

E-NEWSLETTER

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change
School of Environment, Resources and Development
Asian Institute of Technology



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12th GMSARN International Conference 2017

28th - 30th November 2017, Danang, Vietnam

The 12th GMSARN International Conference 2017 was held in Muong Thanh Danang Hotel, Danang City, Vietnam from 28th - 30th November 2017.

The 3 day conference saw participation from diverse academic as well as no academic backgrounds, including industry experts, seasoned professors & research fellow from various universities.

Professor Dr. Weerakorn Ongsakul at the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change is the General Secretary and Conference Executive Director.

Conference Purpose

GMS region is a natural economic corridor bounded by the Mekong river with an area of 2.6 million square meters and a combined population of about 350 million. Presently, all GMS countries are facing the challenges how to transform GMS connectivity into

genuine economic corridors which include energy trading, logistics, and trade facilitation. Thus, infrastructure and human capital development are the priority to address the aspects of functioning GMS region particularly those that enhance competitiveness, and ensure sustainability. The aim of this GMSARN 2017 is to focus on energy connectivity and sustainability in the GMS countries. To address these critical issues, the International Conference 2017 on “Energy Connectivity, Environment, and Development in GMS” is a three-day platform for knowledge dissemination by a diverse group of researchers and participants.

The rationale of the GMSARN 2017 is to initiate and stimulate international discussions and enhance research for

exchanging the innovative ideas. The conference can be used as a platform on regional and trans-boundary perspectives. Therefore, it can contribute to sustainable development related to energy connectivity, environment and development.

In this aspect, GMSARN conference is a unique hosting a wide range of various disciplines that would generate shared solutions and ideas to existing problems. In addition, this conference provides an ecosystem to disseminate the research and findings of development on various innovative and sustainable developments in GMS. It is also envisaged that the conference will benefit GMS education and research programs.

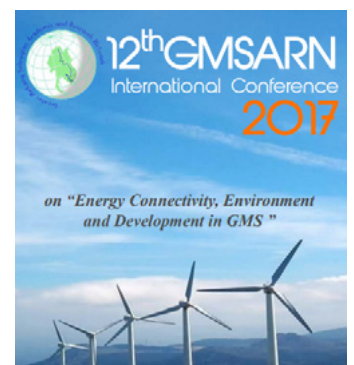
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Conference Highlights

Number of papers submitted for presentation

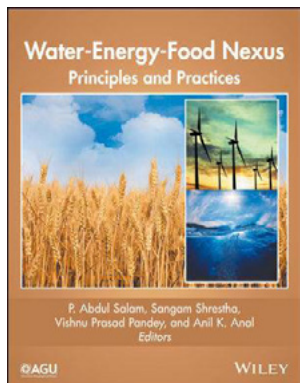
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Opening Remarks by Prof. Weerakorn



Conference Staff



“Water-Energy-Food Nexus: Principles and Practices”

New Book by AIT Authors Explores the Water-Energy-Food Nexus

A new book by AIT authors explores the Water-Energy-Food nexus in the global perspective, and explores futuristic perspectives in this paradigm. Focusing on contributions to the global debate on water-energy-food nexus, it quotes examples of the nexus approach in practice from different regions of the world and provides new perspectives on the future of the nexus agenda.

Published by Wiley, the 19-chapter book is divided into four sections. While the first section talks of understanding the nexus, the second part concentrates on operationalizing the nexus. The third and fourth parts speak of the nexus in practice, and the future of the nexus agenda.

Co-authored by Dr. P. Abdul Salam, Dr. Sangam Shrestha, Vishnu Prasad Pandey and Dr. Anil K. Anal, the 264 -page book was released in August 2017. While Dr. Salam and Dr. Anil serve in AIT’s School of Environment, Resources and Development (SERD), Dr. Sangam works in the School of Engineering and Technology (SET). Dr. Vishnu serves in International Water

Management Institute (IWMI), Nepal.

According to the authors, while this nexus has been discussed, debated, researched, and advocated widely but the focus is often on the pairings of “water-energy” or “water-food” or “energy-food”. To benefit from the nexus approach in terms of resource use efficiency, it is essential to understand, operationalize and practice the nexus of all three resources.

The book is primarily targeted at students, research scholars and professionals in academic institutions with strong interests in interdisciplinary research involving geography, earth science, environmental science, environmental management, sustainability science, international development,

ecological economics, efficient use of energy and water, and climate change. The volume will also be useful for professionals, practitioners and consultants in /NGOs, government, and international agencies.

The book is one of the outputs of the SEA-EU-NE Project (Phase-II) that was funded under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) of the European Union.

Book details: *Water-Energy-Food Nexus: Principles and Practices*, 2017, 264 pp., ISBN: 978-1-119-24313-7, list price \$169.95 (hardcover), \$135.99 (e-book)

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Source: AIT Website



Dr. P. Abdul Salam, Dr. Sangam Shrestha, and Dr. Anil K. Anal

“The Asia Pacific Energy Portal as a comprehensive energy information source and analytical tool”
Training Overview



AIT students and staff at UNESCAP CC

Staff and Students Attended Asia Pacific Energy Portal Training - UNESCAP

Staff and students from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change attended the Asia Pacific Energy Portal Training organised by UNESCAP. The event was held at the UN Conference Centre, Bangkok on 30 November 2017.

In the morning, the students attended a Bazaar of ideas, that showcased innovative, inclusive and integrated initiatives for sustainable development. The Bazaar focused on private sector

and community initiatives, including social enterprises, start-ups, and local action, to science and technology innovations.

In parallel sessions, the speakers from the private sector, the science and technology community, youth and local leaders presented their initiatives and approaches to tackle environmental, social and economic challenges and provide innovative solutions for sustainable development.

Students were invited to join multiple presentations in three different rooms and to engage in interactive discussions with inspiring presenters.

Ms. Qing Xia, a Senior Development Officer at the Asian Institute of Technology and Ms. Pallavi Das, a Research Associate at the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change facilitated training program. Ms. Qing in her acknowledgement email to the UNESCAP post-event

wrote “ Thank you so so much for providing us - AIT students and staff- this great opportunity to learn not only the Energy Portal you have developed, but also your view, vision and in-depth analysis of the energy policy, data, and infrastructure development in the Asia-Pacific and beyond.”

The Asia Pacific Energy Portal Training was part of the week long thematic events hosted by UNESCAP on

“Innovation – Integration – Inclusiveness, Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific ESCAP SDG Week”, 27 Nov – 01 Dec 2017, UN Conference Centre, Bangkok.



AIT Receives Largest-ever Corporate Grant to Establish Bangchak Initiative and Innovation Center



AIT signed an MoU with BIIC@AIT

The Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) received its largest-ever single corporate grant in the form of 50 million Thai Baht towards the establishment of the Bangchak Initiative and Innovation Center at AIT (BIIC@AIT) — a venture which aims to act as a living laboratory and technology business incubator.

An agreement signed on 25 July 2017 by Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai, President, AIT, and Mr. Chaiwat Kovavisarach, President, and CEO of Bangchak Corporation Public Company Limited (BCP), paved the way for the creation of BIIC@AIT.

“We are moving towards a new era of wonder and discovery,” remarked Mr. Chaiwat, as he stated that the common mission is to groom green sustainable technology-based companies and businesses. BIIC@AIT

will act as an entrepreneurship incubator and help create enterprises based on knowledge and innovation. We will support AIT students, fund viable projects, and bridge the gap between academia and industry, Mr. Chaiwat added.

Chairman, AIT Board of Trustees, Dr. Subin Pinkayan described the occasion as “historic.” AIT’s mission is to create highly qualified and committed professionals who play a leading role in the sustainable development of this region, and this agreement will create a platform which will work towards the achievement of this goal, he said.

AIT President Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai spoke about the partnership between Bangchak and AIT. Under the agreement, Bangchak will provide a budgetary support of 50 million THB for a period

of five years, while AIT will contribute 18.35 million THB in kind. “This is the largest one-time grant received by AIT from the private sector,” Prof. Worsak said. BCP will provide 10 scholarships for Master’s students (five Thai and five international students), three doctoral and one postdoctoral scholarship (for both Thai and international students). The Center will promote entrepreneurship and advance knowledge-base innovation, with a focus on green sustainable technology, Prof. Worsak added.

Prof. Weerakorn Ongsakul of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change, who is AIT’s focal point for the Center, stated that a network of existing resources would be developed to support the needs of incubator clients. At a given time, 6-10 clients would be served within the incubator. Four key objectives of BIIC@AIT include building prototypes of green technologies, creating proof of concept of green technology, devices and system, integration of AIT’s capacities, and innovative technological solutions to capacity building and community development, Prof. Weerakorn added.

The MoA was signed by Prof. Worsak and Mr. Chaiwat on 25

July 2017. BCP was represented by their top leadership including Mr. Chaiwat Kovavisarach, President, and CEO of BCP; Mr. Pongchai Chaichirawiwat, Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Operation Officer, Refinery Business Group; Mr. Somchai Tejavanija, Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer; and Mr. Yodphot Wongrukmit, Senior Executive Vice President, Corporate Management and Sustainable Development. Representing AIT at the event were Dr. Subin Pinkayan; Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai; Prof. Rajendra Prasad Shrestha, Prof. Weerakorn Ongsakul and Dr. Nikhil Sasidharan of SERD; Mr. Sanjeev Jayasinghe, Ms. Lucena Dante Talaid, and Ms. Sitahng Puttha of Office of Advancement; Mr. Shawn Kelly of Office of External Relations; and Mr. Bajinder Pal Singh and Mr. Samphat Semathong of the Office of Media and Communications.

[Read more...](#)

“We are moving towards a new era of wonder and discovery”
Mr. Chaiwat, CEO

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) Workshop

21st – 22nd November 2017, Kathmandu, Nepal

Associate Prof. Dr. Shobhakar Dhakal delivered a talk on “Energy situation in the HKH: Results from the HIMAP Assessment” at the ICIMOD workshop on “Hydropower-based collaboration in South Asia: Socio-economic development and electricity trade” organised by National University of Singapore (NUS) and ICIMOD at Kathmandu on 21st - 22nd November 2017.

The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the various ways

in which electricity cooperation and trade in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) can be enhanced further leading to long term benefits for the region.

The workshop highlighted cross-border electricity trade among the nations of South Asia, especially the BBIN region is attractive for a number of reasons.

The distinguished participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal deliberated on the

challenges and opportunities for cross-border electricity trade in the BBIN subregion said Dr. Shobhakar.

He added;

“Trust building, evidence-based information on benefits, finding win-win options, and showcasing few successful stories are needed.”

For more on ICIMOD,

[visit...](#)

[Read more...](#)

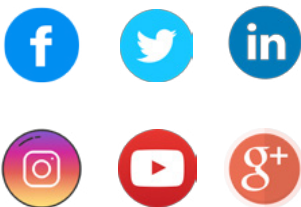


Dr. Shobhakar is the head and Associate Professor at the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change, School of Environment, Resources and Development, Asian Institute of Technology

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AIT Career Fair and SU Research Exhibition

1st November 2017

University career Fairs are a great way for the employers to connect with the AIT's talented graduate student population for a variety of opportunities, including part-time, summer, internship, and full-time positions. Likewise, for the students to learn and interact with the employers. It's the ultimate opportunity to secure an internship or job. Career Fair is a biannual event at AIT.

Such Career Fair is a premier opportunity for recruiters to get face-to-face with top-tier AIT students. Each year, numerous companies set up boot on campus to meet with and collect resumes from more than 1,000 attending students whose credentials are unrivaled.

This year's second AIT Career Fair & SU Research Exhibition was held on the 1st November

2017. Each Career Fair brings eager recruiters looking to hire AIT's students to campus. 31 companies, including 11 new participants from across the nation are represented, hoping to entice students to join their ranks. At least 3 companies conducted campus interviews for job placements as they interact with the students.

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Admission Deadline for January Semester 2018

10th December 2017

We are accepting application for the upcoming academic session.

The orientation/enrollment for the January Semester 2018 is scheduled on Friday 5th January

and the classes will begin on Monday 8th January

The deadline to apply for our graduate programmes is around the corner. Complete the

application today or bring it to the notice of the other aspirants to apply by Sunday 10th December 2017 to join us for the upcoming January Semester.

[Apply Now...](#)

Distinguished Alumni Awarded

In recognition of his service and outstanding technical contribution to the nation, the Managing Director of Bhutan Power Corporation Ltd, Gem Tshering, was awarded the Asian Institute of Technology Alumni Association

Distinguished Alumni Award in the Rural and Community Development category.

The award was presented during the 46th Governing Board Meeting held from 3rd - 6th November in Taipei, Taiwan.



IES-AIT MoU on Climate Change

The Institution of Engineers, Singapore (IES) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Asian Institute of Technology Thailand, to enable cooperation in promoting capacity building and project development in climate change through joint activities.

Both parties kicked off their collaborative partnership by signing a Memorandum of

Agreement (MoA) to deliver a professional development workshop on 'Managing Project Preparation for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation'. Targeted at senior level officials and executives responsible for climate change and mitigation projects, the workshop aims to deepen understanding and skillsets in project proposal preparation to facilitate acquisition of financing from the growing pool of climate resources in the region. The inaugural workshop will be held

in Singapore in 2018.

This MoU represents another significant step forward in IES' continuous efforts to strengthen global resilience towards the impact of climate change through engineering. Since 2013, IES has held the World Engineers Summit every two years in Singapore, to facilitate engineering-led discussions amongst the world's engineering communities, to drive global climate action and sustainable urban development.

Source: [openPR](#)

In the next issue



Special Lecture



For feedback, contact
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