EECC Department, AIT Re-Opened on 1st July 2020

AIT re-opened its campus on 1st July 2020, after a 3-months long closure of its premises since mid of March until end of June, on account of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Coping with the new normal, AIT moved to a special Hybrid Instruction System with the installation of a number of Smart Modified Classrooms (SMCs). EECC Department is conducting interactive hybrid (both online & on-campus) classes and exams seamlessly with the help of these SMCs.

Appointment of the New Dean of School of Environment, Resources and Development (SERD)

Prof. Shobhakar Dhakal from Sustainable Energy Transition Program (SE), EECC Department, has been appointed as the new Dean of School of Environment, Resources and Development (SERD), AIT, effective from 1st July 2020.
**Freshwater Mangrove Museum Established @ AIT**

A unique Freshwater Mangrove Museum was launched on the edges of the West Lake at AIT, by AIT’s Student Union (AIT-SU), supported by partner Thai Pipe Industry Co., on 30th July 2020. EECC Department appreciates the academic work of our PhD student from CCSD Program, Ms. Arlene Gonzales, under the guidance of Dr. Oleg Shipin, from EEM Program, for their massive contribution in the establishment of this museum.

**EECC Department Welcomes New Students of Fall Semester August 2020**

EECC Department organized a special hybrid orientation program on 4th August 2020 to welcome the new students of August Semester. Around 40 new students participated in-person in the hybrid event and more than 40 overseas students took part in the program virtually from 14 countries across the world.

**Prof. C. Visvanathan Awarded “the WM&R Rising Star Award 2019” By SAGE & WM&R**

Prof. C. Visvanathan, and his Research Associate, from EEM Program, have been awarded the ‘WM&R Rising Star Award 2019’ for their paper, “Management strategies for anaerobic digestate of organic fraction of municipal solid waste: Current status and future prospects”.

**Read Complete Paper**

**Read more**

**AIT Signed MoU with NRCT & 6 Thai Provinces**

AIT signed an MoU with National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) and 6 Provinces of Thailand to cooperate on the research project - “Integrated Assessment of SDGs Using Earth Observation Technology for Bangkok Metropolitan Region” on Sunday, 2nd August, at the Thailand Research Expo 2020, Bangkok. Dr. Wenchao Xue, and Dr. Ekbordin Winijkul, from EEM Program, are among the Co-PI of the project, also attended the event.

**Read more**
MoU & MoA Signing Between AIT and ULAB

AIT has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and a specific Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), Dhaka, to launch an International Unified Bachelor’s-Master’s Degree Program, initiated under the Bangabandhu Chair, on 1st September 2020.

MoU Signing Between AIT and PEA

AIT has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA) of Thailand to support employees of PEA to study Masters and PhD programs at AIT under the SE Program, on 9th September 2020.

MPA Program Conducted 1st Lab Sessions

Newly launched Marine Plastics Abatement Program, EECC Department conducted the 1st Waste segregation laboratory sessions in September, as a part of 1st Course Module of the MPA program, led by Prof. Chongrak Polprasert and Dr. Pok Tatchai, EEM Program.

MPA-EEM Program Field Visit to Rayong

MPA-EEM Program, from EECC Department conducted a field visit to Wang Wa -The Zero Waste Village, in the Rayong province of Thailand during 18th - 20th September 2020.

During their visit, our faculty & students participated in the ‘International Coastal Cleanup 2020 Campaign’, by cleaning up the wastes from the Sang-Jun Beach in Rayong. They also visited the Marine Resource Research Center, and the East Thai Gulf Coast in Rayong.
Prof. Thammarat Koottatep, Academic Chair - MPA Program, EECC Department, Asian Institute of Technology, spoke on the "Emerging Technologies Onsite Wastewater Treatment" at the webinar on "Training on Technical Aspects of Domestic and Industrial Wastewater Treatment", during 100 Tahun ITB Pendidikan Tinggi Teknik di Indonesia (PTTI) Event organized by Bandung Institute of Technology, Indonesia, on Wednesday 8th July 2020.


Dr. P. Abdul Salam, Head of the Department – EECC, from SE Program, was invited to present a lecture on “Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) for Sustainable Development and Climate Change Mitigation” at the Short-term Staff Training Programme on Recent Trends in Energy Conversion Technologies (SSTP-RTECT 2020), organized by Curtin University Malaysia, Sarawak Malaysia, during 13th - 19th July 2020.

Emeritus Professor Chongrak Polprasert, and Prof. C. Visvanathan and Prof. Thammarat Koottatep, from EEM-MPA Program were invited by PTT Global Chemicals (PTTGC) to give online presentations in a special seminar on “Plastic Waste Management” to “Young Entrepreneurs” in the plastic industry and PTTGC staff, on 24th July 2020.

Prof. Joyashree Roy, delivered a webinar session on the topic “Covid-19 and Sustainable Development in Developing Country Context: Special Reference To India”, organized by Adamas University, School of Basic & Applied Sciences, Department of Physics, Kolkata, India, on Saturday, 25th July 2020.
**EVENTS**

Prof. Shobhakar Dhakal, Dean-SERD, SE Program, was interviewed by UN’s National Public Radio (NPR) Channel - “Everyone Loves The Chat Box: How Climate Science Moved Online”, on Monday, 3rd August 2020.

Prof. Shobhakar Dhakal, Dean-SERD, SE Program, virtually delivered a presentation on “Case Study for High Proportion Solar PV Utilization: Thailand” at the “Warm up Seminar for China-ASEAN Clean Energy Capacity Building Programme 2020 Exchange Project”, SNEC 2020 PV Power Expo, Shanghai, on Saturday, 8th August 2020.

Regional Energy Resources Information Center (RERIC), Sustainable Energy Transition Program, Asian Institute of Technology, organized a hybrid one-day training course on “IoT and AI for Energy Professionals: Data Analytics and Machine Learning Applications in the Energy Sector”, on Saturday, 15th August 2020. The main objective of the course was to address the emerging and exciting applications of IoT in the energy sector. The course was presented by Dr. Warodom Khamphanchai, CEO and Co-Founder, AltoTech Co., Ltd., and Prof. Sivanappan Kumar, SE Program, Asian Institute of Technology.

Dr. Ekbordin Winijkul, Academic Chair, EEM Program, virtually presented at a webinar on “Emissions Inventory Development of Inland Water Transport in Bangkok, Thailand”, organized by Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) in collaboration with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Thailand Pollution Control Department, Bangkok, Thailand, on Thursday, 20th August 2020.

Prof. Joyashree Roy, Bangabandhu Chair Professor, AIT, virtually presented at a webinar on “Change Framing Development Issues Towards Sustainable Development”, organized by St. Xavier’s University, Department of Economics, Faculty of Arts and Social Studies, Kolkata, India, on Saturday, 29th August 2020.

Prof. C. Visvanathan, from EEM Program, virtually addressed at the launching event of “Dialogues on Sustainable Lifestyle for Sustainable Consumption and Production with an Additional Focus on COVID-19, and Pilot Run of a Certificate Program on Circular Economy”, organized by UNESCAP, Bangkok, on Wednesday, 2nd September 2020. SWITCH-Asia, supported by the European Union (EU), United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), and the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) have joined forces to launch an online series of Policy Dialogues on Sustainable Lifestyles in Asia and offline courses on the Circular Economy. Prof. Visu will be leading the circular economy component of the series.

Prof. Shobhakar Dhakal, was invited to join in the meeting with Rt. Hon. Speaker of House of Representatives of Nepal; Mr. Agni Prasad Sapkota, Members of the Parliament, Former Ministers, Current and Former Members of National Planning Commission, and Other Distinguished audiences to discuss “the preliminary findings of COVID-19’s impact to Nepal’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”. The event was hosted by Mid-Western University, on account of the National Science Day on Thursday, 17th September 2020.
Prof. Thammarat Koottatep, Academic Chair, MPA Program, was invited as the lead speaker at a special webinar on “Regenerative Sanitation: A New Paradigm for Sanitation 4.0”, organized by Vishwakarma University, Pune, India, on Thursday, 17th September 2020.

Prof. Shobhakar Dhakal, Dean SERD, SE Program, was invited to speak on “Renewable Energy Development in Thailand” at the online Workshop on ‘Energy Transition and Scaling-up Renewable Energy’, organized by APEC-Sustainable Energy Center at the Tianjin University, China, on Friday, 18th September 2020.

Prof. Shobhakar Dhakal, Dean SERD, SE Program, was invited to the UN-ESCAP’s “Virtual Expert Group Meeting on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation for Transport in Asia and the Pacific” on Tuesday, 22nd September 2020. “Asia and the Pacific region's transport sector's GHG mitigation potentials are largely unquantified. Moreover, the thrust on 'avoid' and 'shift' measures are yet on the back-bench with limited successes on the "improve" strategies. More knowledge products will clearly help the decision makers.” - Prof. Shobhakar Dhakal.


The Asian Institute of Technology is organizing the International Conference on Utilities and Exhibition (ICUE) 2020 with the theme - “Energy, Environment and Climate Change”, from 20th - 22nd October 2020. Due to the prevailing covid-19 pandemic, the conference venue has been moved from Pattaya City, Thailand to Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), and it will delivered in a Hybrid mode (participants attending the event at AIT following proper social distancing protocol & participants attending the event online from their home countries).

The ICUE 2020 Conference will be a venue to exchange research ideas, experiences and discuss technical, social, financial, economic and policy issues covering energy utilization and its effect to the environment and climate change. The conference will mainly focus on the topics related to energy resources and technology, energy policy, environment and climate change.
With the launch of AIT’s new 1-year Master’s Degree in Marine Plastics Abatement under EEM Program, a series of Special Introductory Hybrid Seminars were held by Marine Plastics Abatement Program (MPA), Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Change, SERD, AIT, during 10th - 27th August 2020:

- “Challenges in Marine Plastics Abatement and Japanese Experiences”- By Mr. Suga Yoshinori, First Secretary, Alternate Permanent Representative of Japan to ESCAP, Embassy of Japan, Bangkok on Monday, 10th August 2020.

- “Geoinformatics in Plastic Leakage Analysis & Data Visualization - A UNEP Project” - By Dr. Kavinda Gunasekara, Associate Director, Geoinformatics Center, Affiliated Faculty, SERD, AIT, on Thursday, 13th August 2020.

- “Challenges and Ways Forward on Marine Plastics Abatement in Thailand and Developing Countries” - By Dr. Wijarn Simachaya, President, Thailand Environment Institute (TEI), Bangkok, on Friday, 14th August 2020.


- “Non-recyclable Plastics: Key Challenges in Marine Plastics Abatement?” - By Dr. Kare Helge Karstensen, Chief Scientist, SINTEF, Norway, on Thursday, 20th August 2020.


- “Global and Regional Governance in Marine Litters and Plastic Pollution”- By Mr. Jerker Tamelander, Coordinator, Secretariat of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), United Nations Environment Programme, Bangkok, on Monday, 24th August 2020.


- “Roles of Industries and Industrial Innovations in Marine Plastics Abatement” - By Mr. Paradorn Chulajata, Managing Director, Prepack Thailand Co. Ltd., Bangkok, on Friday, 28th August 2020.

- “Plastic Pollution: We are the Problem - We are the Solution” - By Dr. Nguyen Minh Duc, Project Officer, WWF-Viet Nam, on Friday, 28th August 2020.
AIT has joined WON project in solving the problem of plastic waste in Thailand. WON works with the concept of ‘Circular Economy’ which focuses on efficient waste management system involving collection and recycling of plastic waste into a reusable renewable resource. EECC Department’s newly launched MPA Program joined the project to collect plastic wastes from AIT residents for recycling; a step initiated by our research staffs, Mr. Thanapat Jansakoo and Ms. Nichakul Phosirikul, from EEM program.

PUBLICATIONS
(July - September 2020)


An article on ‘Spatial and temporal variability of sedimentary nutrients in relation to regional development in the urbanizing lower Chao Phraya watersheds of Thailand’, co-authored by Dr. Wenchao Xue, from EEM Program, is published in the Journal of Soils and Sediments.

A co-authored article on ‘Up-concentration of wastewater to maximize biogas potential: A step towards positive energy wastewater treatment’, by Prof. C. Visvanathan, from EEM Program, is published in the Journal of Water Process Engineering.

An article on ‘Preface to the CESE 2018 special issue: Environmental technologies for pollution prevention and waste treatment’, co-authored by Prof. Chettiyappan Visvanathan, EEM Program is published in the Journal of Environmental Management.

An article on ‘COVID-19 Lockdown: Lessons learnt using multiple air quality monitoring station data from Kolkata City in India’, co-authored by Bangabandhu Chair Professor Joyashree Roy is published online in the Research Square platform.


An Article on ‘India can increase its mitigation ambition: An analysis based on historical evidence of decoupling between emission and economic growth’, co-authored by Bangabandhu Chair Professor Joyashree Roy is published online in the ‘Energy for Sustainable Development Journal’, Volume 57, August 2020, by Elsevier.

A new MESfIA Report on the “Administrative Work Regarding the Legal Recognition of the Enhanced Programs”, co-authored by Prof. Shobhakar Dhakal, Prof. Sivanappan Kumar, Dr. Jai Govind Singh, from SE Program, and Ms. Pallavi Das, Research Associate - MESfIA Project, AIT, is published.
Admissions Open For January 2021

The Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Change is accepting applications for the January 2021 Semester. Sign up to learn how a degree from AIT can help you meet your personal and career goals.

The application deadline is 30 November 2020 (for overseas applicants requiring an educational visa). For more information on the admission process at AIT, please log on to https://www.ait.ac.th/admissions/.

Hear from Our Alumni ...

“AIT is the best choice when you want to be a global citizen in the future. I have learned lots of things from both academics and cultures from other lecturers and classmates who come from different countries. Environmental Engineering and Management program gave me lots of good memories. Both instructors and staff fully support us as much as they could. If you want to be a proactive person, AIT is the answer.”

Mr. Thanapat Jansakoo, 2020
Research Associate @ AIT, Thailand

“My memories in AIT are filled with joy and happiness in a multicultural environment. The course structure of the Sustainable Energy Transition program (formerly Energy) has broadened my knowledge and inspired me to become a transdisciplinary scientist, as well as provided me good opportunities for my higher studies.”

Ms. Wipa Loengbudnark, 2013
Ph.D. candidate @ University of Technology Sydney (UTS), Australia

“The green AIT campus with diverse multi-cultural environment gave me an opportunity to interact with people from across the world. The facilities are good, with spacious student dorms & food outlets with multi-national cuisines. Faculties are very supportive and always gave me good advice and instruction throughout the period of my Master’s degree in Climate Change and Sustainable Development program at AIT.”

Ms. Tieng Thida, 2014
Climate Change Adaption Officer @ the Ministry of Environment in Cambodia

“AIT has a diverse academic and multi-cultural environment. During my Masters in CCSD Program, I have learned various aspects of climate change and developed enormous skills through research and studies, which helped me not only in finding a prospective job but also to deal with these issues for the betterment of mankind.”

Mr. Qurban Aliyar, 2018
Assistant Professor @ Bamyan University, Afghanistan

---

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change (EECC),
School of Environment, Research and Development (SERD)
Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)
58 Moo 9, Km 42, Paholyothin Highway, Khlong Luang, Pathum Thani, Thailand
Tel: +66 2 524 5440, 5407, 5642, 5646

Editors: Dr. P. Abdul Salam
Mrs. Barnali Dutta
Designer: Mrs. Barnali Dutta

*Photo Courtesy: Asian Institute of Technology