

### AITAA e-Gazette

JUNE 2024

VOLUME 01/ ISSUE 02

AITAA Joined Grad Night Event on May 8th 2024



### AIT Graduation and Alumni Engagement

- · 141<sup>st</sup> AIT Graduation Ceremony on 17 May 2024
- · AIT Alumni Association Graduation Prize Awardees of May 2024















### **PREFACE**

Welcome to the second issue of the AITAA e-Gazette! Following the enthusiastic response to our inaugural edition, we are thrilled to bring you another collection of compelling stories, updates, and achievements from our dynamic alumni community.

In this edition, we delve into the recent AIT graduation and alumni engagement, celebrating the accomplishments of our AITAA awardees and highlighting the significant milestones in our collective journey. We provide updates from the Governing Board Meeting (GBM) and call for nominations for the prestigious AITAA Distinguished Alumni Awards and Honorary Member Awards.

Our alumni continue to shine, and we proudly showcase their achievements and awards. This issue also pays tribute to those we have lost recently, honoring their memory through heartfelt memoirs. We feature news from our active country chapters, including Pakistan, USA, and Singapore, and bring you updates on the new AITAA chapter leadership.

In our efforts to strengthen and expand our network, we remind all chapters of the importance of supporting AITAA's flagship projects, such as the loyalty program and fundraising initiatives for student scholarships. Additionally, we highlight the benefits of becoming an AITAA lifetime member and encourage you to join us in this commitment.

As always, we aim to create a platform that informs, engages, and inspires. The e-Gazette is a testament to the enduring spirit of our alumni, a space where you can share your stories, insights, and achievements. We are grateful for your continued support and active participation, which make this publication vibrant and meaningful.



We look forward to your contributions and feedback as we continue this journey together. Let us use this e-Gazette to strengthen our bonds, drive positive change, and uphold the legacy of excellence that defines AITAA and AIT.

Happy reading, and thank you for being a vital part of our community!

Warm regards,

#### **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)

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### AIT GRADUATION AND ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

(INCLUDING AITAA AWARDEES)





AIT Graduation Event Photos on 17 May 2024



Dr. Harry Kasuma, an alumnus of SET 1995 and CEO of UMG Group of Companies in Myanmar

Ms. Bhiramon Chuprapawan, a SOM 2003 alumna and CEO of 4CARE Group





#### AITAA Joined Grad Night Event on May 8, 2024

The AITAA HQ Executive Committee Team and SEA Chapter President joined the Graduation Night Event alongside the AIT Team and graduates at AIT on May 8, 2024. Representing Dr. Donald (AITAA President), Dr. Zakir M Hossain, the Executive Secretary of AITAA Headquarters, shared insights into AITAA and extended a warm invitation to the new graduates to become members of the association. He also conveyed a heartfelt message from Dr. Donald, who was unable to attend in person. Dr. Khwanchol Kampan, Finance Officer & Dinner Talk Chair of AITAA HQ, conducted a Candle Light Ceremony to honor the new graduates. AITAA demonstrated its ongoing support by contributing 10,000 THB towards the Graduation Night Event, a tradition upheld for every Grad Night celebration, to the current Student Representative. AITAA extends an open invitation to all AIT graduates to join the association and be part of our vibrant community.



Photo: AITAA Team together with AIT Team on Grad Night Event



### AIT Alumni Association Graduation Prize Winners - May 2024

AITAA is proud to announce the recipients of the AIT Alumni Association Graduation Prizes of May 2024. These awards recognize outstanding academic and research achievements, leadership qualities, and contributions to the AIT community. This year's awardees exemplify the highest standards of excellence and dedication, making significant impacts in their respective fields. Mr. Kittisak Kasempanyavat (GTE, Thailand) from the School of Engineering and Technology, Mr. Sanjay Karki (FEBT, Nepal) from the School of Environment, Resources and Development, and Mr. Md. Mahiuddin Sabbir (MBA, Bangladesh) from the School of Management are three of the most outstanding graduates of the 141st AIT Graduation. The AIT Alumni Association is proud to support and honor these outstanding students, who have demonstrated exceptional talent, hard work, and dedication.

The awards were presented during the graduation ceremony on 17 May 2024, where family, friends, faculty, and peers joined in celebrating the success and future endeavors of the awardees. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the winners and wish them continued success in their professional and personal journeys.



Mr. Kittisak Kasempanyavat



Mr. Sanjaya Karki



Mr. Md. Mahiuddin Sabbir









# 53<sup>rd</sup> AITAA GOVERNING BOARD MEETING (GBM)

**NOVEMBER 23<sup>rd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024** 

### **LAO PDR**







We are delighted to announce that the 53rd AITAA Governing Board Meeting (GBM) will be held in Vientiane, Laos from November 23-25, 2024. This prestigious event is a wonderful opportunity for alumni to reconnect, share experiences, and collaborate on future initiatives.



### **UPDATES ON GBM**

November 23 and 24, 2024, have been marked as the dates for the GBM which will be held at Lao. Detailed information will be distributed after the headquarters team visit to finalize preparations. A committee has been established to organize cultural and transportation arrangements, with subgroups managing planning, communication, fundraising, and budgeting. The selected venue is Laotel Vientiane, strategically located for easy access to famous attractions. Discussions were held with alumni-owned hotels and EV tricycles to secure discounts and promote AIT. The weather in Laos during November is typically pleasant, with temperatures around 25 degrees Celsius. A sponsorship program with platinum and gold categories has been outlined, highlighting the importance of member contributions and active participation. The information pack will be distributed by September to allow attendees to make necessary arrangements. Evisas and arrival visas are available, with a fee of approximately \$50 each.

### **Event Highlights:**

• Dates: November 23-25, 2024

• Location: Vientiane, Laos

• **Key Activities:** Networking sessions, keynote addresses, cultural performances, and city tours.

Stay tuned for more details on registration, accommodation, and the event program. Mark your calendars now and join us for an enriching and memorable gathering.

We look forward to welcoming you to Vientiane!

### **AITAA GBM Organizing Team**

- Lao Chapter:
  - Somphone Sisenglath, Chapter President, somphone.si@gmail.com



## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS OF AITAA DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS AND HONORARY MEMBER AWARDS

Subject: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS for the 2024 AITAA Distinguished Alumni Awards and AITAA Honorary Membership

Greetings! Hope all is well with everyone.

Your AIT Alumni Association (AITAA) is once again calling ALL AIT Alumni Chapters to nominate active members or co-alumnus from your AITAA Chapter for the 2024 AIT Distinguished Alumni Awards as well as the AITAA Honorary Membership. Attached are the Criteria, Guidelines and Nominations Forms for your reference.

The deadline for submission of nominations to AITAA Alumni Recognition Committee, Headquarters is on the 15th of August 2024. Please address your nomination letter to: The Chair, AITAA Recognition Committee, and kindly email the accompanying nomination form and supporting documents to aitaa@ait.asia.

For any clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact the Committee at aitaa@ait.asia.

Thank you and I look forward to receiving your nominations soon.

Very truly yours,

Dr. Alvin B. Culaba Chair, AITAA Alumni Recognition Committee

### Copies to

- 1. All AITAA Chapter Presidents to distribute among their members
- 2. AITAA Headquarters Executive Committee
- 3. AIT Office of Advancement and Alumni Relations



### ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AND AWARDS

### Cultivating Leadership: Dr. Linkham's Journey from AIT to Minister of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)

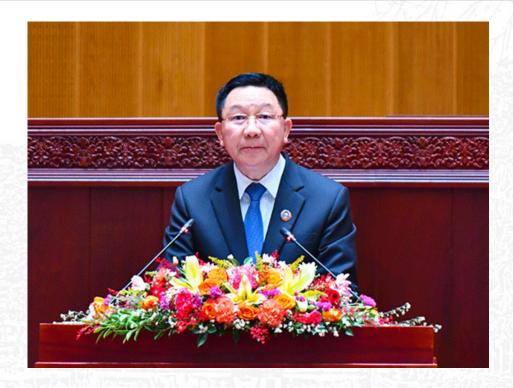
The Asian Institute of Technology Alumni Association (AITAA) has long celebrated the remarkable achievements of its distinguished alumni. Among them, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Linkham Douangsavanh stands out, recently appointed as the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry in Laos—a testament to his exceptional career and leadership.

Dr. Linkham's educational journey began at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in 1997, where he pursued a Master of Science degree in Regional and Rural Development Planning. Graduating in 1999, his academic prowess was evident, earning him the prestigious AITAA Distinguished Alumni Award in 2007 for Academic Performance and Research Excellence. This accolade was not just a reflection of his dedication but also of the quality education and robust support system provided by AIT.

Dr. Linkham's professional career is marked by a series of significant roles that have prepared him for his current ministerial position. Starting as technical staff at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) in Laos, he quickly ascended the ranks. He served as Deputy Director of the MRC/GTZ Natural Resources Project and Head of the Socio-Economic Research Project at the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI). His leadership was further recognized when he became the Director General of the Agriculture and Forestry Office in Vientiane Capital and later the Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Each role Dr. Linkham undertook contributed to his profound understanding of agricultural policy and rural development. His efforts have consistently focused on sustainable development and economic growth, aligning with the core values and mission of AITAA. His recent appointment as the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry is a culmination of years of dedicated service and leadership in the agricultural sector.





AITAA's role in fostering a culture of excellence and innovation is evident in success stories like that of Dr. Linkham. The association not only recognizes and celebrates the achievements of its alumni but also provides a robust network and resources that enable them to excel in their respective fields. Through various programs and initiatives, AITAA continues to support research projects, academic conferences, and professional development opportunities, ensuring that its members remain at the forefront of innovation and knowledge.

Dr. Linkham's journey from AIT to the ministerial office exemplifies the impact of AITAA's commitment to nurturing leaders who drive positive change. His achievements highlight the association's pivotal role in shaping the careers of its members and reinforcing the collective strength of its community.



## DISTINGUISHED RECIPIENTS OF THE OUTSTANDING VISCAN AWARD, PHILIPPINES

We are thrilled to announce that during the Visayas State University (VSU) Centennial Founding Anniversary celebration on April 27, 2024, 4 of our AIT alumni who are also VSU alumni, have been selected as distinguished recipients of the Outstanding VISCAN Award in the respective categories. This prestigious awards, one of the highlights of the celebration, recognizes the exceptional achievements of VSU alumni in their respective fields.



Science, Technology, and Innovation Category

Dr. Donald Ugsang (NRPM '95 & RSGIS 2000)



Science, Technology, and Innovation Category

Mr. Arthur I. Tambong (WRE'86)



Education Leadership & Management category

Dr. Roberto C. Guarte (AFE'84)



Public Service & Governance category

Dr. Caesar Joventino M. Tado (AFE '92)



### MEMOIRS (TO WHOM WE LOST IN THE RECENT PAST)

It is with deep sorrow that we mourn the passing of Professor Hu Biliang, Dr. Za-Chieh Moh and Dr. Abdul Qader Miah who are distinguished members of the AIT Alumni community.

On behalf of the AIT Alumni Association, we extend our heartfelt condolences to their family, friends, and colleagues during this difficult time. May their memory be a source of comfort and strength as we reflect on their remarkable life and enduring contributions.

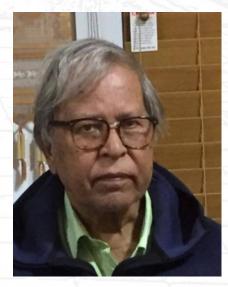
Rest in peace



Dr. Za-Chieh Moh



Professor Hu Biliang (HSD, 1991)



Dr. Abdul Quader Miah





### NEWS RECEIVED FROM COUNTRY CHAPTERS

From AITAA Taiwan Chapter: The 14th Chapter Board Members (January 2024- December 2025)

Position	Name
President	Mr. Cherng-Tyan Su
Vice President	Ms. Joanne, Mei-Yen Chung
Vice President	Mr. Chen- Yuan Chang
Executive Director	Ms. Lee-Yu Lin
Executive Director	Mr. Chao- Hung Cheng
Executive Director	Mr. Cheng-Chung Chen
Executive Director	Mr. Wen-Chung Liao
Director	Mr. Lai-Shun Ju
Director	Dr. Chin-Chun Lee
Director	Mr. Shin- Yuan Yiin
Director	Mr. Pei-Yi Chang
Director	Mr. Lee-Ping Shi
Director	Mr. Jack Chun- Yat Hsu
Director	Mr. Wen-Shen Liu
Director	Mr. Chew-Chin Koh
Director	Mr. Hsueh- Hsien Liao



Position	Name
Director	Ms. Chin-Min Lee
Director	Mr. Nien-Tung Dai
Director	Mr. Chi-Lung Chen
Director	Ms. Meei-Ttze Lai
Director	Mr. Chi-yuan Chang
Executive Supervisor	Mr. Sheng-Bao Tseng
Supervisor	Mr. Chia-Chan Chou
Supervisor	Mr. Yu-Shan Hsieh
Supervisor	Mr. Kan Li
Supervisor	Mr. Tien-Ho Tsai
Supervisor	Mr. Shi-Long Chang
Supervisor	Mr. Chung-Chin Kuo
Secretary General	Mr. Pen-Chi Lin





Prof. Sangam Shrestha, Dean on School of EngineeringandTechnology in AIT, accompany by Dr. Kuo-Chieh Chao, associate professor in Geotechnical and Earth Resources Engineering inAIT, visited AITAA ROC Chapter to change the opinion on how to attract more students from school and enterprises to study in AITon19th March 2024.





AITAA ROC Chapter organized a workshop focusing on "Power Supply in Taiwan" and invited Mr. Ru-Chin Chou, the AITDistinguish Alumni Award winner in 2021 with over 36 years working experience in Taiwan Power Plants, to evaluate the stability of Taiwan's future power supply system including coal, gas, green energy and nuclear facilities on 9th May 2024. It's also the first time to organize the workshop with a subject on infrastructure by the SEA ROC Chapter and over 20 alumni and guests participated.



#### **AITAA-USA Annual Reunion**

AITAA-USA hosted their annual reunion on Saturday, June 29 in Edison, New Jersey. AIT President Prof. Kazuo Yamamoto kindly accepted an invitation from AITAA-USA Chapter to be present as the chief guest. The presence of AIT President showed appreciation for the alumni and their contributions to the AIT's legacy. The presidential visit boosted the morale among alumni and further strengthen the relationship between AIT and AITAA.

AITAA-USA hosted a second alumni reunion and dinner in honor of AIT President in Arlington, Texas on Tuesday, July 2. The President also signed a MOU with University of Texas at Arlington during his visit in Texas.







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### UPDATES ON NEW AITAA CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Following the 2023 elections, new chapter presidents have been elected for the AITAA Chapters of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Canada, New Zealand, Singapore, and Sri Lanka. The respective new chapter presidents are:

- Mr. Abul Kashem Md Shirin (Bangladesh) AFE/1991
- Mr. Lam Dorji (Bhutan) RPM/1998
- Dr. Athula Rajapakse (Canada) Energy/1993
- Mr. Bikesh Shrestha (New Zealand) WEM/2010
- Mr. Andi Gunawan Mulia (Singapore) SE&C/1985
- Dr. Migara Liyanage (Sri Lanka) EPP/2003

Congratulations to all the new leaders!



### AITAA LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

AITAA welcomes you to become a lifetime member.

To initiate <u>the membership process</u>, kindly complete <u>the membership application form.</u> Additionally, please make a payment of lifetime membership fees of 700 Baht to SCB (Account name: AITAA Operating; Account number: 406-000-5183).

After that, kindly send the "completed form, a photo of you for an identification card, and proof of payment" to the email address "aitaa@ait.asia". The card-making process will take one to two working days.

Following that, please reach out to the AITAA Office, located in the library building, opposite the Inthanin Coffee Shop at AIT. We will provide you with your membership ID card.

Thank you for your interest and cooperation. Should you have any further inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

### The current benefits of being a member of AITAA

- Join a global network of over 26,000 alumni across 100+ countries
- Connect with any of the AITAA National Chapters
- Enjoy a 25% discount at AITCC
- Receive a 25% discount on your children's postgraduate studies at AIT
- Stay updated with news and events from AITAA and AIT
- Get your official AITAA ID card



# JOIN THE AIT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TODAY!



### Dear Graduates,

Congratulations on reaching this incredible milestone in your journey! As you prepare to embark on new adventures, we invite you to become part of a vibrant community that will support you every step of the way - the Asian Institute of Technology Alumni Association (AITAA).

### Why Join AITAA?



### Networking & Professional Development

Networking & Collaboration
Exclusive Clubhouse Access
Engaging Seminars & Webinars

Interactive Visits & Virtual Meetings
Fun Networking Events
Formal Induction Ceremonies

**Events & Activities** 





### Community Engagement & Support

Support for Disaster Relief Fundraising & Giving Back Recognition & Awards

Honorary Memberships
Updates on potential opportunities
Updates on AIT and AITAA

**Access & Information** 



### How to Join?

Visit the AITAA office (next to library) to learn more and sign up for your lifetime membership. Don't miss out on this opportunity to stay connected, grow professionally, and make a difference in the world!

For inquiries, please email aitaa@ait.asia or visit www.aitaa.asia



### AITAA MEETINGS

### Chapter Presidents and Executive Committee Meeting on April 27, 2024

The 2nd meeting of AITAA Chapter Presidents and Executive Committee Members was held on April 27, 2024. The meeting minutes from February were approved. A proposal to manage the automatic collection of lifetime membership fees was discussed, as this practice had been discontinued, leading to a decline in new memberships and revenue. Current alumni benefits include discounts on AIT Conference Center facilities, tuition fees for their children, and free access to library facilities. A Loyalty Program is being developed to encourage alumni contributions and strengthen the network, featuring a digital platform and collaboration with alumni-owned businesses for special benefits. The alumni recognition committee met on April 17 to discuss managing distinguished alumni awards and honorary membership nominations. Nominations are due by June 15, with evaluation in August and approval scheduled for September 30. Fundraising and resource mobilization initiatives are being coordinated with the Advancement and Alumni Affairs Office. Plans include engaging senior alumni for support and reaching out to alumni globally to support student scholarships. The next joint Chapter Presidents and Executive Committee members meeting is scheduled for June 29.



Photo: AITAA
Chapter
Presidents and
Executive
Committee
Online Meeting
on Apr 27, 2024



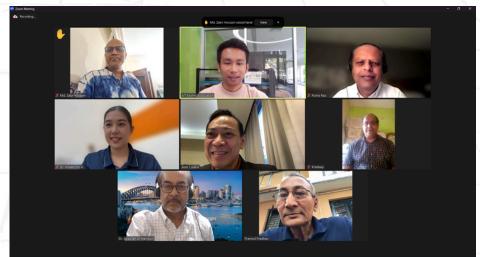
### **Executive Committee Meeting on April 20, 2024**

The third Executive Committee meeting of the year, which happened on 20 Apr 2024, addressed the approval of previous minutes and focused on several key topics. These included the Friendship Bridge project with increased cost estimates and fundraising efforts involving alumni and Thai companies. The committee discussed strategies for alumni contributions, including automatic lifetime membership fees and enhancing alumni engagement through various initiatives and benefits. Plans were made to raise awareness about the Alumni Association during student orientation, organize a dinner talk event with potential themes like sustainable development, and reactivate inactive alumni chapters. Additionally, the committee proposed promotional initiatives for the e-Gazette, a comprehensive website redesign, and incorporating a loyalty program platform. The next meeting is scheduled for May 11.



Photo: AITAA
Executive
Committee
Meeting on 20 Apr
2024

Photo: Alumni
Recognition
Committee
Meeting on 17 April
2024





### **DINNER TALK**

REMINDER AND REQUEST FULL SUPPORT FROM ALL CHAPTERS ON AITAA FLAGSHIP PROJECTS: (A) LOYALTY PROGRAM; AND (2) FUNDRAISING FOR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS



### **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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