

## AITAA e-Gazette

FEBRUARY 2024

VOLUME 01/ ISSUE 01















### **PREFACE**

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the AITAA e-Gazette! As we embark on this journey of revitalizing our communication channels, it is with great enthusiasm that we present to you a compilation of updates, achievements, and initiatives from the vibrant AITAA community.

Within these pages, you'll find a tapestry of stories reflecting the dedication, innovation, and shared spirit that defines our alumni network. From significant milestones in governance and leadership to grassroots initiatives making a positive impact in communities, this e-Gazette encapsulates the essence of our collective journey.

Our aim is to create a dynamic platform that not only informs but also inspires and engages our esteemed alumni community. In this digital age, where connectivity knows no bounds, the e-Gazette serves as a conduit for fostering connections, celebrating achievements, and sharing valuable insights and experiences.

Through the e-Gazette, we seek to amplify the voices of our alumni, providing a space for them to share their stories, expertise, and perspectives. It is a testament to the enduring spirit of collaboration and camaraderie that defines the AITAA family.

We invite all alumni to actively participate in this endeavor by contributing articles, sharing news and updates, and engaging with fellow members of the AITAA community. Together, let us harness the power of communication to strengthen our bonds, drive positive change, and uphold the legacy of excellence that defines AITAA and AIT.



As we reconnect, inspire, and empower one another, let this e-Gazette serve as a beacon of connection, fostering a sense of belonging and pride in our shared legacy. We look forward to embarking on this exciting journey with you and creating an e-Gazette that truly reflects the richness and diversity of our alumni community.

Happy reading!

#### **Editorial Team**

Dr. Donald M. Ugsang (President)

Dr. Zakir M Hossain (Executive Secretary)

Mr. Kona Venkata Anantha Kiran (Public Relations Officer)

Mr. Md. Anishur Rahman (Public Relations Officer)

Mr. Solomon K.M. Huno (Public Relations Officer)

Mr. Win Myint Thein (Program Officer)





## AITAA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Donald M. Ugsang (AITAA President, 2024-2025) extend a sincere vote of thanks to all participants for their dedication and collaborative efforts in achieving the goal of reviving the eGazette for timely dissemination of news and events concerning alumni affairs, as well as for summarizing a streamlined version of the four pillars of action that will serve as the foundation of AITAA activities in the next 2 years and beyond. Your commitment, creativity, and hard work have been in shaping our strategic direction and pivotal ensuring the sustainability of our initiatives. Your contributions have played a vital role in strengthening our alumni network and guiding our endeavors toward meaningful impact. Thank you for your contributions and unwavering commitment to our shared goals.

### **B:** Bringing forward the Best Practices and Ideas

Under the visionary leadership of Dr. Donald, the AITAA will introduce the "4 Pillars of Actions (2024-2025)." The first pillar, \*Bringing forward the best practices and ideas\*, emphasizes initiatives such as formalizing a loyalty program for AITAA ID cardholders, enhancing knowledge exchange through various platforms, and sustaining fundraising efforts to support the Alumni Scholarships Fund and AITAA HQ operations.



### **E: Empowering the AITAA Chapters**

Empowering AITAA Chapters forms the second pillar, focusing on providing necessary support, revitalizing inactive chapters, and expanding our global reach by establishing new chapters in untapped regions. The AITAA HQ will play a pivotal role in managing an effective website and related technologies, fostering engagement, and reviving the AITAA eGazette.

### S: Strengthening Engagements with AIT

The third pillar emphasizes strengthening engagements with AIT, leveraging positive relationships with the AIT Administration, collaborating with AIT Extension and the Office of Advancement and Alumni Affairs, and establishing new collaborations with various AIT units, including the Student Union, the Office of Student Affairs, and the AIT Career Center.

### T: Timely Channeling of New Graduates to AITAA Chapters

Lastly, timely channeling of new graduates to AITAA Chapters forms the fourth pillar. Recognizing the decline in registrations since AITAA membership became optional, the AITAA HQ introduces initiatives to promote the benefits of AITAA membership, collaborating with the Student Union, the Office of Student Affairs, and the AIT Career Center to ensure new graduates receive support and guidance as they embark on their professional journeys.

Dr. Donald's strategic vision for the AITAA aligns with these pillars "BEST", fostering a stronger, more interconnected AITAA community. Together, we aim to propel AIT and its alumni into a future defined by excellence and collaboration.



### 2023 GBM HIGHLIGHTS



Photo: 52nd AIT Alumni Association Governing Board Meeting (AITAA GBM)

The 52nd AITAA Governing Board Meeting called alumni from across the globe at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) campus from November 24-26, 2023. With over 45 delegates representing 18 countries, the event filled with memories and energy as attendees launched on campus tours and engaged in heartfelt reunions. Dr. Subin Pinkayan, an esteemed AIT alum, welcomed delegates, setting the tone for days of fruitful discussions under the theme 'Move Forward AIT,' highlighting the alumni's pivotal role in shaping the institute's trajectory.

The meeting's second day commenced with official ceremonies, including addresses from Dr. Duminda Jayaranjan and Mr. Taweechai Termkunanon, presidents of the AITAA SEA Chapter and AITAA HQ, respectively. AIT President Prof. Kazuo Yamamoto underscored the significance of alumni contributions, emphasizing their role in driving AIT towards greater heights of research and innovation.



Dr. Anat Arbhabirama, Chairman of the AIT Board of Trustees, echoed this sentiment, emphasizing the institute's commitment to excellence and the invaluable role of its dynamic alumni network. The day unfolded with a series of engaging activities, encompassing insightful chapter reports, networking breaks, a dedicated session on AITAA's business affairs, and culminating in the election of Dr. Donald M. Ugsang from the SEA Chapter as the newly appointed AITAA President.

A highlight of the event was the gala dinner, where distinguished alumni and honorary members were honored for their outstanding achievements and contributions. Among the awardees were notable figures such as Prof. Sangam Shrestha and Mr. Sanjeev P. Jayasinghe, recognized for their remarkable contributions to their respective fields. Beyond formal proceedings, the gathering served as a platform for alumni to reconnect with their alma mater and each other, fostering a sense of community and shared purpose. As the meeting concluded, anticipation mounted for the next gathering in 2024, hosted by the Laos PDR Chapter, underscoring the enduring bonds and collective commitment to propel AIT into a bright and impactful future.

https://ait.ac.th/2023/11/a-global-reunion-at-the-52nd-aitaa-governing-board-meeting-held-at-ait/



### 140TH AIT GRADUATION



^ Prominent alumni Ms. Eri Hona as (2nd) Guest speaker



Graduation speaker Yeap Swee Chuan of AAPICO PLC, AIT President, AITAA incoming and outgoing presidents. ^

The Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) celebrated its 140th Graduation Ceremony on December 14, 2023, commemorating the achievements of 193 graduates from the School of Engineering and Technology (SET), the School of Environment, Resources and Development (SERD), and the School of Management (SOM). Notably, a special segment honored 91 students who overcame the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic during their academic journey from May 2020 to December 2021. AIT President Prof. Kazuo Yamamoto congratulated the emphasizing their entry into the esteemed AIT alumni network spanning 105 countries. Dignitaries such as Mr. Yeap Swee Chuan (Mr. Yeap Swee Chuan, President and CEO of AAPICO Hitech Public Company Limited), and Ms. Eri Honda (President of AIT Alumni Association-Japan Chapter and an AIT alum from the class of 1985) shared insights and advice, while Dr. Umar (representing AIT students) and Muhammad Dr. Peungnumsai (on behalf of the Special Graduating students) reflected on the transformative AIT experience and resilience amidst adversity. The event was graced by esteemed guests, including ambassadors and representatives from various nations, acknowledging the global impact of AIT and its graduates.



## AITAA REPRESENTATION IN THE AIT BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

The AIT Board of Trustees convened on January 18, 2024, at the AIT campus, chaired by Dr. Anat Arbhabhirama. The meeting addressed a spectrum of pivotal topics. Notably, Dr. Donald M. Ugsang, AITAA President (2024-2025), was in attendance, representing the alumni association in the discussions.

#### New Leadership Announcement: Professor Pai-Chi Li

During the meeting, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Professor Pai-Chi Li as the next President of AIT, based on the recommendation by the AIT Presidential Search Committee. Professor Li brings a wealth of experience and expertise, having served in various leadership roles at the National Taiwan University. His distinguished career in biomedical engineering and

academic leadership positions him as an ideal candidate to guide AIT towards international recognition and impactful contributions to the region.

Dr. Anat Arbhabhirama, Chairman of the AIT Board of Trustees, emphasized the importance of a seamless transition as AIT prepares to welcome Professor Li as its new President, effective September 1, 2024.



Picture: Professor Pai-Chi Li



The Board expressed heartfelt gratitude to President Kazuo Yamamoto for his unwavering dedication and contributions to AIT over the years.

AIT eagerly anticipates collaborating with Professor Li to build a brighter future for the institute and its global community. View <a href="Professor Pai-Chi Li's CV">Professor Pai-Chi Li's CV</a> for insights into his distinguished career and achievements.

https://ait.ac.th/2024/01/ait-board-of-trustees-meeting-held-on-campus/

https://ait.ac.th/2024/01/ait-names-professor-pai-chi-li-as-the-president-designate/

## DONATION TO AIT SCHOLARSHIP FROM MR. TAWEECHAI TERMKUNANON, FORMER AITAA PRESIDENT.

AIT alumnus Mr. Taweechai Termkunanon, who completed his Master's in Human Settlements and Development in 1979 and served as the Former President of the AIT Alumni Association from 2022-2023, recently signed a donation



agreement with AIT President Prof. Kazuo Yamamoto. The generous contribution of Thai Baht 500,000 aims to support Alumni Scholarships, Student Exchange Programs, and the School Laboratory Fund.



Expressing warm gratitude, Mr. Sanjeev Jayasinghe, Executive Director of the Office of Advancement and Alumni Affairs, welcomed Mr. Taweechai's support, highlighting its profound impact on enhancing the student experience at AIT. Prof. Yamamoto also extended appreciation to Mr. Taweechai, emphasizing the importance of alumni support and announcing upcoming fundraising initiatives in collaboration with industry and alumni.

Mr. Taweechai underscored the importance of alumni contributions, reflecting on his own journey and expressing a desire to give back, especially to students from disadvantaged backgrounds. His aim is to inspire fellow alumni to support deserving students.

The ceremony was attended by Dr. Donald M. Ugsang, the current President of the AIT Alumni Association, Dr. Duminda Jayaranjan, President of the AITAA South East Asia Chapter, and senior officers from the Office of Advancement and Alumni Affairs, Ms. Lucena D. Talaid and Ms. Amanda Townshend.

https://ait.ac.th/2024/01/ait-receives-support-from-mr-taweechaitermkunanon-hsd79/



# MR. GEM TSHERING - THE PRESIDENT OF THE AITAA BHUTAN CHAPTER



Photo: Lyonpo (Minister) Gem Tshering

Congratulations to AIT Alumnus Mr. Gem Tshering from Bhutan!

Mr. Gem Tshering was elected and appointed as the Minister of Energy & Natural Resources Ministry, Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB), w.e.f 28th January 2024. Gem Tshering (Mr.) will be addressed as Lyonpo (Minister) Gem Tshering.

It is thrilled to announce Mr. Gem Tshering's appointment as Minister of the Energy and Natural Resources Ministry, Royal Government of Bhutan. Mr. Gem Tshering, a proud graduate of AIT in 1994, brings his exceptional leadership and expertise to this significant role.

Not only is Mr. Gem Tshering serving his country with distinction, but he also serves as the esteemed chapter president of our AITAA Bhutan Chapter. His dedication to excellence and commitment to fostering connections within our AIT community are truly commendable.

Join us in congratulating Mr. Gem Tshering on this remarkable achievement!

ALUMNI & GRADUATES



## AITAA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

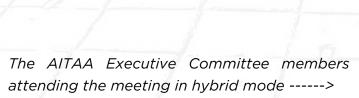


<-----Photo of Fundraising and Resource Mobilization Core Group: Dr. Naveed Anwar, Dr. Siriluk Chumchean, Dr. Donald M. Ugsang, Prof. Mukand Singh Babel, Dr. Pradeep Kumar Dash

Turnover of financial reports and AITAA bank books by Dr. Chusak Narkprasit, former AITAA Finance Officer ---->



<----The inaugural meeting of the new AITAA Executive Committee members







## AITAA CHAPTER ELECTIONS



<----Picture: Annual General Meeting of the AITAA Sri Lanka Chapter

We're delighted to announce the recent annual meetings of the AITAA Bangladesh Chapter (Oct 2023), New Zealand Chapter (Sep 2023), Singapore Chapter (23 Feb 2024), and Sri Lanka Chapter (19 Jan 2024), where new chapter Presidents were elected for the 2024-2025 term.

Following the elections, we are pleased to introduce the esteemed leaders who will guide their respective chapters:

- Bangladesh Chapter: Abul Kashem Md. Shirin

- New Zealand Chapter: Bikesh Shrestha

- Singapore Chapter: Andi Gunawan Mulia

- Sri Lanka Chapter: Migara Liyanage

Congratulations to the newly elected chapter presidents! We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the former chapter presidents for their invaluable contributions in laying the groundwork for successful endeavors within the AITAA community.

As we embark on this new chapter, we eagerly anticipate collaborating closely with all chapter presidents and alumni. Together, we'll continue to uphold the spirit of our association and work towards fostering meaningful connections, initiatives, and achievements in the years ahead. Here's to a bright and fruitful future for the AITAA family!



## ALUMNI VISITS TO AITAA HQ









(1) (2) (3) (4)

Photo 1: Mr. Mani Manivasakan with Dr. Donald M. Ugsang, Photo 2 and 3: Mr. Qi Xinjian and Ms. Lucena Talaid with Dr. Donald M. Ugsang Photo 4: Mr. Lahiru Herath with Dr. Donald M. Ugsang and Mr. Win Myint Thein

AITAA HQ recently welcomed esteemed alumni from Australia, Sri Lanka, and China, where the AITAA HQ President greeted and warmly welcomed their visits. Engaging discussions ensued, focusing on strengthening ties and exploring collaborative opportunities between the association and the visited alumni. The alumnus from Australia, Mr. Mani Manivasakan, Chief Technical Principal/Director - Water Resources at SMES, Australia, brought valuable insights from his role. Mr. Lahiru Herath, Business Development Manager - Automation at Electro Serv Lanka, Sri Lanka, and Vice President of AITAA Sri Lanka Chapter, represented Sri Lanka, while Mr. Qi Xinjian, Programme Specialist at UNESCO International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education, China, contributed perspectives from China. These visits underscored the global reach and significance of AIT alumni, highlighting their continued involvement in enhancing the AIT community and fostering meaningful connections across borders.



## **NEW AITAA OFFICE**







Pictures: AITAA Office located in AIT Library Building

We're excited to announce that the office of the AIT Alumni Association has undergone a recent relocation from the Administration Building to the AIT Library building, both nestled within the vibrant AIT Campus in Khlong Luang, Pathum Thani, Thailand. This strategic move aims to enhance accessibility and visibility for our esteemed alumni.

We cordially invite all alumni visiting AIT to explore our newly opened office, which now accommodates the alumni lounge. This space promises to be a hub of connection and fellowship, where alumni can gather, recall, and develop new memories while engaging with the AIT community.

Come and experience the warmth of our alumni family in our new office at the AIT Library building. We look forward to welcoming you with open arms and sharing in the spirit of lifelong connection and collaboration.



## 2024 GBM IN LAOS



<----Picture: Mr. Somphone Sisenglath accepting to be the 53rd GBM host in Laos

During the AITAA 52nd Governing Board Meeting hosted by the AITAA Southeast Asia Chapter at AIT in 2023, Mr. Somphone Sisenglath, President of the AITAA Lao Chapter, graciously accepted the responsibility to host the AITAA 53rd GBM in Laos.

Excitingly, the following AITAA Chapters have also agreed to host upcoming GBMs:

- 54th GBM: AITAA Vietnam Chapter

- 55th GBM: AITAA Singapore Chapter

- 56th GBM: AITAA Philippine Chapter

Mr. Somphone Sisenglath shared that Laos will assume the Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2024. He enthusiastically announced that the 53rd GBM will be held in Vientiane and will include a tour along the newly opened railway. The dates for the 53rd GBM are set for November 22nd to 24th, 2024, in Vientiane, Laos. Mr. Somphone extended a warm invitation to all attendees to join the 2024 GBM in Vientiane. Mr. Taweechai Termkunanon, the President of AITAA (2022-2023), congratulated the AITAA Lao Chapter on becoming the next host.



### AITAA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2024 - 2025



Dr. Donald M. Ugsang (RS-GIS, 1995, 2000) President



Dr. Zakir M Hossain
(AARM/ICZM, 2001, 2010)
Executive Secretary



Dr. Khwanchol K. Ninlaor (ABM, 2023) Finance Officer & Dinner Talk Chair



Ms. Amalia San Pedro-Canullas (IM, 2002) Auditor



Dr. Supattana Nirukkanaporn (EPSM, 2010) Business Officer & Loyalty Program Chair



Dr. Pradeep Kumar Dash (RRDP, 1996) Business Officer & Fundraising and Resource Mobilization Chair



Md. Anishur Rahman (NRM, 2015) Public Relations Officer



Mr. Solomon K.M Huno (EEM, 2018) Public Relations Officer



Mr. Kona Venkata Anantha Kiran (RS-GIS, 2022) Public Relations Officer



### AITAA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2024 - 2025



Dr. Alvin Culaba (Energy, 1990) Alumni Recognition Committee Chair



Mr. Karma Rana (Mot, 1991) Alumni Engagement Committee Chair



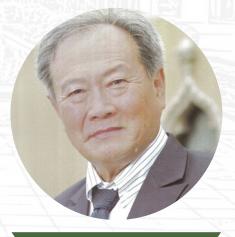
Ms. Anastasia Yesica (STE, 2018) Membership Committee Chair



Dr. Vijay S. Rajput (EEM, 1980) Statutes Committee Chair



Mr. Win Myint Thein (NRM, 2021) Program Officer



Mr. Taweechai Termkunanon (HSD, 1979) Adviser



Ms. Maria Fe Nuestro-Ferriols (CS-IM, 1982) Adviser



Prof. Mukand Singh Babel (AFE, 1983 & WRE, 1993) Adviser



Dr. Naveed Anwar (STE, 1988, 2004) Adviser



Dr. Siriluk Chumchean (WRD, 1997) Adviser



## **CONNECT WITH AITAA**



### AIT-ALUMNI-ASSOCIATION-HEADQUARTERS

LinkedIn - <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/ait-alumni-association/">https://www.linkedin.com/in/ait-alumni-association/</a>
Instagram - <a href="https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?">https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?</a>
id=100074747642777

Facebook Group - <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/aitaa.asia/">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrDIc2lfRrBkMZjIEo-PD5A</a>

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