



AIT
Asian Institute of Technology

MILTON E. BENDER JR. DIGITAL LEARNING THEATRE

A Hybrid Smart Globally Connected
Knowledge Exchange Space for the
21st Century Education

Presented To

AITAA ROC CHAPTER

Date

19 January 2026



A MESSAGE FROM THE AIT PRESIDENT

Dear AIT Alumni,

For nearly five decades, the Milton E. Bender Auditorium has been a place where ideas ignite, knowledge is shared, and futures are shaped. Named in honour of our Founding President, Dr. Milton E. Bender Jr., this iconic venue has hosted countless lectures, seminars, conferences, and community events, fostering the global leaders of tomorrow.

Today, as AIT evolves in a digital-first world, we stand at a pivotal moment. The auditorium, while rich in history, faces the challenges of age and outdated technology. But more importantly, it holds the potential to transform from an event venue into something far greater—a flagship transformative digital learning infrastructure that enables AIT to deliver education, engagement, and impact "Anytime, Anywhere."

Imagine it reborn as the **Milton E. Bender Digital Learning Theatre**—a cutting-edge phy-digital platform that seamlessly blends in-person and virtual experiences, equipped with AI-driven tools, and superior acoustics. This reimagined space extends AIT classrooms into homes, alumni networks, industries, ministries, global partner campuses, and society at large—transforming from auditorium to global classroom, from physical space to a technology-enabled continuous learning digital infrastructure.

This isn't just a renovation—it's an investment that transforms a one-time donation into a long-term AIT institutional asset.

We invite the AIT alumni to join us in this transformation, a space that honors our past while propelling AIT into a new era of innovation.

Prof. Pai-Chi Li
AIT President



THE STORY: MILTON BENDER AUDITORIUM

Established in 1977 with support from USAID, the AIT Foundation, and IBM, the Milton E. Bender Auditorium opened as a symbol of international collaboration and academic excellence.

Dedicated to Dr. Milton E. Bender Jr., AIT's visionary Founding President who passed away in 2000, this 96-seat venue has been central to our community's academic and cultural life.

From groundbreaking symposia to student-led competitions, it has witnessed AIT's growth into a premier institution for technology and sustainable development in Asia.

Yet, after nearly 50 years of service, the auditorium's outdated infrastructure – from worn seating and dim lighting to aging audio-visual systems – limits its potential in today's hybrid learning environment.



CHALLENGES IN THE CURRENT SPACE

In an era of rapid technological advancement and global connectivity, AIT's facilities must keep pace.

The Milton Bender Auditorium, while functional, falls short in several key areas:

✔ Outdated Infrastructure:

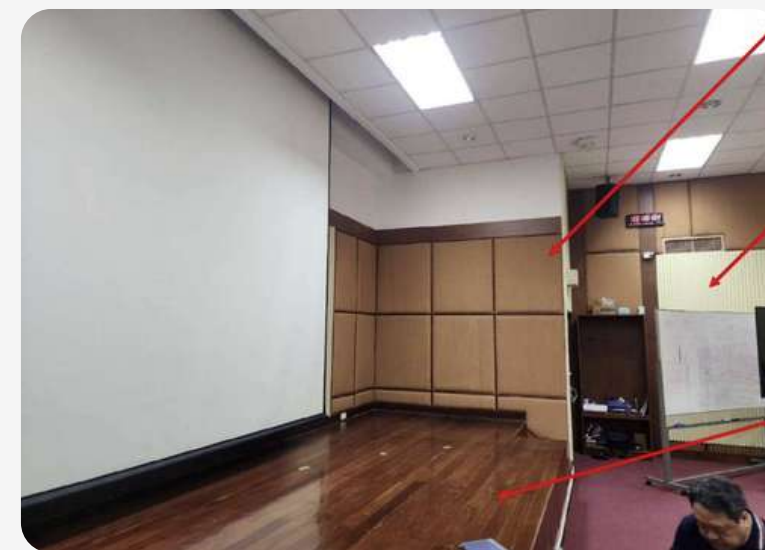
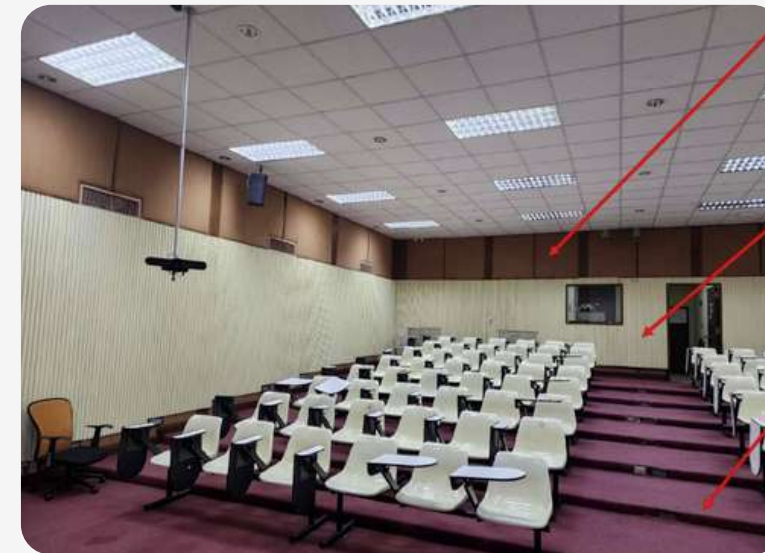
Worn carpet flooring, fiberglass chairs needing repair, and inefficient lighting create an environment that's uncomfortable and less conducive to long sessions.

✔ Limited Technology:

The existing AV system – including projectors, microphones, and speakers – struggles with hybrid events, leading to poor audio quality, unreliable connectivity, and no AI integration for seamless virtual participation.

✔ Accessibility and Safety Gaps

Limited energy efficiency and suboptimal acoustics hinder inclusivity and students/users' experience.



THE NEED (WHY NOW?)

The World Has Changed. AIT Must Lead.

- Hybrid learning practice (and norm) post COVID
- From an auditorium event venue to a Global high-tech digital classroom for lifelong learning
- Alumni engagement across geographies (hub for enabling alumni connect), over 27,000 alumni across 100+ countries
- Impact on the student and faculty as well as Alumni community of such a physical + Digital platform for global engagement

The current Milton Bender Auditorium is “Institute-Wide Asset” having **“Institute-Wide Strategic Value”**

- ✓ Global hybrid conferences and policy dialogues
- ✓ Alumni masterclasses and donor engagement event
- ✓ Industry-linked programs under the AIT Board of Investment-Science and Technology Park (AIT BOI STP)



OUR VISION: A DIGITAL LEARNING THEATRE

**A Globally Connected Knowledge Space -
Renovated Through Alumni Support to Transform the Current Space
into a Lasting Legacy for Present and Future Generations**

The vision is to transform the present Milton E Bender Auditorium into a flagship, transformative digital learning infrastructure that enables AIT to deliver education, engagement, and impact "Anytime, Anywhere."

What We're Building Together:

- ✓ Borderless Education Infrastructure
- ✓ Lifelong Learning Alumni Ecosystem
- ✓ Industry-Government-Academia Bridge
- ✓ Speedboat Professional Master's Program:
Delivery of HyFlex (Hybrid-flexible) creative AI-enabled industry link professional master's programs at the newly renovated Milton Bender Learning Theatre, based on the AIT's 7 Faculties areas, wherein the courses enable individualised, interdisciplinary specialisation.

What Makes the Partnership between AIT & Alumni Truly Memorable:

Every time a student presents their breakthrough research
Every time an alumni connects from across the globe to share wisdom
Every time a partnership is forged between academia and industry
Every time someone walks into this space and feels inspired

They'll know it happened because you believed in AIT's future.



OUR VISION (CONTINUED) MILTON E. BENDER DIGITAL LEARNING THEATRE

We envision transforming the Milton Bender Auditorium into AIT's premier Hybrid-Smart Learning Theatre—a space where physical and digital learning merge seamlessly, where artificial intelligence enhances human connection, and where every participant experiences equal engagement.

This renovation will transform it into a versatile, tech-forward venue that supports high-quality teaching, research presentations, and conferences.



✓ **Enhanced Comfort and Aesthetics**

Durable SPC flooring, repaired and recoated seating, flame-retardant acoustic panels, and energy-efficient LED lighting to create a welcoming, professional atmosphere.

✓ **Immersive Hybrid Technology**

Native Tech integration for one-touch connectivity, AI-driven cameras that auto-track presenters and capture student interactions, and ceiling array microphones for crystal-clear audio in hybrid sessions.

✓ **Advanced AV Systems**

High-brightness LED video walls replacing projectors, digital wireless microphones, and a smart digital podium for interactive annotations – all feeding into a seamless DSP for remote participants.

SCOPE OF WORK: WHAT THE RENOVATION ENTAILS

✓ Part 1: Architectural and Interior Enhancements

1. Flooring: The existing carpet will be removed and replaced with a more durable and aesthetically pleasing material such as SPC flooring.

2. Acoustic Walls:

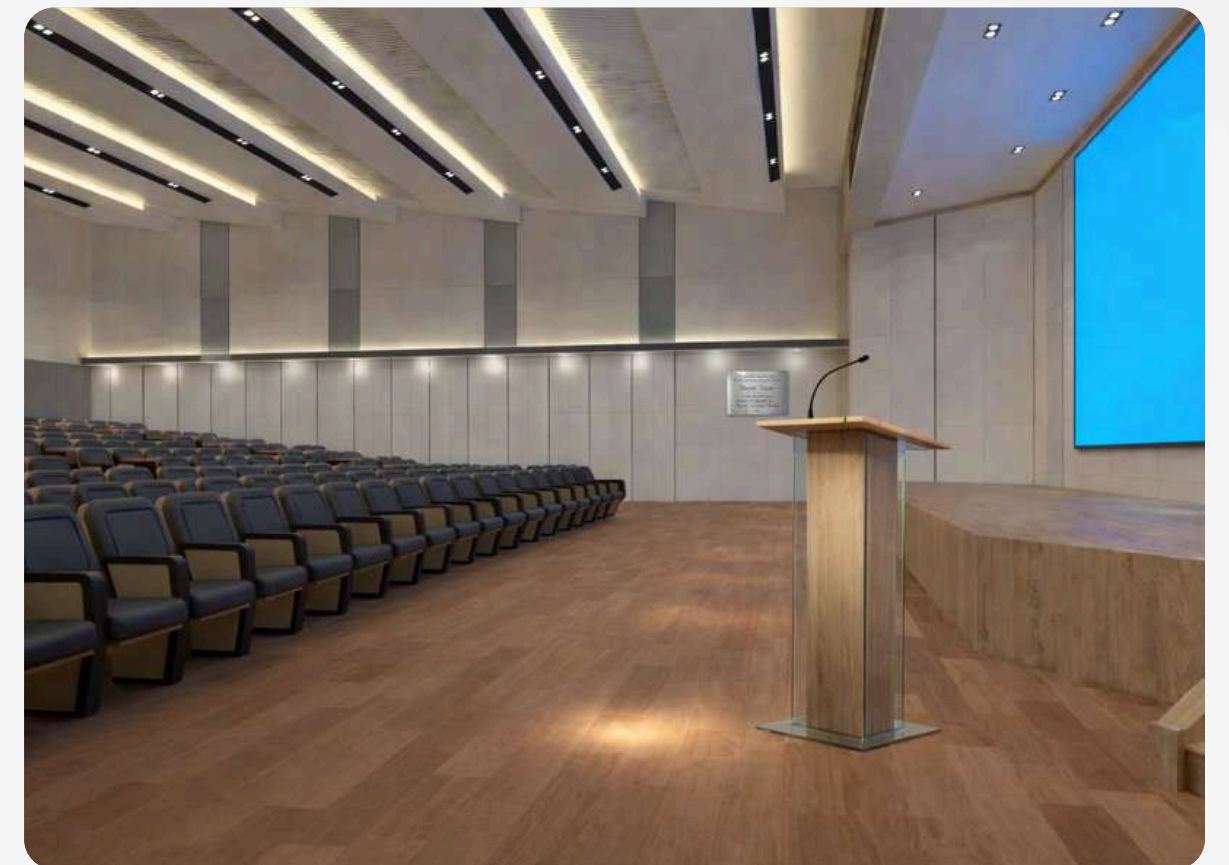
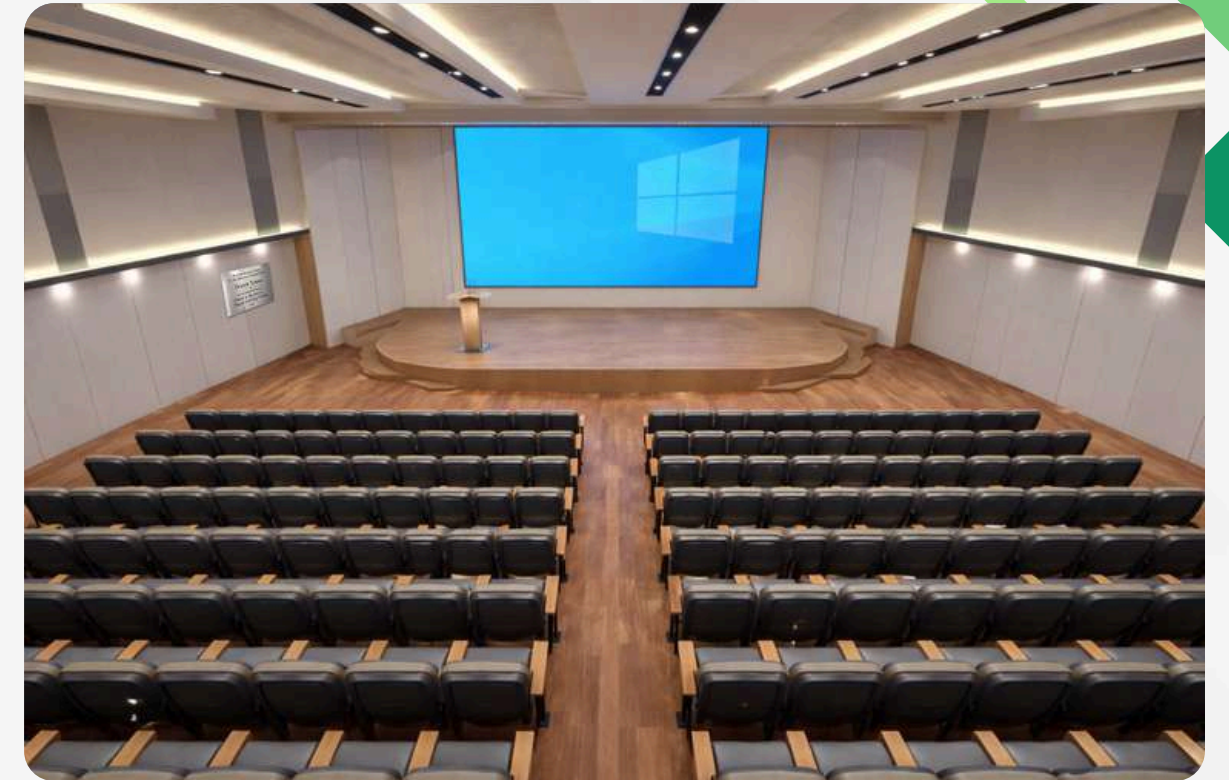
- The existing acoustic wall panels on the upper sections and the stage side walls will be replaced with hard fiberboards covered with flame-retardant polyester fabric.
- The lower wall sections will be replaced with PET slat acoustic panels to reduce sound reflection.

3. Stage and Podium: The wooden stage and podium will be repaired, polished, and repainted.

4. Seating: The existing fiberglass chairs will be repaired and recoated with epoxy paint.

5. Lighting and Ceiling: The ceiling-mounted lighting system will be upgraded or replaced to improve illumination and energy efficiency.

6. Other Fixtures: Electrical outlets, audio sockets, and other related fixtures will be replaced or added as needed to meet functional requirements.



SCOPE OF WORK: WHAT THE RENOVATION ENTAILS (CONTINUED)

✓ Part 2: Audio-Visual and Hybrid Systems

Audio System:

- Digital mixing console
- Passive loudspeakers
- DSP-controlled power amplifiers
- Dynamic wired microphones
- Wireless microphones
- Equipment rack and accessories

Visual System:

- Laser projector
- Motorized projector screen
- Interactive display
- LED TV
- Additional accessories

Hybrid Integration:

- Google Meet Series One Large Room Kit
- AI Tracking Cameras
- Ceiling Array Microphones



PROJECT BUDGET AND TIMELINE

Total Estimated Cost: THB 2,500,000 for the lifetime single naming of the newly renovated Milton E. Bender Jr. Hybrid-Smart Learning Theatre (approx. NTD 2,500,000).

Timeline:

8–10 weeks, including procurement, installation, finishing, and system testing.

- This budget is based on detailed assessments and market rates, ensuring value for every contribution.
- There will be absolute procurement transparency in accordance with the AIT Policy and procedures.
- There is a life-cycle value to this institution-wide asset.

✔ **Part 1: Architectural and Interior Enhancements**

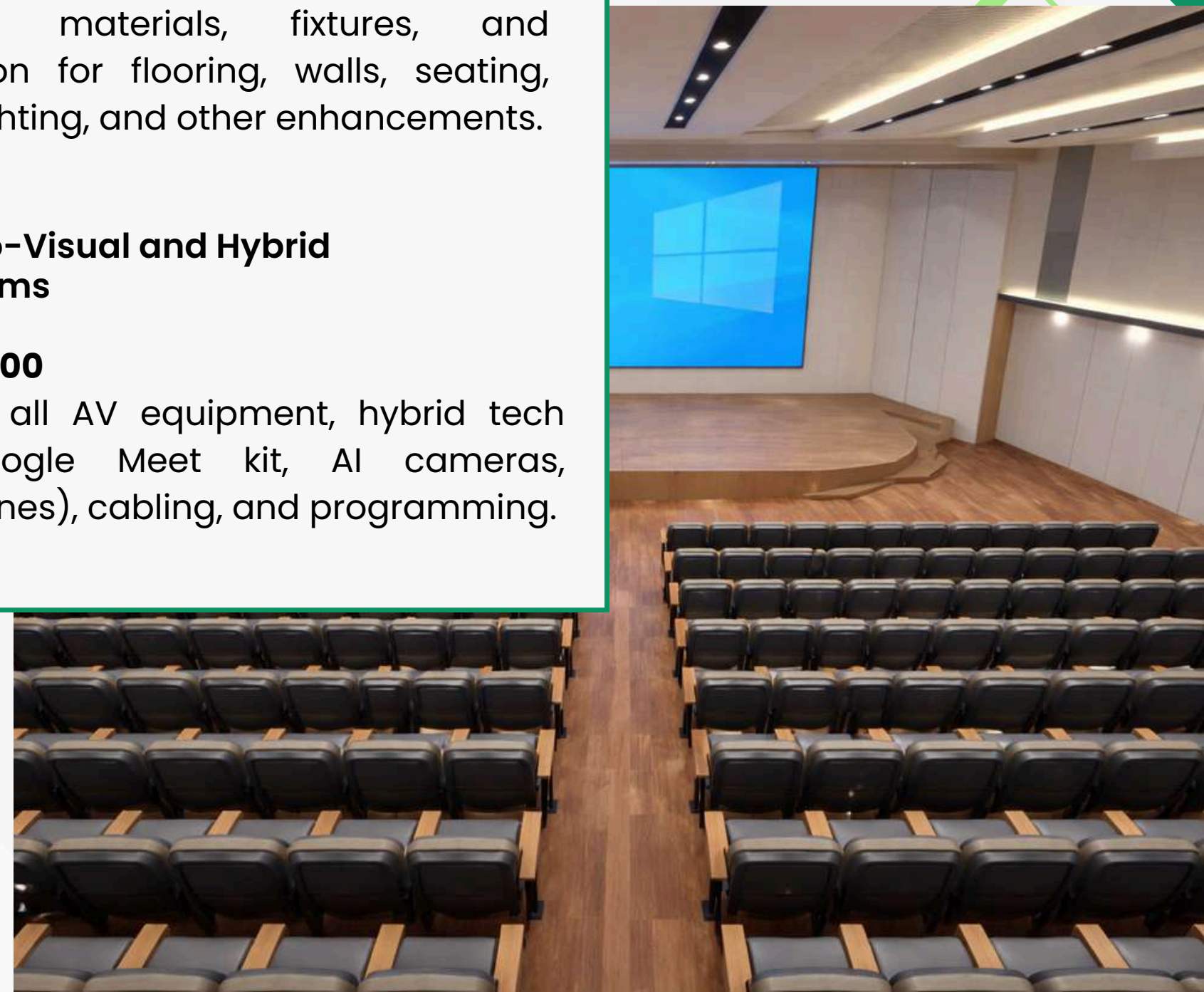
THB 1,750,000

Covering materials, fixtures, and installation for flooring, walls, seating, stage, lighting, and other enhancements.

✔ **Audio-Visual and Hybrid Systems**

THB 750,000

Including all AV equipment, hybrid tech (e.g., Google Meet kit, AI cameras, microphones), cabling, and programming.



EXPECTED OUTCOMES

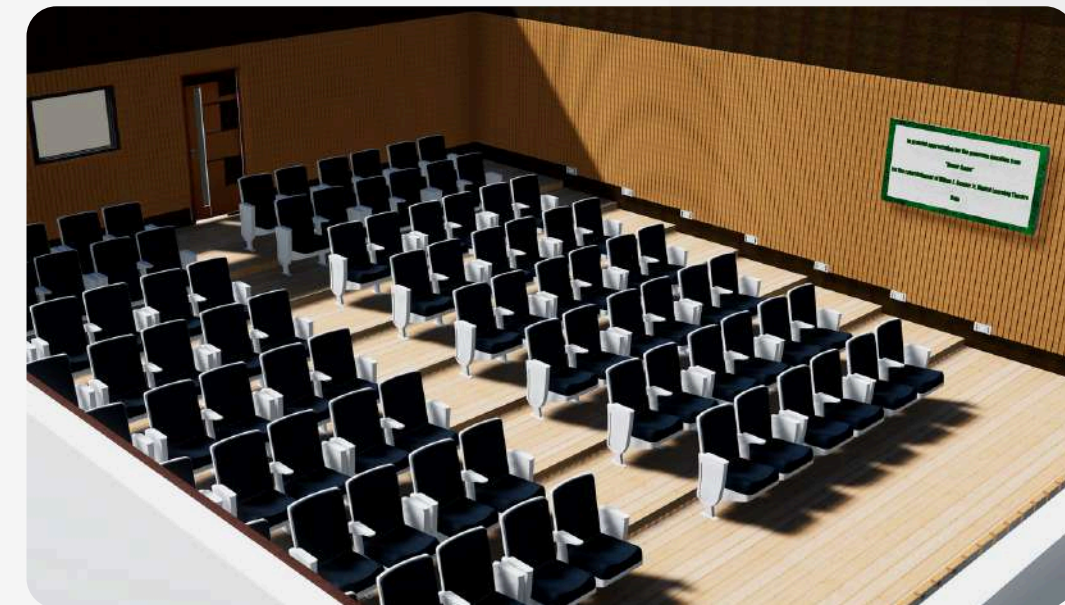
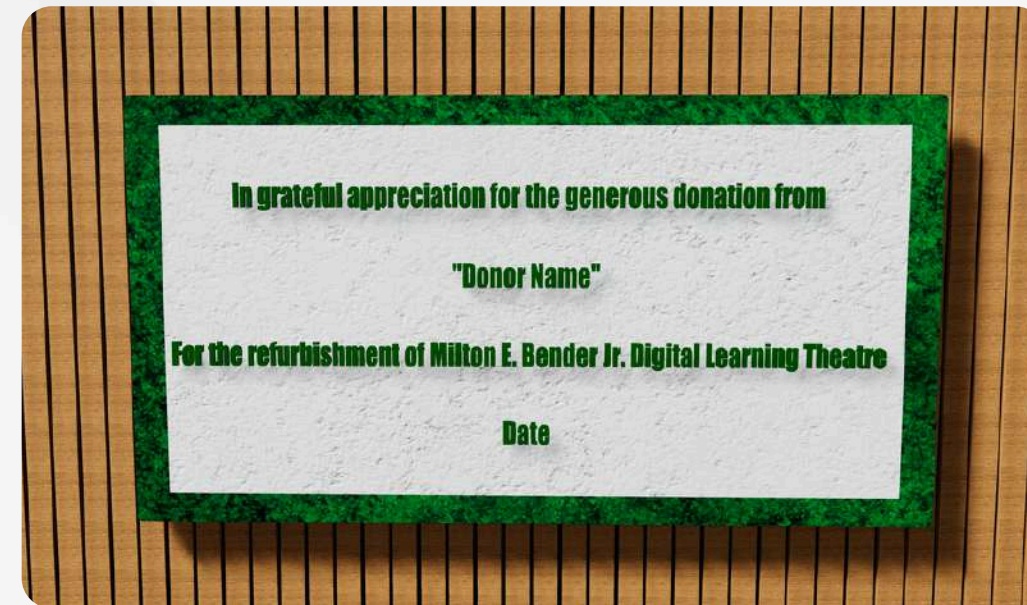
- ✓ World-class hybrid learning capability matching top global institutions
- ✓ Modernized interior finishes and improved acoustics / Enhanced comfort for 96 in-person participants
- ✓ Improved user experience for academic and institutional events
- ✓ Increased durability with reduced long-term maintenance requirements



RECOGNITION & NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

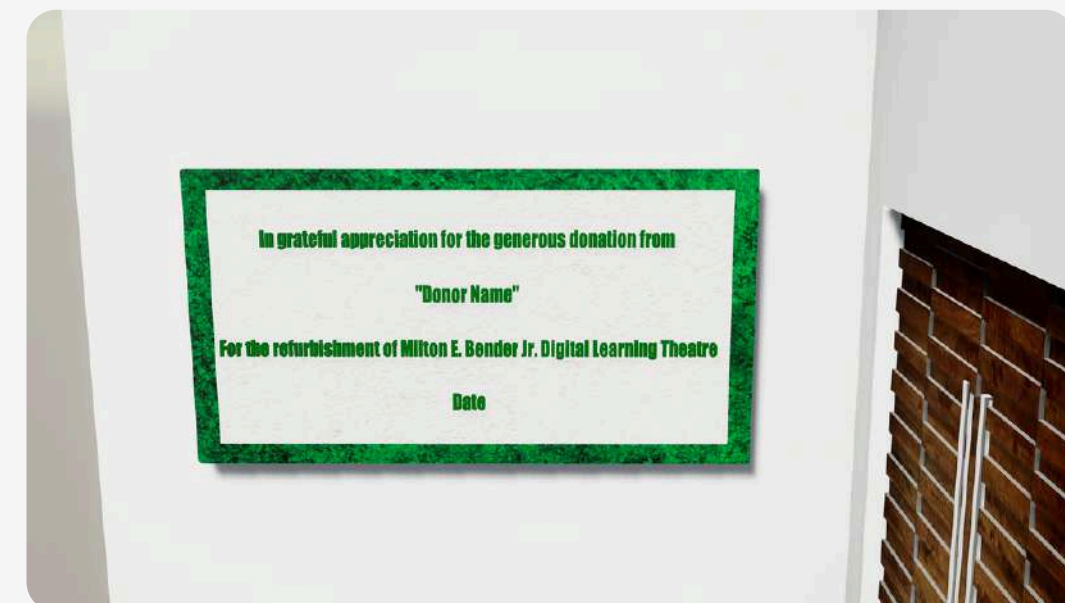
AITAA ROC CHAPTER will be acknowledged in:

- ✓ Life-Long donor recognition display inside the Learning Theatre (Big Size)
- ✓ Visible wall of fame (like) physical naming wall inside and outside theatre



- ✓ Include in AIT website and all Social Media / digital communications platforms
- ✓ Default opening reels for major events

- ✓ Official Signing Ceremony between AIT and AIT ROC Chapter
- ✓ Grand Opening Ceremony between AIT and AIT ROC Chapter at AIT, Thailand



RECOGNITION & NAMING OPPORTUNITIES (CONTINUED)

AITAA ROC CHAPTER will be acknowledged in:

- ✔ Highlight that this newly renovated, state-of-the-art learning theatre was made possible through the generous support of the AITAA ROC Chapter during all announcements of lectures, classes, seminars, and workshops which will be held there.
- ✔ Highlight and recognition of donors has a global visibility – it lives beyond AIT walls!



BE PART OF THE TRANSFORMATION

Our alumni's Investment Creates Lasting Impact Across Generations:

For Today's Students: World-class hybrid learning infrastructure that eliminates geographic barriers. Students present to global audiences, receive real-time mentorship from alumni worldwide, and experience education at the level of top-tier international institutions.

For our Fellow Alumni: A permanent digital home to contribute expertise through masterclasses, mentor across time zones, and maintain intellectual connection to AIT—a space curated for a lifelong learning ecosystem.

For Tomorrow's Leaders: The foundation for AIT's next 50 years. Every student who learns here, every breakthrough shared, every partnership forged will trace back to this moment when our alumni chose to invest in AIT's future.

Our alumni are not investing in infrastructure, but in the generation of learners, collaborators, networks, who will connect, learn, inspire and lead from this space – it's a self-propagating cascading impact at scale.



HOW THE AITAA ROC CHAPTER CAN SEND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS:

Fill out the details on the pledge form and send it to lucena@ait.ac.th.

A. Bank Transfer Details:

- Money to be transferred to:
Siam Commercial Bank Public Company Limited
- Account Name: Asian Institute of Technology
- Saving A/C No. 405-9995-670 (Thai Baht and USD)
- Branch: Thammasat University Hospital Branch
- Address: 95 Moo 8, Klongnueng, Klong Luang, Pathumthani 12120, Thailand
- Swift Code: SICOTHBK
- Transfer the contribution and send the scanned or photocopy of the payment transfer slip to lucena@ait.ac.th

*For Bank Transfer, there would be an applicable transfer fee by the respective sender's bank.

B. Credit Card Payment Details:

For Credit Card Payment (either VISA or MASTER), provide the following details to DEA-OAAA.

- 16-digit card no.
- Expiry (mm/yy)

Following this, DEA-OAAA will inform the AIT finance department to initiate and process the donation transaction.

Once done, DEA-OAAA will share with you the payment transfer details and issue the receipt.

*Sender will be charged an additional 3.5% transfer fee by the sender's credit card company.



AIT
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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SUPPORT TO AIT.**

**Development & External Affairs -
Office of Advancement and Alumni Affairs (OAAA)**



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