

# SIIT News

Thammasat University

A quarterly newsletter of SIRINDHORN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
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## SIIT New Student Orientation and Academic Excellence Awards Presentation, Academic Year 2005

The orientation for new students of the Academic Year 2005 was held on Saturday June 11, 2005, at Lecture Auditorium 4, Thammasat University, Rangsit Center. This year, SIIT admitted 580 new students. Over 1,000 students and their guardians participated in the orientation. They were briefly informed of SIIT academic policies, regulations and procedures, and the facilities of SIIT at both Rangsit and Bangkadi campuses. New students were also led by their academic advisors to visit SIIT's facilities at Rangsit campus, such as offices of Academic Services Division, Student Affairs Division, Department of Common and Graduate Studies, International Office and Training Unit, Registration Division, offices of the faculty members and academic programs, the Computer Center, the Library and Information Services Center, classrooms, laboratories, and student clubs.

As part of the orientation, the four-year continuing scholarships under the cooperation of the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) and SIIT were presented to 9 new students and the Sirindhorn Technology Scholarships were presented to 52 new students. The SIIT Academic Excellence Awards were also presented to 19 outstanding students (freshmen and sophomore classes).



## Visit of the Delegation from the University of Maryland



SIIT was very pleased to welcome Prof. Dr. C. D. Mote, Jr., the President of the University of Maryland and Prof. Dr. Saul Sosnowski, the Director of the Office of International Programs, as special guests on June 22, 2005. Prof. Dr. Mote gave a special lecture on "University – Science and Technology Park Linkages" to students and faculty members of SIIT. He presented how the University of Maryland established a Science and Technology Park. On the same occasion, Ms. Sri-Anan Wannasen, from the National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (BIOTEC) presented information regarding BIOTEC.

From Left: Prof. Dr. Somnuk Tangtermsirikul, Deputy Director of SIIT; Prof. Dr. Sawasd Tantaratana, Director of SIIT; Prof. Dr. C. D. Mote, Jr., the President of the University of Maryland; Prof. Dr. Saul Sosnowski, the Director of the Office of International Programs, the University of Maryland; and Dr. Chawalit Jeenanunta from the School of Information and Management Technology, SIIT.

## SIIT Day 2005

On June 28, 1996, His Majesty the King graciously granted the name "Sirindhorn International Institute of Technology" to the Institute. This year, the Institute celebrated "SIIT Day" on Tuesday June 28, 2005. The ceremony was held at the SIIT Main Building, Thammasat University, Rangsit Center. At the ceremony, the 2004 Best Teaching Awards were presented to two faculty members of SIIT, Asst. Prof. Dr. Junalux Chalidabhongse and Dr. Pisanu Toochinda, and 37 academic excellence awards (8 gold medals and 29 silver medals) were presented to the SIIT graduates of the academic year 2004 and the current fourth-year students. The awards were presented based on their academic performance in the academic year 2004.

On this special occasion, a special lecture on "Know More About Tsunami" was presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pennung Warnitchai from the School of Civil Engineering, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok.



In addition, SIIT students, faculty members and staff jointly organized and participated in the Toothpick Bridge Competition, Floating Vessel Competition, Glider Competition, Spelling Bee Competition, and Talent Show Contest.



## 2004 Best Teaching Awards



As part of the "SIIT Day 2005" celebration, on June 28, 2005, the Institute presented the 2004 Best Teaching Awards to Asst. Prof. Dr. Junalux Chalidabhongse and Dr. Pisanu Toochinda.

Asst. Prof. Dr. Junalux Chalidabhongse is a full-time faculty member of the School of Information and Management Technology and has been the Assistant Director for Student Affairs since October 2003. Dr. Junalux received her Ph.D. Degree in Engineering-Economic Systems and Operations Research from Stanford University, CA, USA. In the academic year 2004, Dr. Junalux taught three courses: Introduction to Decision Support Systems, Foundation of Information Systems, and Introduction to Quantitative Analysis.

This year, Dr. Junalux also received the Award for the Outstanding Teacher in Science & Technology of the Academic Year 2004 from Thammasat University. Dr. Junalux received her first Best Teaching Award from SIIT in the Academic Year 2000, which was presented to her on "SIIT Day 2001".

Dr. Pisanu Toochinda is a full-time lecturer of the School of Bio-chemical Engineering and Technology. Dr. Pisanu received his Ph.D. Degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Akron, Ohio, USA. In the academic year 2004, Dr. Pisanu taught four courses: Chemistry for Engineers, General Science I, General Science II, and Pre-Mathematics.





## Faculty Promotion – Associate Professor

Asst. Prof. Dr. Somrote Komolavanij was promoted to the academic rank of Associate Professor on April 11, 2005. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Somrote joined SIIT in October 1995. He is now the Acting Head of the School of Information and Management Technology (IMT) of SIIT. He received his B.Eng. Degree in Chemical Engineering from Chulalongkorn University, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Industrial Engineering from the University of Texas at Arlington, USA. Dr. Somrote's research areas include engineering economy, quality control, and operations research.

## New Faculty Members

Dr. Jeff Webb joined SIIT as a full-time assistant professor of the Department of Common and Graduate Studies in May 2005. He will conduct research and teach various physics and mathematics courses. Dr. Webb received his Ph.D. Degree in Physics from the University of Strathclyde in Scotland, UK. His research interests are in theoretical and computational studies of ferroelectrics and nanoscale structures and devices. He is also interested in foundational issues in physics such as better ways to understand quantum mechanics, the traditional interpretation of which has no clear physical meaning, despite the well-established mathematical basis.



Dr. Cholwich Nattee joined SIIT as a full-time lecturer of the School of Information and Management Technology in June 2005. Dr. Cholwich attained his D.Eng. Degree in Computer Science from the Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan. His research areas include artificial intelligence, machine learning, knowledge discovery and data mining, and AI applications in distance learning.



## New English Instructor of the SIIT English Training Unit



Mr. Clement Trahan joined the English Training Unit of SIIT as a full-time English Instructor in June 2005. Mr. Trahan graduated with a Bachelor of Social Science (honors) from the Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia and with a Bachelor of Commerce (honors) from the University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada. He received his Master of Arts in Education (honors) from Rocheville University, Rocheville, New York. He also holds a TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language) certificate.

Being fluent in the English, French and German languages, Mr. Trahan has taught in Europe, Canada, and the USA. With 30 years of teaching experience, Mr. Trahan looks forward to sharing his knowledge with the SIIT students and staff. His areas of academic and professional interest include Socio-cultural Studies, English proficiency for academic purposes and communication.

## SIIT Graduate Receives Keio Graduate Scholarship to Study in Japan

Ms. Anwida Prompijit, who recently graduated from the SIIT Electrical Engineering Program, has been selected as a recipient of the Keio Graduate Scholarship for the academic year 2005. She was accepted to study at Keio University, Tokyo, as a full time student of the Japanese Language Program, in the spring semester, 2005, prior to joining the master's degree program of the Graduate School of Science and Technology, Keio University.



## SIIT Students Receive Awards from Siam Michelin for Outstanding Projects



Four SIIT students were trained by Siam Michelin Company Limited under the outstanding invention project “ยอดนักคิดกับมิชลิน” during the summer semester of academic year 2004. Three of them received the awards for outstanding projects from Siam Michelin at a ceremony held on June 20, 2005. Ms. Siriporn Warakorn from the Electrical Power Engineering program and Mr. Watchara Anantaphruti from the Mechanical Engineering program received the first runner-up award (10,000 baht for each student) for the Mechanical and Electrical Engineering project. Mr. Suranam Parnichakarn from the Industrial Engineering program received the second runner-up award (8,000 baht) for the Industrial Engineering project. The Siam Michelin Company Limited also presented a scholarship of 28,000 baht to SIIT.

## Exchange Students from Finland, France, Germany and Japan



Mr. J. Huuskonen and Mr. M. Laisola

In the 1<sup>st</sup>/2005 semester, two students from Finland, two students from France, three students from Germany, and two students from Japan enrolled as exchange students at SIIT.

Mr. Jari Huuskonen and Mr. Mikael Laisola from Helsinki Polytechnic, Finland, enrolled to take courses of the Information Technology Curriculum and Industrial Engineering Curriculum, respectively.



Mr. M.L. Tannou and Mr. R. Letovsky

Mr. Mathieu Lee Tannou and Mr. Rodolphe Letovsky from the Institut Supérieur d'Electronique de Paris (ISEP), Catholic University of Paris, France, enrolled as exchange students of the Communications Curriculum.



Mr. B.P. Schwab



Mr. T. Raps



Mr. J. Schafknecht

Mr. Bastian Peter Schwab from the Technische Universität Darmstadt and Mr. Tobias Raps from the Technische Universität Muenchen, Germany, enrolled to take courses of the Mechanical Engineering Curriculum. Mr. Jurgen Schafknecht from the University of Applied Sciences at Ravensburg-Weingarten, Germany, enrolled as an exchange student of the Management Technology Curriculum.

Mr. Tsuyoshi Itagaki from Kochi University of Technology, Japan, enrolled to take courses of the Communications Curriculum. In addition, Mr. Koji Daigo from Saitama University of Technology, Japan, enrolled as an exchange student to conduct a research project at the School of Civil Engineering and Technology.



Mr. T. Itagaki and Mr. K. Daigo

### The SIIT News is published quarterly by SIIT.

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