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## AIT Belt and Road Webinar Series #2:

# DIGITAL BELT & ROAD – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT EMPOWERED BY DATA SCIENCE

13 August 2021 | 15.00-17.00 hrs

Bangkok Time ICT (Indochina time) UCT/GMT +7 hours

### Background and Rationale

China launched the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2013 to improve connectivity and cooperation on a transcontinental scale. Noting the extreme importance of digital infrastructure and data science & technology to the development of Belt and Road countries towards industry 4.0 and sustainable development, China has initiated a series of industrial and scientific programs in the past several years which have become a key component of the BRI. The Digital Silk Road (DSR) projects aim to empower the digital connectivity in participating countries and seek for new growth opportunities. In one of the most recent moves, China has completed the launch of its global satellite system, BeiDou, which provides high quality services to the clients – both commercial and national, in the Belt and Road region. The Digital Belt and Road Science Programme (DBAR) was initiated by Chinese scientists in cooperation with experts from 19 countries, aiming to improve sustainable development through data sharing and support policymaking using big data on Earth observations.

Focusing on sustainable development in the Belt and Road Region that is empowered by data science, this webinar shares the updated knowledge and information on big data, and making data science, technology, and application as indispensable parts of meeting social, environmental, and economic challenges as well as realizing the sustainable development goals (SDGs) of countries in the Belt and Road region.

### PROGRAM

15:00 – 15:05

#### Welcome Remarks

**Dr. Eden Woon**

President of Asian Institute of Technology

15:05 – 15:15

#### Distinguished opening speaker:

**Prof. Huadong Guo**

Academician of Chinese Academy of Sciences

15:15 – 15:35

#### Keynote speaker:

**Ms. Miao Tian**

Program Manager, International Cooperation Center of China Satellite Navigation Office

15:35 – 15:55

#### Keynote speaker:

**Prof. Fang Chen**

Deputy Secretary-General of the Digital Belt and Road Program (DBAR)

15:55 – 16:15

#### Keynote speaker:

**Dr. Salvatore G.P. Virdis**

Assistant Professor, Remote Sensing & GIS, Asian Institute of Technology

16:15 – 16:35

#### Keynote speaker:

**Ms. Withanage Dulani Chamika**

Kyushu Institute of Technology, Japan

16:35 – 16:45

#### Q&A session

16:45 – 16:55

#### Virtual Kick-off ceremony of the AIT-NRCT project on “Application of Big Earth Data in Support of the Sustainable Development Goals in Thailand”

**Dr. Ekbordin Winijkul**

Project leader, Asian Institute of Technology

16:55 – 17:00

#### Closing Remarks

**Dr. Wenchoo Xue**

Director, AIT Belt & Road Research Center

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**AIT**  
Asian Institute of Technology

**Dr. Wenchoo Xue**

Assistant Professor, School of Environment Resources & Development, AIT  
Director, AIT Belt & Road Research Center

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# PROFILES OF THE SPEAKERS

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**Prof. Huadong Guo**  
Academician of Chinese Academy of Sciences

Prof. Huadong Guo is Academic Committee Chair of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) Aerospace Information Research Institute, an Academician of CAS, a Foreign Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, a Foreign Member of the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters, and a Fellow of TWAS. He presently serves as Honorary President of the International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE), Director of the International Center on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (HIST) under the Auspices of UNESCO, Science Committee Member of the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk Programme, Chair of the Digital Belt and Road Program, and Editor-in-Chief of two scientific journals International Journal of Digital Earth and Big Earth Data.



**Dr. Salvatore G.P. Virdis**  
Asian Institute of Technology

Dr. Salvatore G.P. Virdis is an assistant professor in the field of Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems at Asian Institute of Technology (AIT). His research combines and integrates a range of field-based, remote/proximal sensing techniques and advanced geospatial modelling. In 2006, he received his PhD in "Science and Technologies Applied to the Environment" at the University of Siena (Italy), concerning the land subsidence monitoring in relationships with industrial exploiting of groundwater in coastal plain, by means of SAR interferometry, GPS, and high precision levelling measurements.



**Ms. Miao Tian**  
International Cooperation Center of China  
Satellite Navigation Office

Ms. Miao Tian is the Program Manager of the International Cooperation Center of China Satellite Navigation Office, Member of the Experts Team on International Cooperation of BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS).

She has been engaged in studies on internationalization affairs in the field of satellite navigation, international cooperation, and applications promotion activities related to BDS. She participated in the drafting of white paper on China's BeiDou Navigation Satellite System, Report on Development of BeiDou Navigation Satellite System, and the Application Service Architecture of BeiDou Navigation Satellite System, etc.



**Dr. Ekbordin Winijkul**  
Asian Institute of Technology

Dr. Ekbordin Winijkul is working as Assistant Professor in Environmental Engineering and Management program in the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change, at AIT's School of Environment, Resources and Development (SERD). Prior to joining AIT, Dr. Ekbordin worked as an Emission Scientist at the Atmospheric and Environmental Research (AER), Inc., Massachusetts, USA, and Assistant Environmental Engineer at Argonne National Laboratory, Illinois, USA. His main areas of research include air pollution emission inventory, household emission distribution and mitigation scenarios, transportation emission reduction strategies, and air quality monitoring and modeling.



**Prof. Fang Chen**  
Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth,  
Chinese Academy of Sciences

Fang Chen is a professor at the Aerospace Information Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). Dr. Chen conducts interdisciplinary work combining remote sensing, ecology, and other fields of study to assess spatial patterns of disaster risk. He is currently serving as Deputy Secretary-General of "Digital Belt and Road" Program (DBAR), Deputy Director of Key Laboratory of Digital Earth Science of CAS, Secretary-General of Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) Chinese National Committee, Executive Deputy Director of the CAS-TWAS Centre of Excellence on Space Technology for Disaster Mitigation (SDIM), and member of World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO)-Committee on Disaster Risk Management.



**Ms. Withanage Dulani Chamika**  
Kyushu Institute of Technology, Japan

Miss. Dulani Chamika is a PhD Student in Space Engineering in Kyushu Institute of Technology, Japan. Her research area is about Attitude Determination and Control Systems. She received her bachelor's degree (Field: Mechatronics) in 2014 May from Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand. She worked as a Research Assistant at Mechatronics Laboratory in Asian Institute of Technology from 2014 July-2015 July. She received her master's degree in Space Systems Engineering from Kyushu Institute of Technology, Japan. She is a member of BIRDS-3 Satellite project where three satellites were developed, including Sri Lanka's first satellite "Raavana-1".



**Dr. Eden Woon**  
President, Asian Institute of Technology

Dr. Eden Woon assumed the position of President of Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) on September 1, 2018. He also serves as Special Advisor to the Shaw Foundation in Hong Kong. The Shaw Foundation has funded education projects in Greater China and elsewhere for over 30 years, and is the sponsor of the world-renowned prestigious Shaw Prize in Mathematical Sciences, Life Science and Medicine, and Astronomy. He was most recently the Vice Chairman of Alba Group Asia. Alba Group, based in Berlin, is one of the world's leading environmental engineering and services companies.



**Dr. Wenchao Xue**  
Director of AIT Belt and Road Research  
Center, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)

Dr. Wenchao Xue is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate, School of Environment, Resources and Development, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand. She lectures in Environmental Engineering and Management Program. Serve as the secretary to the National Committee of Thailand in the International Science Program of Digital Belt and Road

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