

Assoc. Prof. Tawee Vechaphutti, The Legend of the First ASHRAE Fellow in Thailand

Associate Professor Tawee Vechaphutti graduated with a B. Eng degree in 1965 from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Chulalongkorn University. He joined the department as a lecturer after his graduation. In 1969 he was awarded the Thai Government scholarship to further his study in the United States, where he obtained a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He returned to Thailand and continued teaching at Chulalongkorn University. He has devoted his life to teaching and doing research works in the field of HVAC and it goes without saying that he is one of the pioneers in this field in Thailand. He teaches at Chulalongkorn University as well as at other academic institutes. In 2001 he received an Outstanding Alumni Award from Chulalongkorn University Engineering Alumni for outstanding contribution in both Academics and Professional Engineering in Thailand.

As an educator, he has imparted his knowledge to his students and has been an inspiration to them, he also shares his knowledge and experience with other engineers who are working in the government and industrial sector. He is often invited by companies and manufacturers to give lectures on the fundamental and application of HVAC and has conducted many technical training courses for young engineers. He is recognized as a leader of the air-conditioning professionals in Thailand. He is the most sought after keynote speaker in HVAC advanced knowledge for technical seminar of many air-conditioning distributors in Thailand namely - York, Carrier, Trane, Daikin, Mitsubishi and UNI-Aire.

He has pioneered many outstanding research projects in the field of Thermal Comfort, Energy Conservation in Buildings, Comfort Indoor Environment, OTTV-Value of buildings in Thailand. His research has a high impact in the field of HVAC and results of his findings are widely referred to by academics and professional engineers. He received the best research prize from Chulalongkorn University for his work on OTTV-Value of buildings in Thailand. He has written two well-known books: "Clean Room Design" and "Energy Management in Buildings". His book, "Clean Room Design" is widely used as a practical reference for all professional engineers in the field of HVAC. He has contributed greatly to the advancement in design development in HVAC in Thailand.

He has performed his duty as specialist and educator in the field of HVAC and Energy Saving for the government sector and institute, namely DEDP (Department of Energy Development Promotion), former NEA (National Energy Administration). He served as advisor of the Steering Committee of Energy Research Institute of Chulalongkorn University, Sub-committee Energy Conservation Project Fund for Renovation of Government Building in Thailand (appointed by DEDP), Committee of life cycle costing of all equipment or machinery used in the energy conservation project (appointed by DEDP). He was chairman of the steering committee in drafting the "Standard of Energy Conservation Handbook" Section: Air Conditioning. This standard is widely used

in Thailand and is part of the Energy Law in the Government's Policy.

He has been working as a professional engineer for more than 35 years, as designer, head of consultant projects, head of MEPS construction management for many outstanding and mega projects in Thailand. He is a leader in the air-conditioning profession, bringing advanced technology and applied his research findings to his design projects. He developed novel systems in Thailand such as low kW/TR chiller, high EER, high efficiency of equipment (pump, cooling tower, motor, etc.), non-CFC refrigerant, environmental friendly concepts, energy conservation. He has designed air-conditioning systems for both commercial and industrial buildings, and always introduce new innovation and advanced technology in his design.

He is a very enthusiastic and active member in various engineering societies in Thailand, e.g., The Engineering Institute of Thailand under H.M. the King's Patronage in which he had held many positions such as Secretary, Committee, Vice-Chairman and Advisory Board; The Engineering Council of Thailand (Professional Engineer Board of Thailand) as specialist in Mechanical Engineering Committee; and many more. Under his leadership and guidance and with the advice and inspiration of two former ASHRAE presidents, Mr. Ronald G. Rich and Mr. Richard A. Charles, the Air Conditioning Club of Thailand was upgraded to the status of The Air Conditioning Engineering Association of Thailand (ACAT) in 1998 and ASHRAE Thailand Chapter in 2000.



He joined ASHRAE in 1989 as a regular member, and has played an active role in the ASHRAE Thailand Chapter, and has held office as Board of Governors since the year 2000. He still travels to many countries, such as Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Switzerland, Australia and China to present his research papers. He is known nationwide and internationally for his work in HVAC. He has a vast knowledge in his field and he is

a popular speaker and has received more than 35 awards, certificates of appreciation, plaques for his contribution to society.

He has a very pleasant personality, he is very polite, humble, generous, honest and has a very high moral standard. He is well loved by his students, his colleagues as well as by professional engineers and many people who have come to know him. Associate Professor Tawee Vechaphutti is willing to share his knowledge with all engineers and to contribute to the good of our society. He devoted his life to teaching, researching and practicing in the profession to raise the standard of HVAC in Thailand.

It is Thailand Chapter great pleasure and honour that ASHRAE Society up grade Associate Professor Tawee Vechaphutti to be "Fellow" member in June 2003. He is the "First Thai Fellow" who is very valuable to Thailand Chapter.