



GEOINFORMATICS CENTER NEWSLETTER

April 2026



28th Steering Committee (SC) Meeting of Sentinel Asia

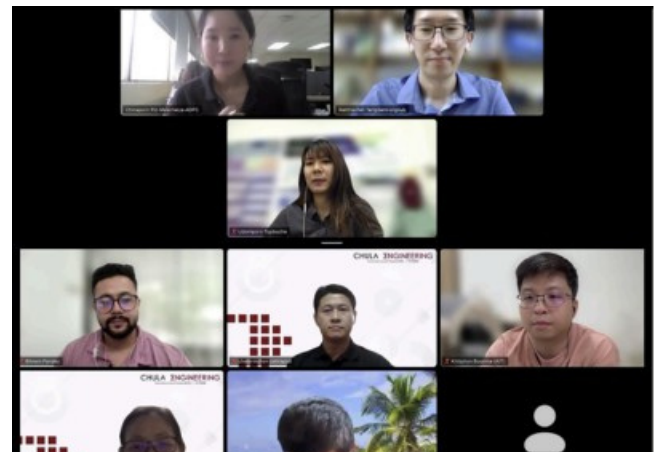
Dr. Manzul K. Hazarika, Director of the Geoinformatics Center at AIT (GIC-AIT), joined the 28th Sentinel Asia Steering Committee Meeting in Bali, Indonesia. In his address as the outgoing Co-Chair of Sentinel Asia, Dr. Hazarika reflected on recent disasters in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand, underscoring the critical need for timely coordination, effective communication, and sustained capacity-building to enhance Sentinel Asia's operational impact. He served as Co-Chair of Sentinel Asia for a two-year term, from February 2024 to January 2026.

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GIC-WEM Project Kickoff on Satellite Gravimetry for Water and Disaster Management



Project research team (left); Group photo for Project Kick-off meeting (right)

The Inception Meeting for the project titled “Enhancing the Use of Satellite Gravimetry for Sustainable Water Resource and Disaster Management in Thailand and Southeast Asia under Climate Change Challenges” was held on 13 March 2026. The project is funded by the Program Management Unit for Frontier Brainpower and Future Industries (PMU-F), Thailand.

Led by Dr. Natthachet Tangdamrongsub, Assistant Professor in the Water Engineering and Management (WEM) program at AIT, the project team includes Dr. Kittiphon Boonma, Research Specialist at the Geoinformatics Center, AIT. The initiative aims to advance the use of satellite gravity data to improve water resources and disaster management across Thailand and Southeast Asia.

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GIC-FAO Project: Mapping and Monitoring of Glaciers in Afghanistan

The Inception Meeting for the project “Mapping, Decadal Change, Classification, and Monitoring of Glaciers and Glacial Lakes in Afghanistan Using Satellite and Ground Data” was held online on 9 March 2026.



Inception Meeting for GIC-FAO project

The meeting formally launched the six-month project and introduced the overall framework, including its objectives, methodology, datasets, analytical workflow, and anticipated outputs. The study aims to develop a comprehensive inventory of glaciers and glacial lakes across Afghanistan and assess their decadal changes from 1975 to 2025 using multi-source satellite imagery and terrain analysis.

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10th Joint Project Team Meeting for Sentinel Asia (JPTM 2025)

Knowledge Sharing:
Geospatial

The Joint Project Team Meeting (JPTM) 2025, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, was co-organized by the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Center (MBRSC) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) from 10 to 12 February 2026.

Mr. Syams Nashrullah, Senior Research Specialist at the Geoinformatics Center, participated in the meeting and delivered a presentation titled "Urban Flood Mapping Using Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and Validation Insights from Recent Floods in Southern Thailand."



Mr. Nashrullah presenting at 10th JPTM 2025

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AI4Agri 2026 Conference: Advancing Agriculture through Remote Sensing and Geospatial Intelligence



Dr. Hazarika presenting at AI4Agri 2026 Conference (left) and as expert panelist (fourth) for conference

The AI4Agri Global Conference & Investor Summit was organized by the AI and Agri Tech Innovation Center in partnership with the Government of Maharashtra, India, AI Impact Summit 2026 at the Jio World Convention Center, BKC, Mumbai, on 22-23 February 2026. The conference served as a platform for leadership, innovation, and scale, with a mission to leverage AI and AgriTech for agricultural transformation and collaboration through partnership, investment, knowledge sharing, and innovation.

Dr. Manzul Kumar Hazarika, Director of Geoinformatics Center (GIC) was invited as one of the keynote speakers for the session on "Transforming Agriculture at Scale Through Remote Sensing and Geospatial Intelligence".

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1. *Air Quality Nexus Center, AIT*



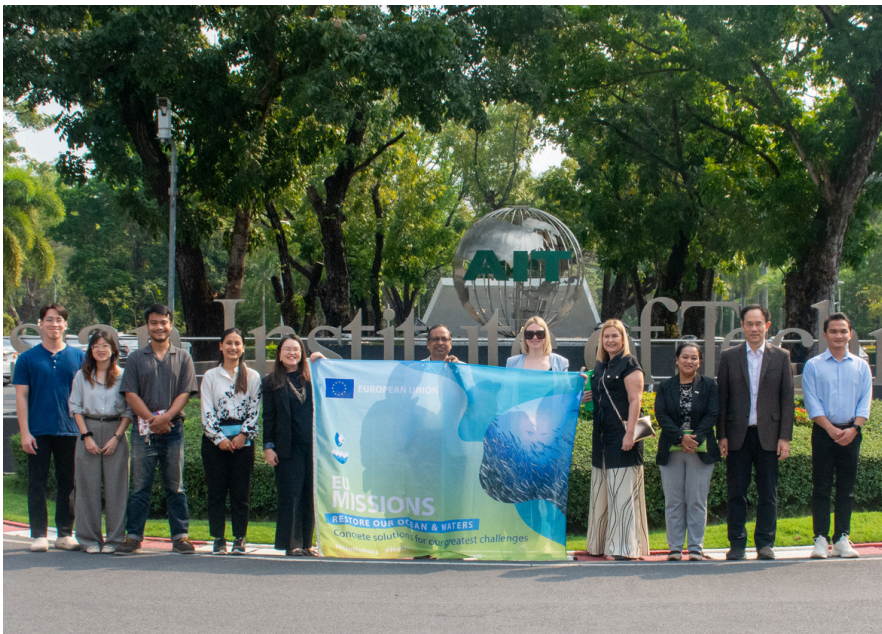
Group photo of GIC and AirQC team

The Geoinformatics Center at AIT (GIC-AIT) organized an introductory meeting with the Air Quality Nexus Center (AirQC-AIT) team to facilitate mutual introductions and explore potential avenues for collaboration.

Dr. Manzul Hazarika, Director of GIC-AIT, and Prof. Nguyen Thi Kim Oanh, Director of AirQC-AIT, provided brief overviews of their respective centers and discussed possible areas for future joint initiatives.

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2. *University of Maribor, Slovenia*



Group photo of AIT team and University of Maribor team

The Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) hosted a delegation from the University of Maribor, Slovenia, on 5 February 2026 to explore potential collaboration opportunities.

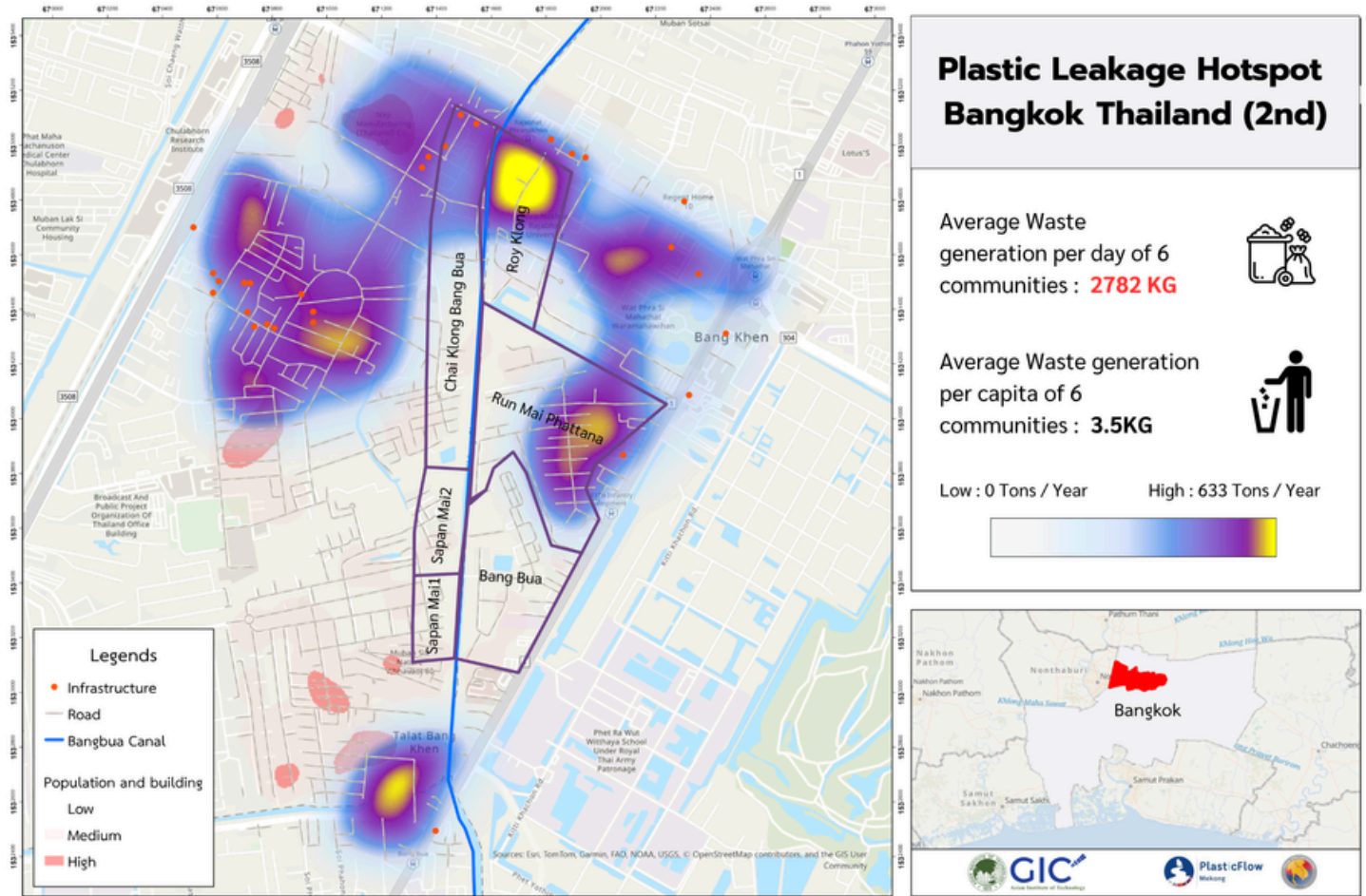
The GIC-AIT team participated in the meeting and highlighted ongoing cooperation under the EU-funded Inspire Europe project, which focuses on developing innovative solutions for plastic-free rivers.

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GIC-AIT and the University of Maribor are both partners in the INSPIRE project, which brings together 26 institutions from Europe and Asia to address plastic waste challenges through cross-regional collaboration and technology-driven solutions.

Plastic Leakage Map for Bangkok, Thailand (Phase 2)

Geospatial
Product



Hotspot map for the plastic leakage in study area of Bangkok, Thailand (developed by GIC)

The GIC-AIT team developed leakage maps identifying key plastic waste hotspots in a study area in Bangkok, Thailand, based on data collected during the second round of surveys conducted in September 2025 using the Survey123 mobile application. The survey covered an area of 4.4 square kilometers, identifying 482 plastic waste hotspot points across the target area.

Potential leakage sites were categorized as artificial barriers, littering spots, or uncontrolled dumpsites. A comprehensive map of the survey points was also generated to visualize the distribution of plastic waste across the study area.

In Bangkok, six communities along the Bang Bua Canal collectively produce approximately 2.782 tons of waste per day, with an average per capita waste generation of 3.5 kg. This activity forms part of the PlasticFlow Mekong project, funded by the Mekong–ROK Cooperation Fund.

Project Page