITAA Chapter in Australia and creation of a new one, the AITAA Southeast Asia (AITAA-SEA) Regional Chapter, which showcased the continued commitment of our fellow alumni to be together. The annual Golf Tournament, a joint fund-raising event with AITAA Thailand Chapter, Friends of AIT Foundation Thailand and AITAA Headquarters was also a tremendous success. We have also contributed significantly towards the search of the new AIT President, including the crafting of AIT's revised vision and mission statements and business strategy and our enduring support to the AIT students through AIT Student Union's campus-wide activities, and many more.



I would like to convey my immense pleasure serving our esteemed Association as President covering the period 2016-2017. Together with the AITAA Executive Committee, I am forever grateful for all the support that you have provided me towards achieving our vision, mission and goals as alumni body. I am again urging each and every one of you, my fellow alumni, to continue to be actively involved in alumni affairs, to share information and support each other's efforts and to contribute in ways you can for the betterment of our Association and most of all, towards our Alma Mater, the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT).

I would like also to take this opportunity expressing my sincere appreciation to the members of the AITAA Executive Committee 2016-2017 for all their voluntary and invaluable contributions and service to the AIT Alumni Association (AITAA). I am wishing them all the best in their endeavors and I am still counting on their continued support to our Association in 2018 and beyond. As for me, I will remain to be of service to our Association and uphold our common goal in developing mutual understanding among the alumni, and between the alumni and our institute, the Asian Institute of Technology. Before I will hand over my responsibility to the incoming AITAA President, I am pleased to share with you the **Second Issue of the AITAA e-Gazette, FORWARD →**. In closing, I am sending you my profound greetings for a very Merry Christmas and a safe, prosperous and happy New Year! May the year 2018 will continue to usher us to greater heights!

Season's Greetings and happy reading!

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Somchet Thinaphong  
AITAA President

**Postal Address:**  
P.O. Box 4, Klong Luang  
Pathumthani 12120  
Thailand

**Street Address:**  
Km.42, Paholyothin Highway  
Klong Luang, Pathumthani 12120  
Thailand

Phone: + (66-2) 524 5058  
Email: [aitaa@ait.ac.th](mailto:aitaa@ait.ac.th)  
[ait\\_alumni.association@gmail.com](mailto:ait_alumni.association@gmail.com)  
Website: <https://aitaa.asia/>

## updates from alma mater...

### The Modernization of AIT Library<sup>3</sup>

One could still recall that one of the most important campus facilities that AIT students have enjoyed using is the AIT Library. Not only it offers a place for study and source of information, AIT students found respite during the hot summer weather inside the building. However, the first floor of the AIT Library was totally damaged in the aftermath of the great flood in 2011. Most of the books, including furniture and fixtures, were badly damaged as the campus was inundated with flood water for at least 3 months. AIT President, Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai, and his team worked tirelessly in raising the needed funds for the renovation and modernization of this important student facility and to make this place, once again, conducive for studies. The newly renovated library consisted of state of the art facilities, yet, simple and elegant. The AIT Library may not be listed as one of the famous academic libraries in the world but, for the AIT students, this place will always remain a haven! For more information, refer to this link <https://www.ait.ac.th/campus/ait-360/ait-library/>



*Inauguration Ceremony of new AIT Library by AIT President*



*Interior of the new AIT Library*



*Library entrance towards the video-telecom facilities*



*Students Lounge*

### AIT signs agreement with Siam University to offer Unified Bachelor-Master degree program<sup>4</sup>

AIT has signed an agreement with Siam University to offer a Unified Bachelor-Master degree program in Civil Engineering and Information Technology. The Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed by Dr. Pornchai Mongkhonvanit, President, Siam University, and AIT President Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai on 9 November 2017. President Worsak emphasized that this offering will be an elite program, adding that only those students who secure excellent scores will be eligible to pursue this academic stream.

<sup>3</sup> Photo credits AIT blogspot and websites at <https://www.ait.ac.th/campus/ait-360/ait-library/> and <https://www.google.co.th/search?q=AIT+Library>

<sup>4</sup> Source: The above cited information was extracted from the AIT Newsletter, December 2017 Issue

## updates from headquarters...

### 46<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting (GBM), 3-6 November 2017

The 46<sup>th</sup> GBM in Taiwan is historical for us as alumni body, being the biggest and most attended GBM in AITAA's history, having more than 300 alumni delegates and affiliates from 20 National Chapters participated in this event from Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Hong Kong/Macau, India, Indonesia, Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, USA and Viet Nam including the AITAA Headquarters in Thailand. This year's GBM we had 3 candidates vying for AITAA President and alumni voting for their candidates. Our heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Fe Ferriols (CA 1982) for her election as the next AITAA President for the period 2018-2019. Ms. Ferriols' manifesto is available at <https://aitaa.asia/>

In addition, the 46<sup>th</sup> GBM in Taiwan also paved the way of enriching the program from our traditional practice by adding a half-day workshop on "Smart, Green and Resilient Cities", a topic which is significant and considered as one of the emerging trends in today's world. In the next and future GBM's, we look forward be able to share experience and learn new trends and best practices from our alumni in the Asian region and beyond. Check the link for more details of the event and photo gallery at <https://www.46aitaagbm.tw/aitaa/>

The Governing Board awarded 16 Distinguished Alumni Awards and one Honorary Member in this meeting. Our congratulations to all the awardees and may they continue to strive their best for the betterment of AITAA and AIT! The AITAA Indonesia Chapter will be our next host for the upcoming 47<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting. We are encouraging each one of you to support this event and we look forward to meeting you again at this meeting.



*Participants at the 46<sup>th</sup> AITAA Governing Board Meeting, Taiwan, November 2017*



*Photos at the Opening Ceremony of the 46<sup>th</sup> AITAA Governing Board Meeting, Taiwan, November 2017*

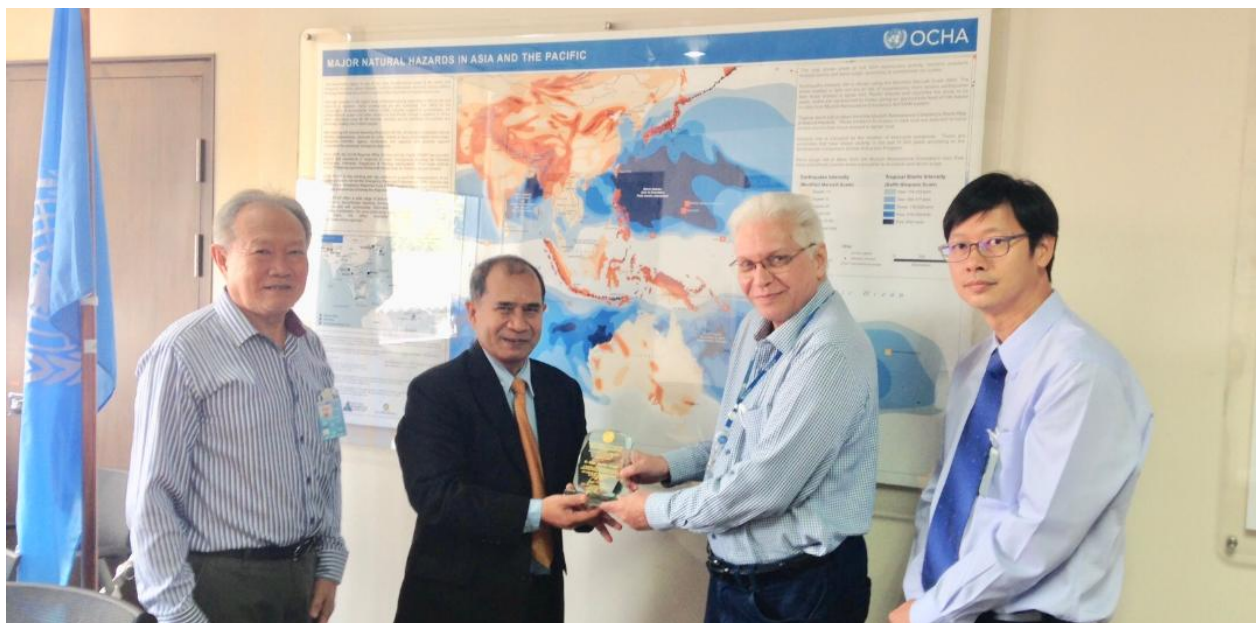
Following the conferment of the AITAA Distinguished Alumni awards, members of the AITAA Executive Committee has presented to Dr. Rajan Kantilal Gengaje (HSD 1988, RRDP 1996) his award on 23 November 2017 at UNOCHA Office in Bangkok. Dr. Rajan recalled very good memory of 15 years living in AIT campus and also took the opportunity to brief his fellow alumni regarding his work at UNOCHA.

**Postal Address:**  
P.O. Box 4, Klong Luang  
Pathumthani 12120  
Thailand

**Street Address:**  
Km.42, Paholyothin Highway  
Klong Luang, Pathumthani 12120  
Thailand

Phone: + (66-2) 524 5058  
Email: [aitaa@ait.ac.th](mailto:aitaa@ait.ac.th)  
[ait\\_alumni.association@gmail.com](mailto:ait_alumni.association@gmail.com)  
Website: <https://aitaa.asia/>





*Dr. Rajan Gengaje (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) receiving the plaque from Mr. Utai Srimhai (AFE 1981), AITAA Business Officer and witnessed by Mr. Taweechai Termkunanon (HSD 1979), former AITAA Auditor, and Mr. Wasu Ngamsom (TC 1998), AITAA Public Relations Officer*

### **128<sup>th</sup> AIT Graduation, Graduation Night and Induction Ceremony**

The AITAA Headquarters, once again, has joined AIT Student Union and AIT Administration in honoring the latest AIT graduates at their Graduation Night and Alumni Induction Ceremony on 8 December 2017 at the AIT Conference Center. This year's graduates totaled 226 from 22 countries. The AITAA Executive Committee Business Officer, Dr. Donald Ugsang (ERSGD 1995, RSGIS 2000), provided insights to the graduates and emphasized the importance of setting goal in life, persevering in every circumstance, striving to achieve excellence, and building legacy. Among the AITAA Executive Committee advisor and members present at the ceremony were Dr. Gregory L.F. Chiu, Dr. Zakir Hossain, Dr. Duminda Jayaranjan and Mr. Wasu Ngamsom.



*The members of the AITAA Executive Committee at the 128<sup>th</sup> AIT Graduation Night and Induction Ceremony 8 Dec 2017 at AIT Conference Center*

**Postal Address:**  
P.O. Box 4, Klong Luang  
Pathumthani 12120  
Thailand

**Street Address:**  
Km.42, Paholyothin Highway  
Klong Luang, Pathumthani 12120  
Thailand

Phone: + (66-2) 524 5058  
Email: [aitaa@ait.ac.th](mailto:aitaa@ait.ac.th)  
[ait\\_alumni.association@gmail.com](mailto:ait_alumni.association@gmail.com)  
Website: <https://aitaa.asia/>

The 128<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony of the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) took place on 14 Dec 2017. H.E. Saida Muna Tasneem, Government of Bangladesh Ambassador to Thailand delivered the graduation address. The prominent alumni speaker was Dr. Veerapong Chaiperm, Governor, Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (IEAT).



*Photos at the 128<sup>th</sup> Graduation, AIT Center Conference Center, 14 December 2017<sup>5</sup>*

### **Establishment of New AITAA Chapter**

The AITAA- Southeast Asia Regional Chapter (AITAA-SEA), based in Thailand, was established on 17 November 2017. The creation of this chapter has answered the need to involve a large number of non-Thai AIT alumni living and working in Thailand to be involved in the alumni activities and contribute to AITAA and AIT. The AITAA Headquarters has officially proclaimed the creation of this chapter as its 28<sup>th</sup> Chapter. Best wishes to Dr. Duminda Linayage Jayaranjan (EEM 2012), newly elected President of AITAA-SEA, and our fellow AITAA alumni. We have confidence that Dr. Duminda, together with the chapter officers and members, will lead AITAA-SEA to become a strong networking link among the AIT alumni in close collaboration with AITAA HQ and other AITAA National/Regional chapters.



*The newly established AITAA-SEA Chapter officers and members*

<sup>5</sup> Photo credits at <https://www.google.co.th/128th+AIT+Graduation>



## **AITAA Executive Committee Meetings and Induction Ceremony for the Incoming AITAA President**

Before the term ends of the incumbent AITAA Executive Committee, two meetings were held in Bangkok, Thailand. The first one was scheduled on November 2017, to review and discuss the next steps in follow up to the 46<sup>th</sup> AITAA GBM in Taiwan.

On 13 December 2017, the AITAA Executive Committee members and AIT alumni witnessed the handover and Induction Ceremony of Presidency by the outgoing AITAA President, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Somchet Thinaphong, (WRE 1975 & 1980) and the President-elect, Ms. Maria Fe Ferriols (CA 1982). Ms. Ferriols will succeed as AITAA President from 1 January 2018 for a two-year tenure.



*The AITAA Executive Committee at the November 2017 meeting, Bangkok*



*Assoc. Prof. Dr. Somchet Thinaphong (6<sup>th</sup> person from left) and the AITAA Executive Committee 2016-2017 at the Induction Ceremony of the incoming AITAA President, Dec 2017*



*The Induction Ceremony of the incoming AITAA President, Ms. Fe Ferriols, as witnessed by the AITAA Executive Committee 2016-2017 held on 13 December 2017, Bangkok*

**Postal Address:**  
P.O. Box 4, Klong Luang  
Pathumthani 12120  
Thailand

**Street Address:**  
Km.42, Paholyothin Highway  
Klong Luang, Pathumthani 12120  
Thailand

Phone: + (66-2) 524 5058  
Email: [aitaa@ait.ac.th](mailto:aitaa@ait.ac.th)  
[ait\\_alumni.association@gmail.com](mailto:ait_alumni.association@gmail.com)  
Website: <https://aitaa.asia/>

## obituary...

It is with deep sorrow to announce the untimely demise of our fellow AIT alumni, Dr. Ricardo Enriquez Rotoras (D.Eng., Energy 2002) on 2 December 2017. Dr. Rotoras was President of the University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines (USTP) for 11 years and was elected for his fourth term as President of the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC). Dr. Rotoras was also one of the AITAA Prominent Alumni in the Philippines and a recipient of the AITAA Philippines Distinguished Alumni award. His death is a great loss to the academic community in the country.



## Updates from national chapters...

Visit the AITAA website for **AITAA National Chapters'** news, events and other related information at <https://aitaa.asia/>. Stay updated, connected and talk to us

## AITAA social links



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/aitaa.asia/>



[https://twitter.com/AITAA\\_HQ/@AITAA\\_HQ](https://twitter.com/AITAA_HQ/@AITAA_HQ)



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/aitaa-hq-152a8914a/>



[aitaa@ait.ac.th](mailto:aitaa@ait.ac.th) / [ait.alumni.association@gmail.com](mailto:ait.alumni.association@gmail.com)

## e-Gazette editorial team



**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Somchet Thinaphong**  
AITAA President



**Dr. Gregory L.F. Chiu**  
AITAA Chief Advisor



**Ms. Janette Lauza-Ugsang**  
AITAA Public Relations Officer



**Dr. Zakir Hossain**  
AITAA Public Relations Officer



**Mr. Wasu Ngamsom**  
AITAA Public Relations Officer



**Dr. Donald M. Ugsang**  
AITAA Business Officer

**Postal Address:**  
P.O. Box 4, Klong Luang  
Pathumthani 12120  
Thailand

**Street Address:**  
Km.42, Paholyothin Highway  
Klong Luang, Pathumthani 12120  
Thailand

Phone: + (66-2) 524 5058  
Email: [aitaa@ait.ac.th](mailto:aitaa@ait.ac.th)  
[ait.alumni.association@gmail.com](mailto:ait.alumni.association@gmail.com)  
Website: <https://aitaa.asia/>