A GLOBAL ISSUE OF OUR TIME
Plastic pollution is one of the greatest problems affecting the marine environment today. A staggering 8 million tons of plastic ends up in the world’s oceans every year, according to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The top 6 countries in the world that discharge the most plastic debris into the ocean are in Asia, according to scientific research. The specialized MPA program seeks to empower young Asian practitioners, social entrepreneurs, officials and professionals who can play significant roles in marine plastic abatement, which is a key for attaining a number of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

ABOUT THE PROGRAM
The Master’s in Marine Plastics Abatement (MPA) Program aims to train a new generation of environmental leaders who will help combat marine plastic litter with advanced technologies and management practices. The MPA Program is a 1-year Master degree program designed to address and achieve the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

The program will provide individual coaching, creative working space, field exposures and tailor-made guidance to the students. It consists of preparatory (e-learning) courses, e-learning modules and provocative discussions with field exposures and an Intensive Summer (Winter) School Program (ISSP). The MPA will focus not only on technology of plastic waste treatment but also incorporate business management, circular economy, finance, leadership, and marine science into the program.

RESEARCH FOCUS AREAS
- Fate of plastic wastes in dumpsites, landfills, river, and coastal zones
- Circular economy in plastic waste management
- Health-care plastic wastes & COVID-19
- Material flow analysis of plastics in different communities
- Applications and effects of bioplastics and its byproducts
- Stakeholder engagement in plastic value chains
- Plastics to materials innovations
- Effects of marine plastic litters on coastal livelihoods
- Health implications of nano- and micro-plastics
- Sustainable business model
- Behavioral changes in plastic uses, reuse, recycle and disposal
MARINE PLASTICS ABATEMENT AT AIT

Marine Plastics Abatement is a new AIT Master program offered in August 2020 under the Environmental Engineering and Management Program (EEM), Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change. MPA is supported by the Government of Japan as a step towards its “MARINE initiative” with regard to the realization of the “Osaka Blue Ocean Vision” shared at the G20 Osaka Summit, aimed at reducing additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050.

The MPA Program focuses on:
- Management of Wastes
- Recovery of Marine Litter
- Innovation
- Empowerment

The program will partner with and involve experts from academia, UN agencies, international organizations, NGOs and industry from Japan, Thailand and other countries. MPA students and graduates will also benefit from involvement with Thai and international initiatives such as The Plastic Initiative by UNESCO, PPP Plastic by Thai Plastic Industry Club, OPTOCE by SINTEF Norway, and Counter Measure for Plastic Free Rivers by the United Nations Environment Programme.

Graduates and trained professionals from the MPA program, together with experts from Japan and other countries, will form the planned ‘Global Marine Plastic Alliance’ – a regional network think-tank providing technical expertise, policy guidance and professional consultation on the ocean plastic issue.

WHO CAN APPLY

The program will welcome candidates from developing countries with
- A Bachelor degree (four-year program or equivalent) in relevant field of study from an institution of good standing acceptable to AIT
- Undergraduate grades significantly above average (GPA > 2.75 or equivalent)
- Satisfactory physical and mental health
- Work experience (if any) in areas related to waste management, plastic industry, pollution control, businesses on reuse/recycle/recovery of wastes, marine ecosystems, waste-to-energy, waste-to-resources, etc.

CERTIFICATION

Students who successfully complete the courses and research requirements will be awarded the Master’s degree in Marine Plastic Abatement.

CONTACT US

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