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AIT
Asian Institute of Technology

ISSUE 6 (AUGUST TERM 2025)

MSc Business Analytics and Digital Transformation

Celebrating Diversity: August 2025 Intake of BADT



The August 2025 intake of the Master of Science in Business Analytics and Digital Transformation (MSBADT) program welcomes a vibrant cohort of 40 students, reflecting the rich diversity that AIT is known for. This group brings together aspiring data and business professionals from across nine different countries, creating a dynamic, multicultural learning environment.

Students have joined from countries strongly represented in the program, such as Thailand, Nepal, and Myanmar, creating vibrant learning communities that will enrich both academic and social life. At the same time, the presence of students from places such as Uzbekistan, Mongolia, the Philippines, and China adds a unique dimension to the group, ensuring that discussions are enriched with a truly global outlook.

The variety of backgrounds represented in this cohort also highlights the different perspectives students bring into the classroom. With experiences spanning finance, technology, entrepreneurship, and research, each student contributes to a learning environment that values collaboration and the exchange of ideas. This diversity not only enhances academic discussions but also prepares students to apply innovative solutions to real-world business challenges.

Beyond academics, this intake embodies the spirit of global community at AIT. Through cultural exchanges, teamwork, and shared experiences, students will build lasting connections that extend beyond borders. As they embark on their journey together, the August 2025 batch is poised to grow not just as future leaders in business analytics and digital transformation, but also as ambassadors of cross-cultural understanding and cooperation.

From Classrooms to Communities: Building Impact Through Digital Innovation



Contributor: Shruti Awale, August 2024 intake

At the Social Impact Hackathon 2025, held on 30-31 August organized by the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) School of Management, AIT Entrepreneurship Center, and the Rotary Club of Bangkok DACH, our team worked with the iCare Thailand Foundation to solve a pressing challenge in scholarship management. Donors often give with love and hope but rarely receive transparent feedback on students progress while rural teachers spend long hours on paperwork and travel just to share student progress reports.

We designed an offline/online Digitised Donation System that connects teachers, donors, and iCare on a single platform. Teachers can record data offline via text or voice recording without needing the internet, reducing paperwork, manual errors, and translation issues. When they travel to areas with network access, the information automatically syncs securely to the database. iCare can then securely manage the data, use analytics to generate insights, and send automated, personalized updates to donors about the specific students whose life they have helped change; building transparency, strengthening trust, and enabling greater impact at scale.

This solution creates a bridge of trust, dignity, and opportunity between those who give and those who learn. By simplifying processes for teachers and providing visibility for donors, the system strengthens accountability as well as connection between the donors and the students.

We were honored to receive the Most Innovative Solution Award for our project. More meaningful than the award was realizing how even a simple yet thoughtful technology can transform connections in education. A big thank you to my teammates Ashna Manandhar, Ashwina Gorkhali, Stuti Shrestha, and Sachhyam Lal Shrestha, our mentor Olivier Dombey, and the organizers for giving us the platform to learn and create solutions that matter.

From Introspection to Leadership: Personal Reflection on DLS

A silhouette of a man on a green background, with the words “Know Yourself.” That was the image that kept coming back in almost all the classes during our Developing Leadership Skills in the Digital Workplace course with Ms. Paige Dobkin and Mr. Pachara Yongjiranon. It reminded us that before we can lead others—or even ourselves—we need to first pause and ask: Who am I?

The tone was set very early. It wasn’t about abstract theories or distant case studies—it was about us. We found ourselves in conversations where we were surprisingly comfortable being open and vulnerable, reflecting on our values, strengths, failures, and doubts that we usually keep hidden.



Contributor: Partho Mostafa, August 2025 Intake

The classroom no longer felt like a lecture hall—it became a place where we could reflect honestly on ourselves, while still tying those moments of introspection back to the fundamentals of what it means to lead and be led.

For me, the frameworks we explored in almost every class—such as how to become better listeners and how to provide meaningful feedback—were both useful and deeply valuable. They weren’t rigid models, but practical tools I could see myself applying in real conversations and future leadership roles.

Perhaps none of us walked away from this course completely knowing ourselves. But the windows and doors are now open—towards curiosity and questioning, self-awareness, and the courage to speak.

AIT Students Kick Off the CFA Institute Research Challenge 2025

The CFA Institute Research Challenge 2025 officially commenced with an engaging Kick-Off Meeting held on 4th October, bringing together 28 teams from across different universities in Thailand, marking one of the most competitive years yet.

The event began with an overview from the CFA Society Thailand, outlining key competition milestones and expectations. Participants then attended an insightful session by Dr. Andrew Stotz, CFA, who shared his remarkable journey from overcoming personal struggles to becoming Thailand’s No. 1 financial analyst after 14 years of failure. His message resonated deeply: “Failing is okay, but giving up isn’t.”

Students also met with representatives from Bloomberg, the official data service provider for CFA challenge, who introduced essential functions and upcoming in-person training opportunities. A highlight of the day was hearing from the former winning team from Chulalongkorn University, who emphasized teamwork with building friendship and making the most of the six hours of mentorship with industry experts.

The subject company for this year’s challenge “PTT Oil and Retail Business (OR)” was officially announced, setting the stage for the teams to begin their equity research journey. The event concluded with group networking and photo sessions, giving participants the chance to meet mentors and connect with peers from other universities. Is it our time to represent Thailand globally next?

Contributor: Khushi Goyal, August 2025 intake



SOM Launches First BADT Yearbook 2025



The School of Management at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) is proud to announce the publication of the inaugural Yearbook of Business Analytics & Digital Transformation (BADT) 2025. This first edition marks a significant milestone for the program, offering a comprehensive record of student achievements, faculty contributions, and program highlights throughout the academic year. More than a retrospective, the yearbook serves as a platform to showcase the program's growth and the vibrant community behind it.

Organized into four key sections—Trends and Industry Reports, Field Trips and Workshops, Course Insights and Reflections, and Book Reviews—the yearbook reflects the program's dynamic engagement with pressing topics such as artificial intelligence, ESG transformation, fintech, and innovation in digital ecosystems. From field visits at leading companies to critical reviews of influential texts, the publication captures the breadth of learning experiences while celebrating the creativity, analytical skills, and innovation that define the BADT community.

Editors Dr. Tobias Endress, Program Director, and Inah Bancoro Talaid, Program Coordinator, expressed their gratitude to all contributors, noting that the yearbook aims not only to document but also to inspire. "This publication reflects the dynamism of our field and the commitment of our students and faculty.

We hope it will strengthen our community and contribute to ongoing dialogues around innovation, analytics, and transformation," they shared in the preface. The Yearbook of Business Analytics & Digital Transformation 2025 will soon be available in hardcover, paperback, and e-book editions.

MSc International Finance



WELCOME AUGUST 2025 COHORT

This August 2025, the International Finance Program welcomed 13 new students into the fold — our biggest and most exciting intake yet!

With fresh faces, diverse perspectives, and big ambitions, this group is ready to dive into the world of global finance. The classroom is buzzing with energy, collaboration, and new ideas that promise to make this term truly unforgettable.

Here's to building a vibrant community of learners, sharing global insights, and shaping tomorrow's financial trailblazers together.



The term concludes on a strong note with students completing Financial Accounting and Decision Making with Dr Sundar Venkatesh as well as the newly offered Bank Management and Financial Institutions (BMFI) course under Dr Dodd Ariefianto, delivered for the first time this term.



Together, these courses have equipped learners with valuable insights and practical skills essential for thriving in today's evolving financial landscape.

BMFI provided fresh perspectives on banking operations, risk management, and financial services, complementing the solid foundation built through Accounting.



This milestone marks both the successful conclusion of the term and the promising start of innovative course offerings at International Finance.

MSc International Finance

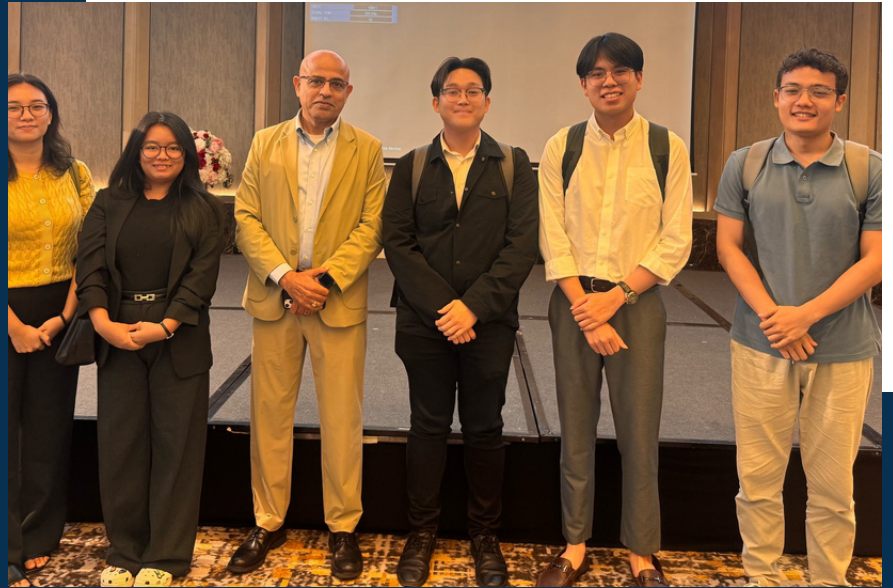


BEST OF LUCK TO OUR FINANCE TEAM!

We're proud to share that a team of five (5) Finance students is representing SOM-AIT in the CFA Institute Research Challenge Thailand 2025-2026!

This prestigious competition gives students the chance to apply their skills in equity research and financial analysis, work together as a team, and present to industry experts on a national stage. It's also an incredible opportunity to grow, learn, and connect with finance professionals.

We extend our best wishes to the Finance Team for a successful and rewarding experience. The SOM community is proudly cheering you on every step of the way.



Left to right: Yoon May Lwin, Nyein Thinzar Zaw, Dr. Sundar Venkatesh, Nuttapong Mekaporn, Rachapol Dechawaranont and Khun Aung Kyaw Htoo



BOOTCAMP FOR A KICK-START

The Finance and MBA Program will have its first-ever Corporate Finance Bootcamp on 18-19 October, a two-day academic activity designed to provide students with a strong foundational understanding of key financial concepts at the start of the term.

This initiative aims to equip participants with essential analytical tools and introduce fundamental topics that will support their learning throughout the Corporate Finance course. Through a combination of structured lectures, interactive discussions, and practical applications, the bootcamp will set the tone for a rigorous and engaging academic experience.



FUEL FOR THOUGHT

Green Regulation, Market Power, and Geopolitical Risk: The Case of Indonesian Banks

Journal: Finance Research Letters

Authors: Moch Doddy Ariefianto, Joseph J. French, Constantin Gurdgiev

The finance workforce in a digital world

<https://www.deloitte.com>

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

My Japanese Experience: Ochanomizu Summer Program for Global Leaders 2025



Sachhyam Lal Shrestha

I recently had the opportunity to participate in the Ochanomizu Summer Program for Global Leaders 2025 at Ochanomizu University, Tokyo, Japan.

This was not just an academic experience; it was an opportunity to immerse myself in Japanese culture and exchange perspectives with brilliant students from around the globe. It made me truly realize that we are all global citizens, and our actions carry global impacts, something every aspiring leader should understand and act upon.

I chose to enroll in the course "Exploring and Creating Healthy Human Life in Modern Society." As a business student, this was a deliberate step outside my usual field. I wanted to explore how AI and Machine Learning can impact areas beyond business. The course exceeded my expectations, offering fresh insights into how modern technology can address some of the most fundamental needs of humanity, particularly in food, nutrition, and health.

My month-long stay in Japan was equally eye-opening outside the classroom. As I reflect on my stay, I have also realised that we have got a lot to learn from the Japanese people. I was deeply inspired by the discipline, hard work, and spirit of innovation that are so deeply ingrained in Japanese society.

This experience has broadened my perspectives and strengthened my belief that leadership in today's world means learning from diverse cultures, stepping beyond your comfort zone, and understanding the global consequences of our choices.

Next term preview:

- Registration for October 2025 term:
 - Starts - Monday, October 6
 - Ends - Friday, 17 October
- Course Evaluation for August 2025 term:
 - Starts - Thursday, 27 Nov
 - Ends - Thursday, 11 December
- Final Grade Out
 - Friday, 12 December (After Academic Senate)

If you'd like to be part of our next bulletin, we're welcoming contributions!

For BADT, please email Ms. Inah at inah@ait.asia.

and for IF, email Ms. Marianne at marianneMontecillo@ait.asia.

We look forward to your insights!