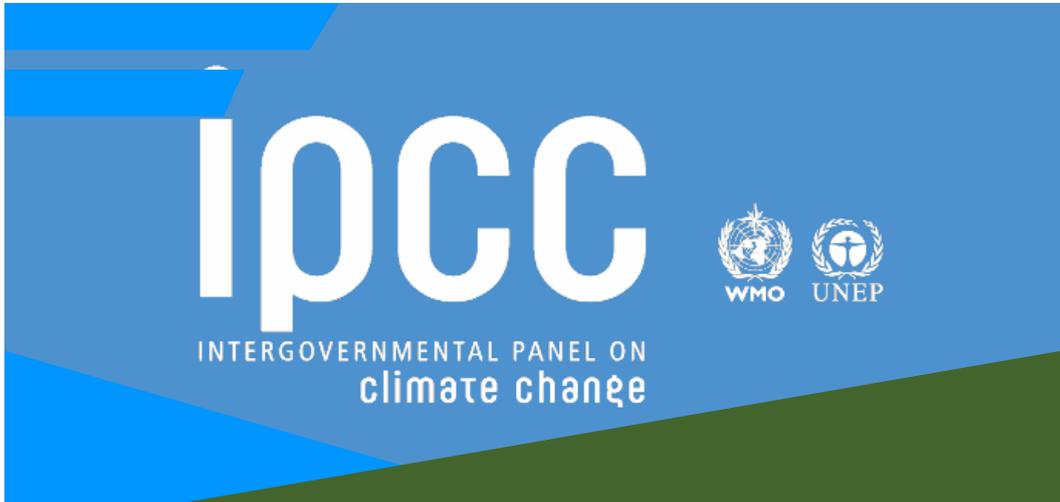


# E-NEWSLETTER

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change  
School of Environment, Resources and Development  
Asian Institute of Technology



April 2018  
Volume II, Issue 4



## Inside this issue:

8 <sup>th</sup> Regional 3R Forum	2
Symposium in China	2
Dr. Wenchao at TIPU	3
RS Pellet Experiment	3
GMSARN Conference	3
ICUE Conference 2018	4
Fellowships	4
Alumni Awarded	4

## Dr Shobhakar Dhakal is Coordinating Lead Author for IPCC Sixth Assessment Report

*Dr. Shobhakar Dhakal of the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) has been selected as the Coordinating Lead Author (CLA) for the Chapter on 'Emission Trends and Drivers' for the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).*

Seven-hundred and twenty-one experts from 90 countries will participate in as Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors, and Review Editors. They were selected among 2,858 experts representing 105 countries. Dr. Shobhakar and Ferenc Toth of Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, Global Environment Facility share the responsibility for being CLAs for Chapter 2 of the Working Group (III) of IPCC.

“These author teams, drawn from the hundreds of excellent nominations the IPCC was fortunate to receive, provide us with the necessary expertise across a range of disciplines to conduct the assessment,” a statement released by the IPCC said. Following their selection,

the authors will now review the existing scientific literature and prepare drafts of the report on the basis of the outlines of the Working Group contributions already agreed by the Panel, the IPCC added.

IPCC is a scientific and intergovernmental body under the auspices of the United Nations, and it was the joint winner of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize.

Dr. Shobhakar, who is the Head, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change of AIT's School of Environment, Resources and Development (SERD), was also associated with the Fifth Assessment Report of IPCC where he was invited by IPCC to lead its assessment on 'Human Settlements, Infrastructure and Spatial Planning' as Coordinating Lead Author. He also took part in deliberating the content, structure and framework of the Sixth Assessment Report in IPCC's Addis Ababa meeting on 1-5 May 2017.

According to the IPCC,

the three Working Groups will finalize their respective contributions in 2021, and a Synthesis Report will complete the AR6 cycle in early 2022, integrating all the Working Group contributions and the findings of the three special reports that are currently underway.

The conclusions will be available in time for the first Global Stocktake, a periodic review of collective progress towards achieving the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement.

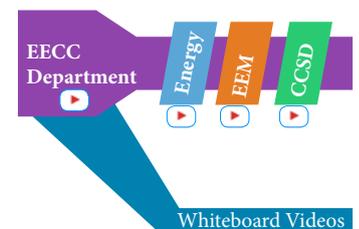
[Read more...](#)



Dr. Shobhakar Dhakal  
Assoc. Prof. and Head  
EECC Department

## Whiteboard Videos

Click the tabs below to watch our whiteboard videos



*“I feel very much honored to be nominated as Coordinating Lead Author by IPCC for its 6th Assessment Report. I will be co-leading Chapter 2: Emission Trends and Drivers of Mitigation Report, which is due mid-2021. I look forward to an exciting new round of the IPCC assessments.”*

Dr. Shobhakar Dhakal

## Eighth Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific

9 - 12 April, 2018 Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India



Prof. Visu at the 8th Regional 3R Forum

newspapers include the Times of India.

Prof. Visu was one of the advisory committee members of the regional report preparation task force which launched the “State of the 3Rs in Asia and Pacific Report” during the event. The report provides an expert assessment of 3R policy progress at the country level. Through this 3R forum participation, Prof. Visu is planning to explore the possibility to link AIT’s research initiatives on Urban Resilience and Water Security at AIT.

The four day forum was held in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India from 9 – 12 March 2018 and saw participation of 400 delegates from 41 countries. The forum is being co-organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (formerly Ministry of Urban Development) Government of India, the Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan, and the United Nations Centre for Regional Development, under the theme of “Achieving

Prof. C. Visvanathan from the Environmental Engineering and Management, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change, School of Environment, Resources and Development, Asian Institute of Technology, was invited by the Indian Government and United Nations Center for Regional Development (UNCRD) to prepare the working paper for the Plenary Session 2 on “The 3R and Clean Water - The Role of the Circular Economy in Reducing Water Pollution”.

His presentation mainly focused on the importance of local government bodies in the direction of minimizing use of water, and linking it to the SDG goals. It was covered by several



Prof. Visu at the 8th Regional 3R Forum

Clean Water, Clean Land and Clean Air through 3R and Resource Efficiency- A 21st Century Vision for Asia-Pacific Communities”.

*“The aim is to shift the global consumption and production patterns towards building a sound-material-cycle society, recognizing the importance of reducing barriers to the international flow of goods and materials for recycling and re-manufacturing, particularly in developing countries.”*

The Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific, was launched in 2009 in Tokyo, Japan with the objective of integrating the 3Rs in policy, planning

and development. The forum provides a strategic platform for sharing best practices in 3R areas, including new and emerging issues of concern in waste management. Established in 1971 the UNCRD is based on an agreement between the Government of Japan and the United Nations.

[Read more...](#)

*“Local bodies need to work in the direction of minimising use of water. The best way to do this is to find out technologies or ways to reduce water usage”*  
Prof. Visu

## International Symposium on Advanced Membrane Bioreactors for Environmental Sustainability

15-18 April, 2018, Tianjin Chengjian University, Tianjin, China

Prof. Visu was invited to present a lecture at the “International Symposium on Advanced Membrane Bioreactors for Environmental Sustainability”, held from 15-18 April, 2018, at the Tianjin Chengjian University, Tianjin, China.

The main theme of the symposium was to bring the international experts to discuss the current developments in membrane bioreactor technologies, specially focusing

both on the fundamental research and practical industrial applications.

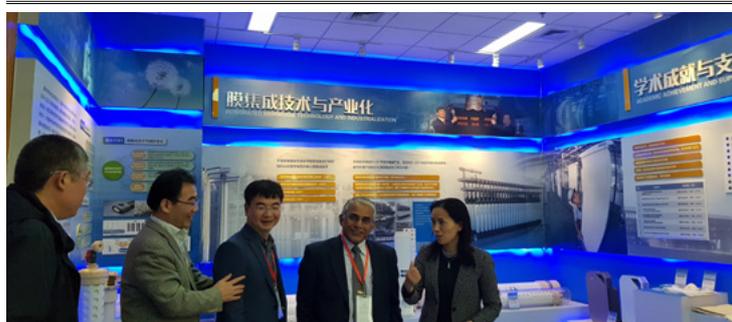
Prof. Visu presented an invited lecture on “Development of a Membrane Bioreactor System for Polluted Surface Water Treatment”. He also visited the prestigious “State Key Laboratory of Separation Membranes and Membrane Process” at the Tianjin Polytechnic University.



Prof. Visu making a presentation to the graduate students of Tianjin University

Prof. Visu also made a presentation to the graduate students on “Development of Membrane Bioreactor Systems: from Wastewater to Water Treatment”. The presentation and follow up discussions explored the possibility to develop a joint research program with Environmental Engineering and Management Program and the State Key laboratory. As a first step, both

partners will try to explore a joint summer/winter program, where AIT student could visit this lab as part of their membrane related research activities.



Prof. Visu at the symposium



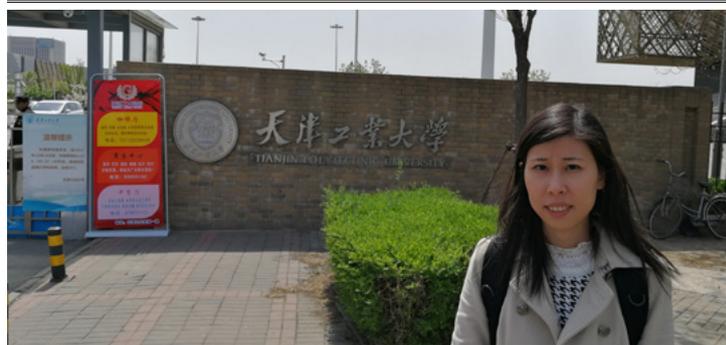
Prof. Visu at the symposium

## Dr. Wenchao Xue visited the State Key Laboratory of Separation Membranes and Membrane Processes in Tianjin Polytechnic University

9 - 11 April 2018, Tianjin Polytechnic University, Tianjin, China

Dr. Wenchao Xue, Assist. Professor at the Environmental Engineering and Management, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change, School of Environment, Resources and Development, Asian Institute of Technology was invited by the State Key Laboratory of Separation Membranes and Membrane Processes in Tianjin Polytechnic University (TJPU) for a short visit and academic communication in Tianjin, China, from 9 - 11 April 2018.

Dr. Wenchao and Prof. Yunxia Hu, the Vice Director of the State Key Laboratory discussed potential research collaboration and joint programs between the institutions. They agreed to jointly conduct research on innovative membrane-based technologies for energy and resource recovery from wastewater. In addition, Dr. Wenchao was invited by TJPU as a Visiting Associate Professor in order to maintain the long-term communication and collaboration between AIT



Dr. Wenchao Xue at TJPU

and TJPU. During her visit, Dr. Wenchao also introduced AIT and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change to the faculty members

and researchers at TJPU, and welcomed their students to study and conduct research at AIT in the future.

## Prof. Nguyen Thi Kim Oanh and Her Research Team Collaborates with the Private Sector in Vietnam to Develop RS Pelletizing Equipment

26 March - 03 April 2018, Hanoi, Vietnam

Prof. N.T. Kim Oanh participated in a meeting and a field experiment with the research counterpart in Vietnam, Prof Hoang Xuan Co, Hanoi University of Science (HUS), and Tuan Tu Co., Ltd. in Hanoi from 26 March - 3 April 2018.

successfully in a cookstove (GCS). This is an important achievement of the project at this stage. The results will fill in the gaps on the feasibility of making RS pellet and information on the emission factors of RS pellet - GCS. Department of Natural Resources and Environment in Hanoi is interested in the products to replace the dirty coal briquettes used in domestic cooking because this practice will be banned in the near

The meeting discussed on improving the production of RS pellet and upcoming planned activities such as indoor air pollution monitoring and demonstration to local stakeholders. In the field experiment, the project team collaborating with the private sector to develop the RS pelletizing equipment. The team has now produced RS pellets which can be burned



Performing RS pellets experiment



Prof. Kim with the project team at the Tuan Tu Co., Ltd.



future. The project is currently well linked to the local and government activities in Vietnam as well as the global initiatives, such as Climate and Clean Air Coalition. The project thus will provide key

regional specific information on the potential measure to minimize crop residue open burning. Below are some photos of the meeting and the field experiment.



Performing RS pellet experiment

## The Grand GMSARN Conference 2018

28 - 30 November 2018, Ramada Encore Nanning City Center, Nanning, Huangxi, China

### Conference Purpose

GMS region is a natural and economic corridor bounded by the Mekong international river with an area of 2.6 million square meters and total population of about 350 million. Presently, all GMS countries are facing the challenges how to transform GMS into common market. Thus, North-South East-West economic corridors are the priority to address the aspects of functioning GMS region particularly those that enhance competitiveness, and ensure sustainability.

*“The aim of this GMSARN 2018 is to focus on energy, environment, and sustain development in the GMS countries to shape its future.”*

To address these critical issues, the International Conference 2018 on “Energy, Environment, and Development in GMS” is a three-day platform for knowledge dissemination by a diverse group of researchers and participants. The rationale of the GMSARN 2018 is to initiate and stimulate international discussions and exchange the

innovative ideas. The conference can be used as a international platform on regional and trans-boundary perspectives. Therefore, it can contribute to sustainable development related to energy, environment and development. In this aspect, GMSARN conference is a unique hosting a wide range of



various disciplines that would generate shared solutions and ideas to existing problems.....

[Read more..](#)

Type of Registration	Before Oct. 12, 2018	After Oct. 12, 2018
Regular	THB 17,000/USD 560	THB 18,000/USD 600
GMSARN Member	THB 13,000/USD 430	THB 14,000/USD 460
Student	THB 10,000/USD 330	THB 11,000/USD 360
Accompany	THB 9,000/USD 300	
Additional Paper	THB 2,200/USD 70	

## Call for Abstracts | ICUE Conference 2018



### 2018 International Conference and Utility Exhibition on Green Energy for Sustainable Development (ICUE)

ICUE 2018 conference will be a venue to exchange research ideas, experiences, technical, social, financial, economic and policy issues covering greening

energy utilization. Here, energy professionals, policy makers, researchers, academics, engineers will have a platform to showcase research findings, technological innovations, transformative emerging technologies and even to discuss burning global, regional and national issues in energy utilization for development and environment policies and programmes. The conference will discuss the following, but not limited to: Green Energy Technology; Green Power, Industrialization and Transport; Green Energy policies and Programmes, Green Economy.

Important dates to remember:

- 15 May 2018: [Due date of Abstract Submission](#)
- 31 May 2018: [Notification of Abstract Acceptance](#)
- 30 June 2018: [Due date of Full Paper Submission](#)
- 15 August 2018: [Due date of Early Registration](#)

[Read more...](#)

## Fellowships for August Semester 2018

30 June 2018, Application deadline

If you are looking for an experience beyond the classroom walls, consider Asian Institute of Technology. As a student at AIT, you will join a dynamic community that represents people of different backgrounds, ethnicities, skills and perspectives.

We are accepting application for the August Semester 2018. We offer generous [fellowships](#) for students who can contribute to the learning experience and make a positive impact on society.

Check below:

- 1) RTG Fellowship
- 2) AIT Fellowship

preparations and apply early to improve your chances of a fellowship. The deadline for August Semester 2018 is **30 June 2018**.

Complete the application today and/or bring it to the notice of the other aspirants to apply latest by **30 June 2018** to join us for the upcoming August Semester.

[Apply Now...](#)

We urge those interested in applying to make the necessary

Student life isn't just for the undergrads, and we offer our graduate students unique opportunities, no matter where you come from.

## Bridging Program

30 June 2018, Application deadline

If your English is holding you back, the AIT Bridging Program is specifically designed to strengthen your English skills and prepare you for your graduate program at AIT.

of investigative research by students. The content of each program is shaped by the interests and needs of individual students, and their particular study programs at AIT.

journey in August 2018.

Inspire confidence in your English and connect to the world

Discover how to communicate like a native English speaker.

The intensive Bridging Program normally offers 16 weeks of collaboration and interaction in English around pieces

Get ahead of the game to launch a career with our top-ranked degree programs. Apply on or by June 30, 2018 to start your

[Read more...](#)

## EEM Alumnus Received the Outstanding Government Official Award

*Dr. Yuttachai Sarathai, an alumnus of Environmental Engineering and Management (2010), was among the recipients of the Outstanding Government Official award bestowed by the Royal Thai Government.*

*Dr. Yuttachai, who also serves as a consultant in the AIT project on "Fecal Sludge Management Toolbox" funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation was honored on 2 April 2018 at the Santi Maitree Building.*



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