



CUC NEWSLETTER

The Canadian Universities Consortium - Urban Environmental Management -
Training and Technology Transfer Program at the Asian Institute of Technology

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The CUC UEM Project at AIT is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

The Consortium is made up of the Universities of Waterloo, York, Calgary, Toronto and British Columbia.

Message from the Director

Welcome to the new format for the CUC UEM Training and Technology Transfer Program newsletter. We hope it presents our Program's activities in an easily accessible format.

First of all, I would like to thank Environment Canada (EC) for their support of our March workshop on solid waste management that by all reports was extremely successful for all involved.

The UEM Masters students are now writing their theses based on field research and faculty members have been very busy with outreach activities, in part supported by our Project. Project supported activities include a course on urban poverty in Cambodia by Professor Nurul Amin and a three day course on urban environmental legislative and regulatory concerns delivered Dr. Rajan Gengaje also in Cambodia. For complete details of the Urban Environmental Management Field of Studies please contact us for a copy of the UEM Update. I had the pleasure of being the keynote speaker at a major international UNESCO conference in Nepal on culture, heritage management and tourism as well as playing the role of the lea expert.

Our numerous projects are progressing well. The Program video is complete, and our interpretation video and design work for the Phimai historical site is almost finished. Our Hua Hin Cleaner Production Project wrapped up with an information and lunch session and we wish to thank our partners in the Thailand Environment Institute for their cooperation and support.

Dr. Rajan Gengaje, our Project Coordinator since March 1998, is leaving the Project to return to India for personal reasons. The Project will very much miss his contributions and we wish Rajan and his family the best of luck in their move to India. We have asked Pallavi Mandke to assume the responsibility for the day-to-day management of the office in addition to her other duties. Pawinee (Jib) Sunalai will be taking care of the financial matters along with her coordinating responsibilities. Amit Kelovkar will be working with students from Canada as well as taking care of visa and CUC House matters. I wish them all well in their new added responsibilities.

We look forward to your comments and feedback.

Walter Jamieson



Canadian Graduate Student Joins CUC

A graduate student, Dimple Roy, from the University of Calgary's Faculty of Environmental Design has joined the CUC team in Bangkok for four months. She is working with Project staff assessing appropriate design approaches and technology as they relate to the hospitality industry. We look forward to Ms Roy's participation based on her earlier design and research work in India.

International Workshop Success

The Environment Canada workshop on "Creating Sustainable Cities through Urban Environmental Management" was a great success, drawing 120 people to its seminars. The workshop, organized by the CUC UEM Project on behalf of Environment Canada was held at AIT from March 6-8 and produced a collection of policy papers, case studies and presentations for ongoing use by municipal decision-makers.

Workshop themes included sessions on financing solid waste management, cleaner production and good governance for solid waste management in cities. All themes were developed to address the concerns of the nine APEC countries represented by the workshop participants.

The luncheon address by Thailand's Minister of Science, Technology and the Environment, H.E. Dr. Arthit Urairat was a highlight of the workshop. The Minister's presence was a great honor for the Project.

Feedback from participants and experts involved indicate that the workshop was highly successful in reaching its goals of strengthening the regional network of professionals interested in UEM and encouraging the exchange of experience and ideas.

This workshop represents a significant achievement for UEM in the region. It would not have been possible without our many partners: The Thailand Office of Environment Policy and Planning; the Thailand Environment Institute; the UN Urban Management Program, the Urban Management Center, and the Urban Environmental Management Field of Study at AIT. In particular we wish to recognize the good working relationship we have developed with Environment Canada staff, namely Jean Bilodeau, Director General; Chris Hanlon, Senior Advisor; and Shelly Emmerson, Project Officer. Our thanks also to David Crenna who served as our very able rapporteur. We look forward to future collaboration with our colleagues.

Meeting With TAT Governor

Mr. Pradech Phayakvicien, the Project's initial contact at the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), has been appointed the Governor of TAT. The CUC UEM Project hosted a luncheon for the Governor on March 7th attended by AIT's president, Professor Jean Louis Armand and AIT deans. Participants had the opportunity to inform the Governor of faculty and student research and outreach work related to tourism development in Thailand. Mr. Phayakvicien discussed TAT's activities and their relationship to AIT's areas of strength and interest.

Meeting with Cambodian Environment Minister

Program staff met with the Cambodian Minister of the Environment to present him with the completed environmental impact assessment study of hotels in Siem Reap carried out by students from the University of Calgary. The study was carried out under the direction of Dr. William Ross, (University of Calgary) and Walter Jamieson. The assessment is a comprehensive study of the possible impacts of hotels in the Siem Reap community. Ongoing CUC UEM TTT Program training and consultation with Cambodian environment officials and hotels in Siem Reap will be based on this document.



Distinguished guests at the international workshop lunch.



Participants of the "Creating Sustainable Cities Through Urban Environmental Management" Workshop.



Exhibits at AIT Centre.



Dr. Walter Jamieson meeting with the Cambodian Minister of the Environment.

Integrated UEM Project in Yala, Thailand

The CUC UEM project has provided technical advice and facilitated a number of building activities for Yala's municipal staff. The main theme was to explore an alternative integrated solid waste management system. In February, the project organized a study tour for 20 key staff and community leaders to see the best practices in the municipalities of Phitsanuloke and Lamphun. Upon return, the staff decided to start a fermentation process, where organic waste decomposed/fermented into effective microorganism (EM), used for soil improvement as well as for removing odors from the sewer system.

A training course on "Integrated Solid Waste Management" was conducted by professors from the Urban Environmental Management Program at the Asian Institute of Technology and the Director of Environmental Office Region 12, for senior staff of the Public Health and Environment Division, Education Division and others.

In May 2000, the leaders from Klong Toey were invited to demonstrate to Yala staff and communities how to organize a Garbage for Eggs project. Organized by the community in collaboration with the municipal authority on Saturday mornings, hundreds of residents brought their separated recyclables to exchange for eggs. Each transaction could remove at least two tons of recyclables from the waste stream and turn them into valuable inputs for other uses.

Hua Hin/ Cha Am Hotel Project

The Hua Hin/Cha Am Project wrapped up the first phase of its activities with a closing ceremony, information and luncheon session. AT the event two CUC-produced manuals and two videos focusing on environmental management and composting were distributed to representatives of the five member hotels as well as other Bangkok hotels that attended. These resources will be posted on the CUC UEM web page. Based on its successful work with hotels in Hua Hin and Cha Am the CUC UEM TTT Program is now exploring how environmental management systems (EMS) at the municipal level can support and encourage sustainable practices at the facility level. A Canadian student from York University, Zainab Moghal, has just completed a preliminary examination of EMS and its application to Hua Hin/Cha Am. Her work will form the basis for discussions with municipal officials to determine the feasibility of using EMS as a major UEM tool in Southeast Asia.

Blue Flag Program

The CUC UEM TTT Program is conducting a feasibility study on introducing the Blue Flag Program for beach environment standards to Asia at the request of the United Nations Environment Program, the World Tourism Organization and the Foundation for Environmental Education in Europe. The participating countries are Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand. Following a stakeholder meeting in Bangkok, a team visited the tourism and environment departments of the Philippines and Malaysia. They have produced a draft report for the client group. There is considerable interest in the Blue Flag Program in the region but one of the next challenges will be to adapt the European standards to the conditions and cultural context of Asia.



The Yala Garbage for Eggs project in action.



TTTP Coordinators at GLOBE 2000

Pawinee Sunalai and Pallavi Mandke represented the CUC UEM TTT Program at the GLOBE 2000 convention in Vancouver, Canada, March 22-24. Pawinee and Pallavi traveled to Canada as part of the Canadian Embassy's delegation to Thailand. This year's annual GLOBE convention attracted 10,000 international environmental professionals. The two coordinators presented the Program and discussed urban environmental practices in Thailand at a South East Asia meeting at the event.

POLMET 2000 Kuala Lumpur

Rajan Gengaje presented a paper on "Creating Sustainable Cities through Urban Environmental Management" at the 6th POLMET conference in Kuala Lumpur in March. The paper, authored by Walter Jamieson and Pallavi Mandke, emphasized the need to ensure environmental sustainability of cities using the tools and concepts developed within the project and the Urban That Field of Study at AIT.

Training Courses and Lectures

EIA Law in Cambodia

Professor Alastair R. Lucas, visiting faculty member to the UEM Field of Study from the University of Calgary, Canada, delivered a seminar on Environmental Impact Assessment Law in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The seminar was held to discuss the fundamental elements and critical issues in the design and implementation of EIA legislation in Cambodia. The 17 participants represented six divisions of the Cambodian Minister of Environment and the National Assembly.

Legal Implications of Voluntary Environmental Initiatives

Professor Lucas delivered a lecture on voluntary environmental initiatives to 75 faculty, graduate and undergraduate students at Thammasat University. The lecture provided an opportunity for CUC to initiate cooperation with faculty members of Thammasat University.

Urban Road Safety

A training course on "Urban Road Safety" for Asian road safety professionals was held at AIT in February. The course was managed by Professor Francis Navin, from the University of British Columbia, Canada and Dr. Yordphol Tanaboriboon, Director of the Asian Center for Transportation Studies. This training course aimed to introduce the very successful Road Sense Program developed by the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia to road safety professionals in Asia. Various government agencies, police, medical personnel, engineers and others participated in the three-day course. Course evaluations were very favorable. The course continues the Project's successful collaboration with our colleagues from the School of Civil Engineering at AIT. Sincere thanks to both Dr. Tanaboriboon and Dr. Navin.

Cambodian Coastal Zone Management

The CUC UEM TTTP sponsored and ran a three-day training course on "Tourism Coastal Zone Management" in Cambodia from May 3-5, 2000. The CUC UEM Project worked in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment. Mr. Larry Edelstein delivered the course to officials from the Tourism and Environment Ministries, marking an innovative private-public collaboration. Coastal zone management is a major issue in the region and the project is working with various partners in examining the relationship between urban environmental management and coastal zone management.



CUC Coordinators, Pallavi Mandke and Pawinee (Jib) Sunalai, at the Globe 2000 convention in Vancouver, CA.

Clear Your Calendar... Upcoming Events

Training Course:

"An Introduction to Heritage Resource Management and Heritage Tourism"

AIT, Bangkok for The Agency for Coordinating Mekong Tourism Activities

August 21-27, 2000

Conference 2000:

"Sustainable Community Tourism Destination Management"

AIT, Bangkok

November 27-29, 2000

Details and registration available on our website: www.cuc.ait.ac.th

Contact Information

The Training and Technology Transfer Program (TTTP), a component of the CUC UEM Project at AIT focuses on practical solutions and capacity building in South East Asia.

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Surf's Up!!

Welcome to the new era urban environmental management. The new CUC webpage is now launched.

Explore: <http://www.cuc.ait.ac.th>