

AITAA President's Message

On behalf of AITAA I would like to give my big thanks to AITAA Sri Lanka Chapter under the leadership of Mr. Sunimal Weerasooriya for hosting our 44th GBM, in the beautiful city of Colombo, which is a heavy task. I have no doubt that it will be another successful GBM.

From the start of my 2-year term as AITAA President in January 2014, I have taken it as my prime mission to enhance AITAA's role as the main networking channel for AIT alumni worldwide through its National Chapters and by direct communications to AIT alumni individually, in order that alumni are facilitated to help one another and support our beloved alma mater in times of need. Some clear examples are donations to support our friends in Nepal and Myanmar in their disaster relief activities, with a lot of our news circulations involved. Details are shown in the accompanying summary of activities.

During my term as the President, AITAA has disseminated messages (through emails, Facebook, and website) to inform the alumni about true situations of AIT based on my involvement as Co-Chairman of the Student Relations Committee, Member of AIT Board of Trustees, and Member of AIT Executive Committee, in the role of which I have made significant contributions.

I have spent considerable efforts to re-activate/re-establish many National Chapters and I am very proud that under my guidance the Canada Chapter has been re-established since September 2015. Establishment of a new Chapter, i.e. Africa (Nigeria) is upcoming in October. Those successfully re-activated are, for example, Korea, Central Asia (Kazakhstan), and Mongolia. Re-establishments of certain Chapters like Hong Kong/Macao, Australia, Brunei, and Singapore are underway. Moreover, there have been communications for establishment of new Chapters like Timor-Leste.

Looking back, I stepped up my long involvement in AITAA when I was elected as President of the Thai Chapter in December 2011. It stemmed from the information given to me in September 2009 by Dr. John D. Nelson (a former faculty member of AIT in the early 1970s) and Dr. Subin Pinkayan about a threat to AIT from takeover attempt by a US-based private company which became much clearer when AIT campus was inundated in October- November 2011. After that, Prof. Worsak Kanok-nukulchai (then AIT's VPRD), among a number of volunteers, worked behind the scene side by side with me for almost two years until late 2013, with strong supports of various elements of AIT community, and we have been successful in defending AIT against the takeover attempt. Now we are together in the Board of Trustees, the four of us, plus four more alumni.

As my AITAA Presidential term will expire by the end of this year, I will consequentially quit the Board. I would like to take this opportunity to wish my successor all the best in pursuing the ongoing initiations and developments and further strengthening the viability of our alma mater.

Thanin Bumrungsap
12 October 2015