

Country Visit to Thailand

January 17, 2013

The visit in Bangkok, Thailand included the following universities: Chulalongkorn University (CU), King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang (KMITL) and King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT). Assoc. Prof. Kanit Wattanavichien from CU mentioned that the SEAcORE initiative is a good stand-up on ocean renewable energy (ORE) and its blueprint will seem to be an effective way for these kinds of initiative to pursue. He suggested the use of Koh-si Chang island as a place of research when collaboration begins. It is also where CU's Marine Research Institute has already set-up a research centre.

The second meeting was King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang (KMITL). The contact person for this university is Dr. Preecha Yupapin. The meeting was composed of the Vice President of KMITL Assist. Prof. Dr. Pachernchaiapat Chaiyasith, the Assistant President, Assist Prof. Dr. Sunpasit Limnararat, Dr. Keerayoot Srinuanjan who presented Thailand's ORE current status, and a representative from the international affairs of KMITL. Dr. Yupapin mentioned about KMITL's new campus in the South of Thailand (Chumporn) which is located in the coastal area and can be utilized in studying ORE. Dr. Preecha Yupapin also suggested a "Southeast East Asian Energy Research Institute" where not only ORE-related activities would be done for research but with all other types of energy. They also showed support to SEAcORE by suggesting the exchange of students (PhDs and Post-doctoral Degrees) between KMITL and NTU and also amongst other SEA universities. Moreover, the collaboration for NATURE-South East Asia will also be the target.

Finally, the team went to King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi where we met up with the Joint Graduate School of Energy and Environment team headed by Dr. Sirithornthep Towprayoon. The meeting was attended by Prof. Dr. Prunchan Wongwises, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Amnat Chidthaisong, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Usa Humphries. Dr. Sirithornthep suggested that SEAcORE workshop could be part of the International Sustainable Energy and Environment Forum (SEE) next year. She also recommended that aside from resource/technology assessment aim, SEAcORE should also have a human resource assessment. This would be a database/matrix of people/institutions and their areas of research they are doing on ORE (ex. KMUTT has focus and expertise on modeling).

In summary, the three universities expressed their positive support towards the SEAcORE initiative and is looking forward to join its workshops and other activities. MoUs between NTU and these universities are also on-process.



Prof. Kanit of CU and Dr. Abundo



KMITL Campus



Dr. Abundo and Ms. Mary Ann Quirapas with KMITL Team



KMUTT Campus



With KMUTT Team



JGSEE and SEEM Offices