

# SIIT News

Thammasat University

A quarterly newsletter of SIRINDHORN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
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**Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn** graciously granted an audience to the Chairman of the SIIT Board of Trustees and the Rector of Thammasat University, Professor Dr. Surapon Nitikraipot, who led the team of SIIT trustees, SIIT Director and senior executives, to report on the development of SIIT with the supportive cooperation of Thammasat University, the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI), and Nippon Keidanren (The Japanese Business Federation). On this occasion, the Princess was presented with donations for Her Royal Highness's foundations.

## Expression of Appreciation to the Former Chairman of the SIIT Board of Trustees and SIIT Trustees



SIIT Trustees at the 7<sup>th</sup>/2004 Meeting of the SIIT Board of Trustees, chaired by Associate Professor Dr. Naris Chaiyasoot, the Rector of Thammasat University (TU) and the Chairman of the SIIT Board of Trustees, on September 29, 2004.

Sirindhorn International Institute of Technology (SIIT) wishes to express its sincere gratitude to Associate Professor Dr. Naris Chaiyasoot, the former Rector of Thammasat University (TU) and the former Chairman of the SIIT Board of Trustees, for his years of guidance and strong support in the operation and development of SIIT. Associate Professor Dr. Naris was the Rector of TU and the Chairman of the SIIT Board of Trustees from August 20, 1998 to September 30, 2004.

The Institute also expresses its deep appreciation to the three former SIIT trustees from TU, Associate Prof. Dr. Bhanupong Nidhiprabha (the former Vice Rector for Academic Affairs), Assistant Professor Praphatsorn Leoparote (the former Vice Rector for

Finance), and Assistant Professor Dr. Chirapan Boonyakiat (the former Vice Rector for International Affairs), for their advice and support in the operation and development of SIIT.

We would like to extend our very best wishes to Associate Professor Dr. Naris, Associate Prof. Dr. Bhanupong, Assistant Professor Praphatsorn, and Assistant Professor Dr. Chirapan for success in all their future endeavors.

## Welcoming the New Chairman of SIIT Board of Trustees and New Trustees from Thammasat University

SIIT is very pleased to welcome the new Chairman of the SIIT Board of Trustees and Rector of Thammasat University, Professor Dr. Surapon Nitikraipot, and also to welcome three new SIIT trustees from Thammasat University, Associate Professor Dr. Taweep Chaisomphob (Vice Rector for Academic Affairs), Associate Professor Anchalee Pipatanasern (Vice Rector for Finance), and Associate Professor Dr. Pimpan Vessakosol (Vice Rector for International Affairs).

Professor Dr. Surapon Nitikraipot was the former Dean of the Faculty of Law, Thammasat University. As the legal advisor of SIIT from March 1, 1994 to September 30, 2004, he contributed significantly to the development of SIIT. We are looking forward to the further development of SIIT under Professor Dr. Surapon's guidance and support.



SIIT Trustees at the 8<sup>th</sup>/2004 Meeting of the SIIT Board of Trustees, chaired by Professor Dr. Surapon Nitikraipot, the Rector of Thammasat University (TU) and the Chairman of the SIIT Board of Trustees, on December 3, 2004.

## Scholarships Granted to SIIT Undergraduate Students

In the academic year 2003, SIIT granted 252 scholarships amounting to 7,869,725 baht from the "Sirindhorn Technology Scholarships Fund" and "Keidanren Scholarships Fund" to 161 SIIT undergraduate students.

In addition, 29 students received scholarships sponsored by individuals, foundations and business corporations, totaling 714,500 baht. SIIT wishes to express its sincere thanks to the following scholarship donors: The Siam Cement PCL, Mr. Y. Togo's Fund (Toyota, Japan), Prof. Dr. Adul Wichiencharoen and His Former Students' Foundation, MMC Sittipol Co., Ltd. (Mitsubishi), Ms. Kanchanee Wibulswas, Siam City Bank PCL, Thai Military Bank PCL, The National Council on Social Welfare of Thailand Under Royal Patronage, Toyota Motor Thailand Co., Ltd., and the UFJ Foundation (Japan).

Out of 1,596 undergraduate students of the academic year 2003, 190 students (11.9% of the students) received scholarships. In each academic year, SIIT provides scholarships to approximately 10% of its undergraduate students.

## A Most Cited Paper in the Field of Engineering by an SIIT Faculty Member

With great pleasure we would like to inform the SIIT community that an article published in the Journal of Hazardous Materials entitled "Low cost adsorbents for heavy metals uptake from contaminated water: a review" by Sandhya Babel and Tonni A. Kurniawan of the Environmental Technology Program has been identified as one of the most cited papers in the field of Engineering by ISI Essential Science Indicators. Information can be viewed at <http://esitopics.com/fbp/2004/december04-SandhyaBabel.html>.



*SIIT extends congratulations to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sandhya Babel.*

## Faculty Promotion

Assistant Professor Dr. Sandhya Babel was promoted to the academic rank of Associate Professor on December 7, 2004. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Babel joined the Environmental Technology Program of SIIT in December 2000. She received her B.Sc. (1<sup>st</sup> Class) in Biology/Chemistry and M.Sc. in Biochemistry from the University of Indore, India, and an M.Sc. and D.Tech.Sc. in Environmental Technology and Management from the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand. Dr. Babel's research areas include membrane technology, solid and hazardous waste management, water and wastewater treatment, and environmental impact assessment.

## New Faculty Members

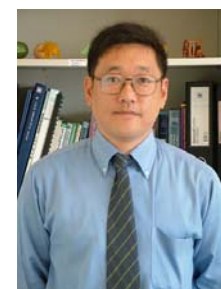
Dr. Jonggol Jarupatrakorn and Dr. Thawatchai Onjun joined SIIT as full-time lecturers of the Department of Common and Graduate Studies in October 2004.

Dr. Jonggol Jarupatrakorn attained her Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of California at Berkeley, California, USA. Her research areas include materials and solid-state chemistry, with particular emphasis on the synthesis and characterization of new materials with interesting novel properties.



Dr. Thawatchai Onjun obtained his Ph.D. in Physics from Lehigh University, Pennsylvania, USA. His research areas are theoretical and computational plasma physics.

Dr. Toshiaki Kondo joined SIIT as a full-time lecturer of the School of Communications, Instrumentations and Control in October 2004. He received his Ph.D. in Image Processing from the National University of Singapore, Singapore. Dr. Kondo's research areas include digital image processing, computer vision, and pattern recognition.



## Academic Excellence Scholarships Awarded By the Siam Cement PCL

The Siam Cement PCL annually awards scholarships for academic excellence to students from Chulalongkorn University (CU), Thammasat University (TU), Kasetsart University (KU), King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang (KMITL), King Mongkut's Institute of Technology North Bangkok (KMITNB), King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT), and Sirindhorn International Institute of Technology (SIIT).

This year, on November 17, the company presented scholarships to 17 outstanding fourth-year students of SIIT in Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Environmental Technology, and Information Technology programs. The scholarships of 30,000 baht/student were awarded to students ranked first for their 3 years of study. The scholarships of 20,000 baht/student were awarded to students ranked second with cumulative GPA equal to or not less than 3.25 or ranked the third with cumulative GPA equal to or not less than 3.50 for their 3 years of study. We would like to express our appreciation to the Siam Cement PCL for the scholarships awarded to our students.



Mr. Kan Trakulhoon, the Vice President of Siam Cement PCL presented a scholarship certificate to Ms. Priyanka Kohly, the award recipient of the 1<sup>st</sup> rank in the IE Program of SIIT.



Standing Row, from left: Ms. Unyane Poolap, Ms. Pajaree Kewcharoenwong, Ms. Priyanka Kohly, Mr. Weerawut Thanhikam, Mr. Siva Chaivichitmalakul, Mr. Paitoon Wongsasutthikul, Mr. Narerdol Aursudkij, Mr. Padonchat Mekarporn, Ms. Anwida Prompijit, Ms. Khanittra Tanyakosetsuk, and Ms. Sasivimon Chotinantasaeth.

Middle Row, from left: Ms. Ramita Suteekarn, Mrs. Mattana Leongnarkongdee (Corporate Relations Manager, Siam Cement), Mr. Kan Trakulhoon (Vice President, Siam Cement), Dr. Jonggol Jarupatrakorn (Representative of SIIT Scholarships Committee), Ms. Raywadee Kaewmanee (Student Affairs staff, SIIT), Mr. Manoon Sunkunakorn (Corporate Human Resources Division Manager, Siam Cement).

Front Row, from left: Mr. Chaiyaporn Silawatchananai, Mr. Sivapoom Pongphaiboon, Mr. Somyod Songwatanakumjorn, Mr. Preeda Kahutnaseth, and Mr. Ithipol Suriyawongkul.

## Scholarships from The Professor Dr. Adul Wichiencharoen and His Former Students' Foundation

The Professor Dr. Adul Wichiencharoen and His Former Students' Foundation annually grants more than 50 scholarships of 7,500 Baht per student per year to the undergraduate students of Thammasat University. This scholarship program is one of the foundation's activities to contribute to society.

This year, Professor Dr. Adul Wichiencharoen presided over the scholarship awarding ceremony held on August 25, 2004. Three of the scholarship recipients were from SIIT: Ms. Narissara Sae-Loke from the Management Technology Program, Mr. Analayo Korsakul from the Information Technology Program and Mr. Akerat Sartjareesakul from the Mechanical Engineering Program.



## SIIT English Training Unit



Mr. T. J. Downey

The English Training Unit (ETU) is part of the Common and Graduate Studies Department. The ETU is responsible for preparing and conducting the core English courses that are required of all SIIT students. In addition to our three full-time English instructors, Mr. Terrance John Downey, Mr. William H. Ebbesen, and Mr. Paul Vincent Neilson, the Language Institute of Thammasat University (TU) provides a number of English instructors to co-teach up to 6 different English courses for SIIT students.

All SIIT English instructors are from the United States. Mr. Downey holds a Humanities BA from Harvard University and a Humanities MA from San Francisco State University. Mr. Downey taught in the ESL Program at City College in San Francisco prior to coming to Thailand seven years ago with the Worldteach Program at Harvard University.



Mr. W. H. Ebbesen

Mr. Ebbesen received his Bachelor of Science in Secondary English Education and History and Master of Arts in English/Writing from Northern Michigan University.

Mr. Neilson attained his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the California Polytechnic State University (SLO) and Master of Science in Chemistry from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech). Mr. Neilson obtained a certificate in TEFL by Internet and has taught English in Thailand and South Korea for about 8 years.



Mr. P. V. Neilson

## Students and Faculty Members from Toyohashi University of Technology and Tokyo Institute of Technology Visit SIIT

On August 26, 2004, students and faculty members from the Toyohashi University of Technology and Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan, were warmly welcomed by SIIT for their visit to the SIIT Rangsit campus. Our guests were led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kiyohiko Kuroda, Prof. Dr. Hiroomi Homma, Ms. Mamiko Ichikawa (Toyohashi University of Technology) and Prof. Dr. Toshio Kajiuchi (Tokyo Institute of Technology). SIIT representatives led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pruettha Nanakorn, Prof. Dr. Somnuk Tangtermsirikul and Asst. Prof. Dr. Junalux Chalidabhongse participated in the welcome session and discussion. Information regarding the university's profile, academic systems, interesting fields of study and research, including campus life styles was exchanged between students and faculty members of Toyohashi University of Technology, Tokyo Institute of Technology, and SIIT.

## SIIT Students Receive Academic Excellence Awards from The Professor Dr. Tab Nilanidhi Foundation

The Professor Dr. Tab Nilanidhi Foundation, Thailand, held the annual presentation of scholarships and academic excellence awards at The Imperial Queen's Park Hotel, Bangkok, on August 22, 2004. The academic excellence awards were presented to 104 first-year students, 143 fourth-year students, and 53 master's degree students from governmental and private universities in Thailand. Two SIIT students, Mr. Kanate Thana-anekcharoen and Ms. Dangfun Pornnoparat received the academic excellence awards.

Mr. Kanate Thana-anekcharoen was the top student in the class of 2003, studying for the Bachelor of Engineering degree, with a GPA of 4.00. Ms. Dangfun Pornnoparat was the top student studying for the Bachelor of Science degree, with a GPA of 3.96.

Mr. Kanate and Ms. Dangfun also received the academic excellence awards of the academic year 2003 from SIIT. Mr. Kanate was the first rank student and Ms. Dangfun was the second rank student of the "Freshmen Class" of the academic year 2003. The award presentation was made at the "SIIT New Student Orientation" held on June 12, 2004.



## Loy Krathong Festival

This year, Thammasat University organized the "Loy Krathong Festival 2004" at the Rangsit Campus during November 25-26, 2004. As part of extra-curricular activities, SIIT students, led by the SIIT Student Committee, participated in the Krathong competition. As a result, they were awarded the fourth place in the Creative Category. In addition, Ms. Alisa Wannachotti, an SIIT student of the Telecommunications Program, was the MC on the main stage during the festival. Three SIIT students represented SIIT students in the "Nang Noppamas" beauty queen contest: Ms. Sarita Kawilanan, Ms. Sanisara Wongwetsawat and Ms. Dolruethai Varanyananda.



## Exchange Students from Germany and France



Mr. Bastian Schwab

In the 2<sup>nd</sup>/2004 semester, 3 students from Germany and 2 students from France enrolled as exchange students at SIIT. Mr. Bastian Schwab is attending classes of the Mechanical Engineering Program at SIIT from October 2004 to May 2005. Mr. Schwab is a fourth-year student of the Mechanical Engineering Program at the Technische Universitat Darmstadt.

Mr. Stefan Harder and Mr. Wolfram Hummel from the University of Applied Sciences at Ravensburg-Weingarten, Germany, enrolled as exchange students to study in the Management Technology Program of SIIT during November 2004 to March 2005.



Mr. Stefan Harder



Mr. Wolfram Hummel



Mr. Antoine Delahaye



Mr. Adrien Piot

Mr. Antoine Delahaye and Mr. Adrien Piot from the Institut Supérieur d'Electronique de Paris (ISEP), France, enrolled as exchange students to study in the Information Technology Program of SIIT during November 2004 to March 2005.



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

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