First Edition of Thai Telecommunications Encyclopedia

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On November 27, 2009, the first edition of *Thai Telecommunications Encyclopedia* (*TTE*) was officially revealed to the public at the Rama Garden Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand. The ceremony was held during the event celebrating the 125th anniversary of IEEE which was arranged by IEEE Thailand Section on 26 and 27 November, 2009. This telecommunications encyclopedia is the first of its kind for Thailand, which is a completely free version in the Thai language (with an English abstract). The main objective of this encyclopedia is to promote better understanding of engineering and technology in various fields of telecommunications for Thai society. This easy access knowledge body will be a major source of study, research, and reference. The implication of such an encyclopedia will certainly strengthen the ongoing development of human resource and advancement of the country.

The creation of this encyclopedia was originated by a group of Thai electrical engineering professionals in 2002. Eventually, this first edition is a result of expansive collaboration among many contributors such as academic lecturers, researchers, students, and practical engineers from the industry who are experts or actively involved in telecommunications engineering. In particular, the editorial team laboriously took over a year to collect, revise, edit, perform artwork, and put together all important historical and contemporary materials to create this telecommunications knowledge portal. In this first phase it was created in three formats: a web site, an e-book on DVD, and a hardcover book.

FIGURE 1. *Illustration of the hard cover version.*

Currently, the book spans 848 pages in which it contains 86 chapters including more than 500 glossaries, 300 illustrations, 40 tables, and bibliographic entries. The materials cover history, developmen,t and basic concepts of major telecommunication technologies. Each chapter is presented in a less rigorous format in order to be easily accessible by readers with minimum backgrounds and begins with a relevant glossary for each chapter. Basically, each chapter leads the reader through a foundation in the technical aspects of technology, the development of technology, and the explanation of applications or related standards. Most chapters also contain relevant milestones of particular technology. The book is divided into three volumes on general topics in telecommunications, the fundamentals of telecommunication science, and telecommunication technologies.

FIGURE 2. *Part of editorial and managing team in Thai IEEE 125th anniversary.*

This encyclopedia was organized and published by Electrical Engineering/Electronics, Computer, Telecommunications and Information Technology association (ECTI) of Thailand. It was co-sponsored by NECTEC and the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC). Finally, the IEEE Thailand Section provided the technical and other necessary support for this work. Majority of the book & DVD versions have been freely distributed to libraries in schools and academic institutes around the country. The online version is also accessible at www.ecti.or.th/TTE. In 2010 which is the beginning of the second phase, the editorial team is planning to create a new edition of online encyclopedia using Web 2.0 technologies and expand the material to cover even more telecommunications technologies and much more history of Thai Telecommunications.