



AIT

Asian Institute of Technology

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MEMORANDUM

Ref.: VPAA/AAF-106/2013/12-19/106
19 December 2013

The recommendation of FEP is approved.

[Signature]
20 December 2013

TO : Professor Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai
President

cc : Professor Voratas Kachitvichyanukul
Dean, SET

FROM : Faculty Evaluation Panel (FEP)
Professor S. Kumar, VPAA & FEP Chair *[Signature]*

SUBJECT : FEP Recommendation – Dr. Nitin Kumar Tripathi
(*faculty promotion: from Associate Professor to Full Professor*)

I hereby submit the recommendation of the Faculty Evaluation Panel (FEP) for the application for promotion to the rank of Full Professor of Dr. Nitin Kumar Tripathi in the School of Engineering and Technology (SET).

An appeal against the result of the evaluation of the SET Promotion Committee (SPC) on his application for promotion to the rank of Full Professor was submitted by Dr. Tripathi in his memo to the VPAA dated 07 October 2013 (Annex 1). The promotion case of Dr. Tripathi was deliberated twice by the SET Promotion Committee's (SPC) with the following voting results: *SPC meeting #1* on 03 July 2012 (FOR:2, AGAINST:2, ABSTAIN: 1 and *SPC meeting #2* on 13 August 2013 (FOR:2, AGAINST:2). The P&P Statement on Procedure for Evaluation of Faculty Promotion (PA 1-2-2) II.6, indicates that for the School's Promotions Committee "...A positive recommendation requires a positive vote from a simple majority of the committee members present". Voting results of both meeting did not constitute a positive vote from a simple majority. It was also noted that on the President's (Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai) advice, the 2nd meeting of the SPC also took into account in its deliberation the 5 reviews from external experts in the candidate's field. In view of the result of the SPC's assessment, Dr. Tripathi submitted an appeal as provided in the P&P which reads, "Appeal of a negative decision at the School level is made to the VPAA who shall schedule the case to be considered by the FEP."

Dr. Tripathi is currently an Associate Professor in the Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems (RS&GIS) Field of Study (FoS), under the Information & Communication Technologies (ICT) Thematic Area in SET. He is being considered for promotion to the rank of Full Professor. Dr. Tripathi's educational background is as follows:

1995	PhD (Remote Sensing and GIS)	Indian Institute of Technology (I.I.T.) Kanpur, India
1987	M. Tech. (Remote Sensing)	Indian Institute of Technology (I.I.T.) Kanpur, India
1984	B. Tech. (Civil Engineering)	National Institute of Technology Warangal, India

Prior to joining AIT, Dr. Tripathi's work experience includes the following:

PERIOD	POSITION HELD
2001 - onwards	Associate Professor, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand
2000 - 2001	Assistant Professor, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand
1999 (Jan. - June)	Visiting Faculty, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand
1994 - 1999	Assistant Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, India
1989 - 1994	Lecturer, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, India
1988 - 1989	Lecturer, National Institute of Technology, Allahabad, India

Dr. Tripathi joined AIT as an Assistant Professor in January 2000 (13 years and 10 months) in the RS&GIS FoS in SET. Overall, he has been carrying a higher than standard teaching load of 10.6 credits on an average per year during the previous five years (2009-2013). He has taught/co-taught 5-8 courses per year since 2009. The FEP took note of the School's assessment regarding Dr. Tripathi's student course/teaching evaluations which found the overall feedback from students to be satisfactory and likewise suggested for Dr. Tripathi to look into some feedback/comments put forward by students on certain areas that may still have room for further improvement. The FEP considered Dr. Tripathi's accomplishment in the area of teaching to be satisfactory.

The peer teaching review conducted for Dr. Tripathi was completed showing positive feedback and constructive suggestions from peer reviewers which were addressed by Dr. Tripathi in his response and action plan. The final report was received and duly noted by the Panel to be satisfactory.

In the area of pedagogical development, Dr. Tripathi developed nine (9) new courses since he joined AIT. He was involved in curriculum development activities and introduced innovative pedagogical techniques in his courses. He served as Director for Academic Quality and Accreditation (2 years) and led the organization of the "Research Bench Marking Workshop" in collaboration with Elsevier. On publication towards pedagogy, Dr. Tripathi co-authored a paper in 2001 on "Writing and Publishing a Research Paper in Professional Journals: A Systematic approach" intended to support his students and other researchers. In order to make himself abreast with the recent developments in his field, Dr. Tripathi made effort in attending a number of workshops/events such as the "Data Democracy Workshop on Climate Change" organized by the Council of Earth Observation Systems (CEOS) and Space agency of Thailand (GISTDA). The accomplishment of Dr. Tripathi in the area of pedagogical development is considered by the FEP to be satisfactory.

For his entire career in the area of publication, Dr. Tripathi has published a total of 66 articles in international-refereed journals, 6 articles in regional/national journals, 1 book, 11 book chapters, 58 papers in conference proceedings and 5 project reports. Dr. Tripathi has delivered 18 keynote addresses/special lectures. Dr. Tripathi is the first author to nine (9) articles. The SCOPUS database shows three hundred fifty-eight (358) citations (excluding self-citation) to Dr. Tripathi's published work and an h-index of eleven (11) (data as of 10 December 2013). The google scholar citation submitted by Dr. Tripathi indicated a total of six hundred fifty-two (652) citations and an h-index of fifteen (15). The Panel finds Dr. Tripathi's overall publication output and citation record for his entire career and during the period he has been with AIT to be satisfactory. The Panel opined that Dr. Tripathi will still have a substantial number of published articles totaling to 58, even if those he earlier published in the journal where he is the editor-in-chief were not to be counted. In addition, some Panel members were of the view that initiation of a peer-reviewed journal in the field of Geoinformatics by an AIT faculty is to be appreciated since it gives visibility to AIT and contributes in the promotion and development of research being done in this particular field. On the issue of research focus, the Panel noted Dr. Tripathi's response in his appeal stating that Geoinformation Technology provides tools of Remote Sensing, GIS, Global Positioning Systems and Photogrammetry etc. which are used for application research in the fields of environment, agriculture and health thus giving him a large scope of interacting with experts from various fields and producing research work that are interdisciplinary and collaborative in nature. Nonetheless, the Panel noted that Dr. Tripathi's focus is on the exploration of the impact of climate change on Earth environment and also on the relationship of environmental, climatic and social factors on human health using existing tools of geoinformation technology. Overall, Dr. Tripathi's accomplishment in terms of research publication is considered by the FEP to be satisfactory and a record that warrants promotion to full professor.

The Panel observed that four out of five external reviews were supportive of Dr. Tripathi's promotion to full professor. Excerpts of comments by external evaluators in relation to his publication and research work are noted in the annexure attached (Annex 2). The Panel duly noted that the external reviewer who did not support the promotion highlighted only one aspect of the accomplishment where he used the ISI Web of Science as the only consideration in assessing research publication. The Panel felt that the other four reviewers took due consideration of the overall accomplishments. These reviews underscored that Dr. Tripathi is clearly doing a valuable work on the research, teaching, service and administrative fronts, coupled with a long and steady record of performance.

In the area of student research supervision, Dr. Tripathi graduated twenty-one (21) doctoral students and a total of seventy-nine (79) master's students in AIT. In addition, fourteen (14) master's students graduated under Dr. Tripathi's supervision during his time in IIT, Kanpur (India). Currently, he is supervising fifteen (15) doctoral students and ten (10)

master's students. The Committee finds Dr. Tripathi's accomplishment in this area to be satisfactory. Likewise, the feedback from the student research supervision report is considered satisfactory by the Panel.

In terms of contracted and sponsored research projects, during his 13 years in AIT, Dr. Tripathi has been/is involved in a total of nine (9) projects, (7 completed and 2 on-going). He also has one completed consulting project in 1999 before joining AIT. The Panel considers his accomplishments in this area to be satisfactory.

In reviewing his financial productivity, the Panel noted that Dr. Tripathi has generated a cumulative surplus during the four-year period under evaluation (*data as of November 2013*), which the Panel finds satisfactory.

In terms of service, Dr. Tripathi's involvement in the Thematic Area, the School, and the Institute-level committees include among others, service engagements as: i] member, Academic Development and Review Committee (ADRC) from 2004-2007, ii] member, Steering Committee, ITCZM FoS, iii] member, Task Force on Consulting and Sponsored Research, iv] member, Task Force on Iran and Malaysia Cooperations, v] Indian Faculty Representative, Indian Grant and Secondment, vi] Director, AIT Academic Quality Assurance and Accreditation, vii] Member, Task Force on International Summer Camp for Future Engineering Leaders on Climate Change, viii] SAT Forum Secretary (2000-2003), ix] Election Officer for Representatives of Faculty Relations Committee and x] In-charge, Promotion Activity in India etc. In terms of administrative service, Dr. Tripathi served/serving in varied capacities such as: i] Acting Dean of SET during July to September 2013, ii] Associate Dean of SET (since 1 February 2011), iii] Coordinator of the Remote Sensing and GIS FoS (2009 onwards), iv] Thematic Area Leader of ICT/SET (Nov. 2013-present), v] Director, Academic Quality Assurance and Accreditation, and vi] Director, UNIGIS online master's program etc. Dr. Tripathi contributed in the promotion of AIT through his participation in the promotion activities and visits within Thailand, Vietnam, China, Cambodia. He organized 27 training courses and was also involved in the organization/co-organization of 17 conferences/workshops/seminar. In terms of his community and professional service, Dr. Tripathi is an Executive Committee Member of the Geoinformatics Association of Malaysia and served as member of several organizations and professional bodies such as the i] Executive Committee, Indian Society of Geomatics (1999-2003), ii] Executive Committee, Asian Association on Remote Sensing (2001-03), iii] Green Eminent Consultant, India (Advisor, 1995-1998) and iv] President, Association for Geoinformation Technology (AgIT). He also provided consulting services to several organizations (7). Dr. Tripathi has been serving/served in the editorial boards of the following academic journals namely, the Indian Journal of Remote Sensing (2006-2008), the Chemistry of Environment (2009-onwards), and the Asian Journal of Geoinformatics as Editor-in-Chief (2000-2004) / International Journal of Geoinformatics as Editor-in-Chief, (since January 2005). He was a guest editor for special issues of the International Journal of Imaging (1) and the International Journal of Remote Sensing (1). Dr. Tripathi reviewed manuscripts for 14 academic journals which include among others, i] the International Journal of Remote Sensing (Taylor and Francis), ii] the International Journal of Applied earth Observation and Geoinformation (ITC Journal), iii] Indian Journal of Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry, iv] International Journal of Imaging, v] Journal of Chemistry and Environment Geojournal (Springer) and vi] International Journal of Geographical Information Science etc. Likewise, he served as an external examiner for 16 PhD students (India, Thailand, Hong Kong, Malaysia, and Australia). Overall, the Panel appreciates Dr. Tripathi's contribution and active involvement in the area of service.

The Panel's assessment of Dr. Tripathi's overall accomplishments in the areas of research, pedagogy and service in consideration of his application for promotion is satisfactory.

The motion to promote Dr. Nitin Kumar Tripathi from the rank of Associate Professor to Full Professor **PASSED**, with a voting result of, **FOR: 4 and AGAINST: 1**. Five (5) out of six (6) members of the FEP who are at the rank of Full Professor participated in the deliberation of Dr. Tripathi's promotion case.

Prof. Ajit Annachhatre was unable to attend the FEP meeting. The FEP members, who participated in the deliberation of Dr. Nitin Kumar Tripathi's renewal case on 11 December 2013, were:

Prof. Sivanappan Kumar (Chair)
Prof. Mukand Singh Babel, SET
Prof. Phan Minh Dung, SET

Prof. Chettiyappan Visvanathan. SERD
Prof. Nazrul Islam, SOM

ANNEX 2
(FEP report)

For promotion to the rank of Professor, evaluation letters from at least five (5) external evaluators are required. It was noted that four out of five external evaluators were supportive of Dr. Tripathi's promotion to the rank of Full Professor. The highlights of comments made by external reviewers in relation to his publication and research work are as follows:

"Dr. Tripathi is a clear asset to AIT. I would describe him as a generalist in the field of geographic information science. His work spans remote sensing, geographic information systems and global positioning systems sub-disciplines. His published research articles and student advisement span, in almost equal proportions, these areas. I find this remarkable and to his credit. He clearly has the acumen and creativity to delve into a variety of research and applications scientific investigations."

"Given his extensive publication record, descriptions of some of his research projects, advising, instruction and service records, I would judge that Dr. Tripathi merits promotion."

"A significant number of the publications as a team member and also as the lead author"..."Good record for leadership and service to the community."

"In my assessment, the candidate has earned the rank of Professor at AIT. Based on his continues and consistent recorded he has made significant internationally recognized contributions in research and the profession. He also demonstrated leadership in the Institute and his field."

"In his accompanying publications I have noted that Dr. Tripathi's work is collaborative and integrative. I think these are both strengths of his work. Dr. Tripathi publishes multi-authored papers, which are a norm in today's multi-disciplinary scientific research activities and reflect the diversity of the skills required. Successfully publishing a multi-authored manuscripts is its own challenge, and Dr. Tripathi is to be commended for his evident strength in the area."

"Dr. Tripathi's academic training is complemented by his technical skills in contemporary software and his knowledge of spatial sciences. His work uses and develops cutting-edge methodologies and techniques, and is well-regarded in the profession. In my view, Dr. Tripathi has made especially significant contributions to geospatial science in four areas: (1) remote sensing for coastal and environmental applications (broad issues e.g., water quality, soil erosion), (2) GIS and health issues, (3) the development of a rigorous academic curriculum in geospatial science and (4) developing a truly international flavor to AIT's geospatial program by building strong relationships with individuals and agencies across Asia and elsewhere across the globe."

"Dr. Tripathi's CV also indicates significant service, both to his institution and professional organizations...He also serves (or has served) on many vital committees across the academic and professional segments, and has made significant efforts to link academic with the public and private sectors (e.g. his project with Cara CAD)"

"In summation, I have the highest respect for Dr. Tripathi's accomplishments. I believe he represents the Asian Institute of Technology extremely well and have no hesitation in recommending for promotion to Full Professor at the Asian Institute of Technology."

"In relation to his publications, I can see increased quality, diversity and quantity in recent years. The work seems to be near the leading edge in remote sensing and spatial information processing."

"Promotion to full professor rides largely on the research accomplishments, and indeed, Nitin has demonstrated a continuous flow of research output throughout his career. Since becoming an associate professor in 2001, he has produced another 50 articles in many "A" and "B" level journals. This level of productivity would be seen as excellent and well above the bar for promotion. The lack of any gaps in the output is particularly impressive..."

"Nitin has a service record that is far more than adequate for promotion – our committee might spend 30 seconds on the issue case."

"I strongly and enthusiastically recommend that you promote Dr. Tripathi to the rank of full professor – we would definitely be promoted at my institution."