**Very Good Research Awards from Thammasat University**

Prof. Dr. Surapon Nitikraipot, the Rector of Thammasat University, presented “Very Good Research Awards” from Thammasat University to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Thanaruk Theeramunkong and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stanislav Makhanov, at the “Thammasat University Researchers’ Day” celebrated on 20 November 2009 at the Rama Garden Hotel, Bangkok.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Thanaruk Theeramunkong is the Head of the School of Information, Computer, and Communication Technology at SIIT. Dr. Thanaruk received a Very Good Research Award for “Research on Thai Speech Processing and Word Sense Disambiguation”. The research is composed of Thai spelling speech recognition, Thai speech quality assessment, and Thai dictionary construction. The first work proposes a method to complement normal speech recognition with spelling processes. The second work invents an algorithm to assess the speech quality of impaired speech, especially dysarthric speech. The third work provides a mechanism to automate the process of disambiguating word senses in Thai language. The research was co-conducted by three SIIT graduates, Dr. Chutima Pisarn, Dr. Prakasith Kayasith, and Dr. Thatsanee Charoenporn. The research was conducted by using a research fund granted mainly by the National Electronics and Computer Technology Center, and partially supported by the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) via Thammasat University, and the Thailand Research Fund (TRF).

This is the second award that Dr. Thanaruk has received from Thammasat University for his research. In 2008, Dr. Thanaruk and his research team received a Very Good Research Award for their research on “Research and Development of Supporting Technology for Constructing a Medical-related Knowledge Base in Thailand”.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stanislav Makhanov from the School of Information, Computer, and Communication Technology received a Very Good Research Award from Thammasat University for his findings in applying curvilinear space filling curves to five-axis machining. The research was conducted jointly with Dr. Weerachai Anotaipaloen (a former doctoral student of Dr. Makhanov) from the Faculty of Engineering, Thammasat University, under a grant awarded by the Thailand Research Fund.

This is the third award that Dr. Makhanov has received from Thammasat University for this research. In 2006, he received an Outstanding Research Award for a paper on optimization of five-axis machining near stationary points and in 2007, a Very Good Research Award for research on optimal setups for five-axis machining.

**SIIT Researchers Honored by Thammasat University**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tawee Chaisomphob, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Thananchai Leephakpreeda, Asst. Prof. Dr. Thawatchai Onjun and Asst. Prof. Dr. Veeris Ammarapala were honored by Thammasat University for their research that has enhanced the reputation of the university at the “Thammasat University Researchers’ Day” celebrated on November 20, 2009, at the Rama Garden Hotel, Bangkok.

Thammasat University granted a “Distinguished Research Award” to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tawee Chaisomphob, the Head of the School of Civil Engineering and Technology at SIIT, to recognize his commitment to innovation in the patent entitled “Self-Turning Reactor System: Energy-Saving Type”, TH Patent No. 26147. This innovative system was developed by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tawee Chaisomphob and his colleagues: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tetsuya Ishida from the Department of Civil Engineering, the University of Tokyo, Japan; Dr. Nattakorn Bongochgetsakul, a lecturer of Kochi University of Technology, Japan; and Mr. Praj-ya Sungsomboon, a doctoral student of the School of Civil Engineering and Technology, SIIT.
Thammasat University also granted a “Distinguished Research Award” to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Thananchai Leephakpreeda from the School of Manufacturing Systems and Mechanical Engineering of SIIT, to recognize his commitment to innovation in the patent entitled “Calibration Device for Weighing Capsules via Vacuum Effect”, TH Patent No. 25286.

A “Distinguished Research Award” was presented to Asst. Prof. Dr. Thawatchai Onjun from the Department of Common and Graduate Studies of SIIT, who received the “Young Nuclear Scientist Award” for 2009 from the Thailand Institute of Nuclear Technology. Professor Dr. Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn Mahidol graciously presented the “Young Nuclear Scientist Award” to Asst. Prof. Dr. Thawatchai at the Opening Ceremony of the 11th Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology on July 2, 2009, at the SCB Park Plaza, Bangkok.

Asst. Prof. Dr. Veeris Ammarapala from the School of Management Technology also received a “Distinguished Research Award” from Thammasat University for his accomplishment in receiving the Best Paper Award at the 8th international Conference on Information and Management Sciences, held during July 20-28, 2009, in Kunming, China. Asst. Prof. Dr. Veeris’ paper, coauthored with Sittichai Vananuvethapong, was entitled “The Application of Analytic Hierarchy Process on Highways Maintenance Budgeting”. In addition, the award recognized his commitment in getting significant research funding from various government agencies for conducting his research projects on highways maintenance and supply chain management at the Transportation Research Center (TReC), SIIT.

Outstanding Young Researcher Awards from Thammasat University

Asst. Prof. Dr. Cholwich Nattee received an Outstanding Young Researcher Award from Thammasat University. The award was presented at the “Thammasat University Researchers’ Day” celebrated on 20 November 2009, at the Rama Garden Hotel, Bangkok. Dr. Cholwich’s research has focused on machine learning techniques and applications of the techniques on pattern recognition as well as intelligent interfaces. During his four years at SIIT, Dr. Cholwich has published 2 journal articles, and 12 articles in peer-reviewed proceedings of international conferences. He is currently supervising one doctoral student and four master’s degree students, and co-advising two master’s degree students. Dr. Cholwich has received research grants from various agencies, namely, the Thailand Research Fund (TRF), and the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA).

Thammasat University also presented an Outstanding Young Researcher Award to Dr. Raktipong Sahamitmongkol at the “Thammasat University Researchers’ Day” celebration. Dr. Raktipong is a researcher of the Construction and Maintenance Technology Research Center (CONTEC) of Sirindhorn International Institute of Technology (SIIT). He obtained his B.Eng. in Civil Engineering from SIIT, Thammasat University, Thailand; M.Eng. and Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from The University of Tokyo, Japan. Dr. Raktipong’s research interests include advanced construction materials, non-destructive inspection, repair and strengthening technology, and maintenance planning for concrete structures.
Academic Cooperation with Universities and Institutions in Japan

Prof. Dr. Chongrak Polprasert, the Director of SIIT, and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Taweep Chaisomphob, the Head of the School of Civil Engineering and Technology, visited The University of Tokyo, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry (CRIEPI), Nippon Keidanren, Osaka University, and Kyoto University during November 16-20, 2009, to discuss academic and research cooperation.

At The University of Tokyo, Prof. Chongrak and Dr. Taweep met Prof. Yozo Fujino from the Center for Sustainable Urban Regeneration and Dr. Tsuneaki Fukui, to discuss a student exchange program and support for extended training programs for SIIT students.

Prof. Chongrak and Dr. Taweep visited Prof. Kenichi Iga, the President of the Tokyo Institute of Technology, and Prof. Ichiro Okura, the Executive Vice President for Planning, to introduce SIIT and also to learn more about the Tokyo Institute of Technology.

At the Tokyo Institute of Technology, Prof. Chongrak and Dr. Taweep also met Prof. Akinori Nishihara at the Center for Research and Development of Educational Technology (CRADLE) and visited Prof. Masaaki Suzuki’s laboratory (Chemical Engineering) and Prof. Junichi Takada’s laboratory (Information Technology for Regional Development).

A meeting was held with Prof. Ken Okazaki, the Dean of the School of Engineering, and other key persons of TAIST Tokyo Tech project (Prof. Chitoshi Miki, Prof. Nobuo Fujii, Prof. Hiroaki Kunieda, Prof. Takashi Kitahara, Prof. Katsunori Hanamura, Prof. Akinori Nishihara, and Dr. Tsuyoshi Ishikii) about the progress of the Master’s Degree Program in Information and Communication Technology for Embedded Systems.

Prof. Chongrak and Dr. Taweep visited the headquarters of CRIEPI to meet Mr. Masahiro Kakumu, the President of CRIEPI, Mr. Michio Suzuki, the Executive Vice President, and Dr. Tetsuo Matsumura, the Associate Vice President, Planning Group. An introduction of CRIEPI was presented and discussions were conducted on energy and environmental issues in Japan and Thailand, and SIIT student extended training programs at CRIEPI.

At the Environmental Science Research Laboratory and Civil Engineering Research Laboratory at Abiko Center, some research projects on global warming, wind tunnel for turbulence modeling, biotechnology, concrete structures and earthquake faults, were introduced by Dr. Yoichi Miyanaga, the Director of the Environmental Science Laboratory, Dr. Masafumi Mizutori, the Deputy Director of the Environmental Science Laboratory, Dr. Yoshitomo Watanabe, Dr. Hideo Araseki, and Mr. Yoshinobu Okabe.
At Nippon Keidanren, Prof. Chongrak and Dr. Taweep met Ms. Nobuko Sanui, the Managing Director of Nippon Keidanren and Mr. Yasukiyo Horiuchi, the Manager of Economic Partnership Group, to report on activities of SIIT and to express SIIT’s sincere appreciation for their support.

Prof. Chongrak and Dr. Taweep visited the Toyonaka Campus and Suita Campus of Osaka University. At the Toyonaka Campus, Prof. Tatsuo Arai from the Division of Systems Science, Graduate School of Engineering Science, introduced the robotics laboratory. Prof. Tatsui Seki, the Director of the Bangkok Center for Education and Research, Prof. Genta Kawahara, the Vice-Dean of the International Affairs Board, Graduate School of Engineering Science, and Prof. Hirokazu Tada, from the Molecular Electronics Research Group, introduced exchange student and master/doctoral programs for international students at the Graduate School of Engineering Science and the School of Engineering Science.

Prof. Chongrak and Dr. Taweep also met Mr. Yu Kameoka, the Director of the Department of International Affairs, and Mr. Hideo Kadowaki, the Head of International Liaison Division, at the Suita Campus of Osaka University. Prof. Michihiko Ike from the Division of Sustainable Energy & Environmental Engineering, Graduate School of Engineering, introduced the Bio-Environmental Engineering Laboratory to Prof. Chongrak and Dr. Taweep.

Prof. Chongrak and Dr. Taweep met Mr. Hideo Kadowaki, Dr. Taweep Chaisomphob, Prof. Chongrak Polprasert, Mr. Yu Kameoka, and Prof. Tatsui Seki

From left: Dr. Taweep Chaisomphob, Prof. Michihiko Ike, Prof. Chongrak Polprasert, and Prof. Tatsui Seki at the Suita Campus of Osaka University

During a visit to Kyoto University, Prof. Chongrak Polprasert presented a keynote lecture on “Emerging Environmental Issues in Thailand with Emphasis on Hazardous Chemicals and Global Warming” at the 2nd Thailand - Japan International Academic Conference 2009.

Visit of the Delegation from Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, Finland

Prof. Dr. Ritta Konkola, the President of the Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, Finland, and Prof. Arja Hannukainen, the Head of International Relations of Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, Finland, visited SIIT on November 23, 2009, to strengthen academic cooperation between the two institutions. More collaboration activities, including academic exchange programs between SIIT and the Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, were explored.

From left: Prof. Dr. Somnuk Tangtermsirikul (Deputy Director of SIIT), Prof. Dr. Ritta Konkola (President, Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences), Prof. Dr. Chongrak Polprasert (Director of SIIT), Prof. Arja Hannukainen (Head of International Relations, Metropolia University of Applied Sciences), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Warre Kongprawechnon (Assistant Director for Special Affairs, SIIT)
Visit to Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Thanaruk Theeramunkong, the Head of the School of Information, Computer, and Communication Technology at SIIT, visited the Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (JAIST) in Ishikawa, Japan, during 30 November – 1 December, 2009. The visit was made to introduce SIIT and to seek collaboration with JAIST on student and faculty exchange programs. Establishment of a dual degree program of JAIST and SIIT was also explored.

Visit to Saitama University

Asst. Prof. Dr. Chalie Charoenlarpnopparut (Assistant Director for Student Affairs) and Asst. Prof. Dr. Pisanu Toochinda (Coordinator of Chemical Engineering Curriculum) from Sirindhorn International Institute of Technology (SIIT) visited the Graduate School of Science and Engineering, Saitama University, Japan, on September 11, 2009, to discuss collaboration on Extended Training Programs with Prof. Dr. Tetsuya Shimamura, and also to visit SIIT students who currently study at Saitama University as exchange students.

Prof. Dr. Tetsuya Shimamura has kindly collaborated in providing supervision to SIIT students for conducting their senior projects. Prof. Dr. Shimamura is also interested in extending the research collaboration with SIIT at the graduate level. SIIT will encourage SIIT students to take courses and to attend extended training programs at Saitama University as exchange students. In exchange, students from Saitama University are welcome to take courses and attend training programs at SIIT.

Visit of the Delegation from Northumbria University, UK

Dr. Mel Vecsey, the Academic Advisor from Northumbria University, UK, visited SIIT on October 29, 2009. Dr. Vecsey met the SIIT executives to discuss academic cooperation between Northumbria University and SIIT. Both institutions plan to sign a memorandum of understanding on academic cooperation and exchange programs.

Visit of the Delegation from Universidade Tecnica De Lisboa, Portugal

Prof. Vitor da Conceição Gonçalves, the Vice Chancellor from the Universidade Tecnica De Lisboa, Portugal, and his colleagues, Prof. Mário Say Ming Kong and Ms. Isabel França, visited SIIT on November 2, 2009. The purpose of the visit was to establish mutual academic collaboration between the Universidade Tecnica De Lisboa and SIIT.
Faculty Promotion – Associate Professor

Asst. Prof. Dr. Alice Sharp and Asst. Prof. Dr. Bunyarit Uyyanonvara were promoted to the academic rank of “Associate Professor” on August 28, 2009.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alice Sharp is the Head of the Department of Common and Graduate Studies at SIIT. Dr. Sharp received an SIIT Best Teaching Award in the academic year 2002. She obtained her B.S. in Biology and M.S. in Environmental Risk Assessment of Tropical Ecosystems from Chiang Mai University, Thailand, and her M.S. and Ph.D. in Natural Resource Management from Hiroshima University, Japan. Dr. Sharp’s research areas include community based natural resource management, environmental impact assessment, and pollution monitoring. Her current research includes community based solid waste management and water quality monitoring technique for local communities in Ratchaburi Province; development of biomass waste management decision making tools in selected countries in Southeast Asia; and conversion of solid waste into diesel fuel.

Faculty Promotion – Assistant Professor

Dr. Cholwich Nattee and Dr. Pisanu Toochinda were promoted to the academic rank of Assistant Professor on August 28, 2009.

Asst. Prof. Dr. Cholwich Nattee is the Coordinator of the Computer Science Curriculum of the School of Information, Computer, and Communication Technology, SIIT. Dr. Cholwich attained his B.Eng. in Computer Engineering from Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, and his M.Eng. and D.Eng. in Computer Science from Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan. His research areas include artificial intelligence, machine learning, knowledge discovery and data mining, pattern recognition and natural language processing. Dr. Cholwich currently supervises four master’s degree students and one doctoral student with the topics of Thai word segmentation using GLR parsing technique, Thai speech synthesis system on mobile phones, automatic technical term translation extraction from the Web, and Thai unknown word recognition using boosting technique.

Asst. Prof. Dr. Pisanu Toochinda is the Head of the School of Bio-Chemical Engineering and Technology at SIIT. He won the SIIT Best Teaching Award two times, in academic years 2004 and 2008. Dr. Pisanu received his B.Sc. in Chemistry from Mahidol University, Thailand, and his M.S. and Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Akron, Ohio, USA. His research areas include synthetic production from catalytic methanol steam reforming, hydrogen storage, CO₂ reduction using solid sorbent, photo-catalytic synthesis of hydrocarbons from CO₂/H₂O, gas-solid reactor design, heterogeneous catalysis, nano-material/zeolite syntheses, and bio-molecular imprinted materials. Dr. Pisanu currently supervises 4 master’s degree students with the topics of development of novel catalysts for methanol steam reforming, CO₂ reduction, and fabrication of TiO₂ for applications in electrical devices.

Alumni Association of SIIT Donates an Initial Fund to “SIIT Alumni Fund”

Mr. Supareak Chomchan (Financial Officer of the Alumni Association of SIIT) and two SIIT alumni who are faculty members at SIIT, Asst. Prof. Dr. Veeris Ammarapala and Dr. Itthisek Nilkhamhang, presented an initial fund of 35,999 baht donated by the Alumni Association of SIIT for the “SIIT Alumni Fund”, to Prof. Chongrak Polprasert (the Director of SIIT), on Monday October 12, 2009.

The “SIIT Alumni Fund (กองทุนศิษย์เก่าเพื่อพัฒนา SIIT)” was established to provide scholarships to SIIT students and for supporting SIIT development as agreed by the SIIT Executive Committee. The Institute would like to express its sincere thanks to SIIT alumni for their contributions and support.

New Faculty Member

Dr. Boontariga Kasemuntsithum joined SIIT as a full-time lecturer of the School of Manufacturing Systems and Mechanical Engineering in October 2009. She obtained her B.S. (Cum Laude) in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Akron, Ohio, USA, Dr. Boontariga's research areas include vehicle routing and time window problems, simulation modeling, large-scale optimization, applied operations research, energy management, and biomechanics. Prior to joining SIIT, Dr. Boontariga was a lecturer at the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Chiang Mai University.
SIIT Student Wins Scholarship from Asia Cement Plc

Mr. Pattarakrit Mongkolnyut, a third-year student of the Electronics and Communication Engineering program, has won a 2-year continuing full scholarship from Asia Cement Plc, under the ACC Education Sponsorship Program 2009 for undergraduate students. He was one of the five students from four universities in Thailand who have won this scholarship. The scholarship program aims to support students with good academic performance and some degree of financial need, in order to encourage students to receive the best learning opportunities, without any obligation after graduation.

From left: Mr. Rapee Sukhyanga (Senior Advisor, Asia Cement Plc), Mr. Nopadol Ramyarupa (Managing Director, Asia Cement Plc), Mr. Mario Bracci (Managing Director, Asia Cement Plc), Mr. Pattarakrit Mongkolnyut and Asst. Prof. Dr. Chalie Chaoenlarpnopparut (Assistant Director for Student Affairs, SIIT).

Special Seminar on R & D in Logistics and Supply Chain Management

The Director of SIIT, Prof. Dr. Chongrak Polprasert, welcomed Prof. Dr. William G. Ferrell, a professor from the Industrial Engineering Department and Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Clemson University, USA, who visited SIIT to initiate academic collaboration, on October 28, 2009. During the visit, Prof. Dr. Ferrell conducted a special seminar on R & D in Logistics and Supply Chain Management for faculty members and students of the School of Management at SIIT.

From left: Prof. Dr. Chongrak Polprasert (Director of SIIT), Dr. Morrakot Raweewan (a faculty member of the School of Management Technology at SIIT), Prof. Dr. William G. Ferrell (Professor and Associate Dean of the Graduate School, Clemson University), and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Somrote Komolavanij (Head of the School of Management Technology at SIIT).

Seminars on Job Applications and Career Development

The SIIT Training and Industrial Relations Office held four seminars on job applications and career development for fourth-year students who are going to graduate in academic year 2009. Other interested students were also invited to attend the seminars. The resource persons presented their knowledge and experiences on how to succeed in job applications, required working skills, career development, and the employment markets.

A seminar on “IT Career Path/Trends in IT Employment Market Nowadays and in the Future” by Mr. Cheeravish Wisutthiyan, the Senior Manager/Consulting Workforce/SI from Accenture Solutions Limited, was conducted on August 5, 2009, at the Sirindhralai Building, SIIT-Bangkadi Campus.

Ms. Pornnipha Soichampar, the Recruitment & Sourcing Manager from Siemens Limited, conducted a seminar on “How to Succeed in Job Applications/Career Path” for SIIT students on August 26, 2009, at the Sirindhralai Building, SIIT-Bangkadi Campus.

A seminar on “How to Succeed in Job Applications” by Ms. Mary Elizabeth McComas, the Human Resources Manager from ExxonMobil Limited, was held on November 18, 2009, at the Main Building of SIIT, Rangsit Campus.

Mr. Waiwit Saeng-Alangkarn from Service Professional Company Limited conducted a seminar on “How to Be a Better Person and Be Successful” for SIIT students on December 9, 2009, at the Main Building of SIIT, Rangsit Campus.
IAESTE Students from Serbia and Germany

Miss Jelena Dunjic, a student from the University of Belgrade, Serbia, and Mr. Lars Hluscik, a student from Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Germany, are attending technical training at the School of Management Technology and the School of Civil Engineering of SIIT, respectively, from November 2009 to January 2010. The training is co-sponsored by SIIT and the Thailand Program of International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE).

Orientation for New Exchange Students

The SIIT International Office held an orientation for the new exchange students who enrolled at SIIT for the 2nd semester/2009, on October 27, 2009, at the Rangsit Campus. The orientation was to provide exchange students information on academic policies and regulations, campus life, including student activities, and Thai culture. A tour of the Rangsit Campus of Thammasat University was also arranged. Nine exchange students are from Germany, two exchange students are from France, and three exchange students are from Finland.

Germany

Mr. Mathias Johann Feuser from Technische Universität Darmstadt, Germany, enrolled to take courses in Mechanical Engineering at the School of Manufacturing Systems and Mechanical Engineering.

Seven exchange students from the University of Applied Sciences at Ravensburg-Weingarten, Germany, enrolled to take courses at SIIT. Mr. Christian Rainer Markus Allgaier, Mr. Markus Pfeifle, Mr. Fritz Jassir Ritter, and Mr. Uli Ehrmann are taking courses in Management Technology. Mr. Markus Traub and Mr. David Julian Hirt are taking courses in Mechanical Engineering. Mr. Christoph Simon Störkle enrolled to take courses in Computer Sciences.

France

Two exchange students are from Institut Supérieur d’Électronique de Paris (ISEP), France. Mr. Valentin Pierre Labrusse enrolled to take courses in Communications and Mr. Florent Pouget enrolled to take courses in Information Technology.

Finland

Three exchange students from Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, Finland, enrolled to take courses at SIIT. Ms. Jessica Maria Moisander is taking courses in Industrial Engineering. Mr. Juha Pekka Einesalo and Mr. Tomi Marko Tapio Teivainen are taking courses in Management Technology.