



**The 4<sup>th</sup>  
International Symposium on  
Engineering, Energy  
and Environment**

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Faculty of Engineering, Thammasat University, Thailand  
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November 8 - 10, 2015

Learning Resort, Thammasat University, Pattaya Campus, Chonburi,



The 4<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Engineering, Energy and Environment  
8-10 November 2015, Thammasat University, Pattaya Campus, Thailand

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This is an unofficial proceeding;  
The official one will available online  
at <http://iseee.egr.tu.ac.th/Symposium.php>  
on November, 16th 2015



## Symposium Background

The Fourth International Symposium on Engineering, Energy and Environment (4<sup>th</sup> ISEEE) is aimed at finding approaches and ideas toward an important question: “How can engineering research and practice help to create a sustainable society?” It serves as a forum for the presentation of technological advances and stimulating ideas to answer this challenging question. ISEEE 2015 is the fourth in the series which has been held since 2008. This year the symposium will be held in Pattaya, Thailand. The 2015 symposium will feature plenary talks by renowned speakers and parallel sessions which provide a platform for knowledge transfer and exchange.

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## CONFERENCE TOPICS

Agricultural and food engineering  
Biomedical engineering and engineering in medicine  
Chemical processing  
Diagnostic and monitoring System  
Digital technology  
Engineering and education  
Environmental technology and management  
Manufacturing and design  
Materials engineering  
Productivity improvement  
Renewable energy and energy management  
Resilient engineering  
(Natural disaster, Infrastructure, Transportation, etc.)  
Transportation and logistics  
Other

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## CONTENT

### Agricultural and food engineering

- **Adhesive Xyloglucan-Bacterial Cellulose Pulp Film for Topical Application**.....3  
Saranyou Oontawee, Pattarapa Jittavisuttiwong, Chanan Phonprapai, Pornpip Chaimanee
- **Aggregate Production Planning for Germinated Brown Rice with Demand under Uncertainty**..... 8  
Lakkana Ruekkasaema, Montalee Sasananana
- ***Bacillus subtilis* TU-034 Enhance GABA Accumulation in Germinated Organic Brown Rice and Against Bacterial Leaf Streak Disease**.....14  
Dusit Athinuwat, Nipaporn Doungkaew , Wilawan Chuaboon
- **Screening A New Pathogenic Bacterium to Control the Common Cutworm of Chinese Kale** .....20.  
Phongsathon Poralokanon , Wilawan Chuaboon , Dusit Athinuwat
- **Efficiency of *Pseudomonas fluorescens* Polysaccharides Enhance Growth of Cassava Plant and Control Root and Tuber Rot** .....24  
Satuck Chaisue, Phongsathon Poralokanon, Wilawan Chuaboon, Dusit Athinuwat
- **New Application Strategies of Wood Vinegar for Managing Rice under Farming Production** .....29  
Nattapone Ponghirantanachoke, Dusit Athinuwat and Wilawan Chuaboon
- **Growth and Yield component of Thai Aromatic Rice Varieties in Response to Drought Stress**..... 35  
Thamaton Limratana, Ornprapa Aungoolprasert\*, Phakpen Poomipan,  
Voraphat Luckanatinvong and Somchai Chakatrakarn
- **The effect of electrode geometry of DBD Plasma Treatment on RD31 Rice Seed Germination**..... 41  
Tipwimol Traikool, Nopporn Poolyarat, Manu Fuangfung, Supenya Chittapun,  
Nuankamol Amnuaysin and Thawatchai Onjun
- **The Improvement of Germination rate of Thai Sung-Yod Rice by Using Atmospheric Plasma** .....46  
Patcharee Wongpanom, Tipwimol Traikool, Thawatchai Onjun, Nopporn Poolyarat,  
Supenya Chittapun, Nuankamol Amnuaysin, and Manu Fuangfung
- **Efficacy of High Quality Organic-Fertilizer on Growth and Yield of Purple Riceberry in Different Soil Series** .....52  
Naruemon Sukkasamee , Ornprapa Aungoolprasert, Phakpen Poomipan  
and Voraphat Luckanatinvong

### Biomedical engineering and engineering in medicine

- **Guidelines to Developing Design For Sustainability for Senior Citizens in Thai Society**..... 61  
Warawoot Chuangchai, Kesorn Suwanprasert
- **A New Approach to Improve The Performance of a Two-Player Board Game using P300-based Brain-Computer Interface** .....65  
Jakawal Ongthongkum, Wannisa Anurat, Thanawat Charoenpuangkaew and Chantri Polprasert
- **An Experimental Analysis of Heat Transfer in Liver Tissue during Microwave Ablation using Single and Double Slot Antenna** ..... 71  
S. Pongpakpien, S. Wongpradubchai, P. Keangin, P.Rattanadecho
- **Biofeedback for gait rehabilitation based on Gait pattern variability** .....78  
Narintra Junchay, Bunyong Rungroungdouyboon, Supachai Vorapojpisut
- **Assessment of Skin Surface by Acoustic Impedance Microscope** ..... 85  
Daichi Suzuki, Agus Indra Gunawana, Sachiko Yoshida, Naohiro Hozumi, Yuki Ogura,  
Kazuto Kobayashi
- **Quantitative evaluation of cell using acoustic impedance microscope** .....90  
Kenta Takahashi, Agus Indra Gunawan, Sachiko Yoshida, Naohiro Hozumi, Kazuto Kobayashi
- **Brain and Human Body Temperature Simulation of Cardiac Arrest Patient Using Finite Element Method**.....96  
Woradeth Arunlertratsamee, Wiroj Limtrakarn





## Chemical processing

- **Behaviors of binary CH<sub>4</sub>-THF hydrate formation using THF hydrate** ..... 105  
Yuichi Tsuchid, Satoshi Kodama, Hidetoshi Sekiguchi
- **Separation of Model Petroleum Heavy Fraction Solvent Extraction** ..... 110  
Hiroaki Habaki, Tomonori Masuda, Ryuichi Egashira
- **Estimated Binary Mixture Flash Point from Component Structures** ..... 116  
Satok Chaikunchuensakun
- **Improved Performance of Mo-V-Te-Nb-Oxide Catalyst for the Selective Oxidation of Propane to Acrylic Acid** ..... 122  
Yoon Sik Park, Sang Seup Kum, Sang Heup Moon, Satoshi Kodama, Hidetoshi Sekiguchi
- **Protein Leaching From Films of SDS-Treated Natural Rubber Latex** ..... 128  
Adisara Yooyanyong and Panu Danwanichakul
- **Modification of Cellulose Acetate Membrane for Seawater Treatment** ..... 134  
Nittaya Tancharoen and Tippabust Eksangsri

## Diagnostic and monitoring System

- **The Development of Leakage Current Measurement System for High Voltage Equipment** ..... 143  
P. Chorphaka, T. Nutthaphong
- **Development of Space Charge Measurement Equipment for HVDC Cables -Study on Pulse Voltage Waveform-** ..... 150  
Masahiko Hori, Naohiro Hozumi
- **Development of Strain-Corrosion Sensor** ..... 157  
Kenichiro Imafuku, Nobuaki Otsuki
- **Impact of climate change on annual rainfall over Eastern River Basin in Thailand: a warning signal for future industrial water supply** ..... 163  
Uruya Weesakul and Kwanchanok Oonta-on

## Digital technology

- **Modeling and Simulation Energy Efficient VM scheduling for large-scale Cloud Datacenter** ..... 171  
Chotika Banditphat, Sathaporn Puengpo, Supakit Prueksaaron
- **On the Design and Implementation of Array Codes in Distributed Data Storage** ..... 177  
Phisan Kaewprapha, Nattakan Puttarak
- **Automatic Detection of Repressed Anger from Text Messages** ..... 185  
Hitoshi Obata, Daisuke Nagashima, Takashi Yukawa

## Engineering and education

- **An Internet-based Remote Switching Software Development using Cloud-based and Rapid Development Tools** ..... 193  
Watchara Amasiri, Saran Lerdnantawat and Dahmmaet Bunnjaweht
- **Customized Android E-learning Implementation** ..... 199  
Piya Techateerawat
- **Effects of Electrode Position Respecting with Ground-Wire Positions on Efficiency of Hot-Air Drying Cooperating with Electric fields** ..... 206  
Duangrudee Chutrakul, and Chainarong Chaktranond
- **A Design and Implementation of a Low Cost Sine Wave Generator using a DDS Module** ..... 213  
Patid Jitjongruck and Dahmmaet Bunnjaweht
- **Microcontroller Based Multimedia Application Development: A glimpse of Internet of Things** ..... 219  
Mahesh Kumar Sharma, Suresh Mokawat, Nopbhorn Leeprechanon and Satish Kumar Raib
- **Time Study of UV grafting Poly (N-isopropylacrylamide-co-acrylamide) onto Polystyrene Surface for Tissue Culture Engineering** ..... 226  
Aye Yu Yu Swe, Kanokaon Benchaprathanphorn, Kwanchanok Viravaidya-Pasuwat and Wanwipa Siriwatwechakul



- **Gait Analysis Plates Design** .....232  
Jakkrapun Chuanasa, Parit Wongphaet, and Prakarnkiat Youngkong

## **Environmental technology and management**

- **Air Quality Model as a Management Tool: Case Study of a Starch Factory in Thailand** ..... 239  
Sukkasem, P., Karuchit, S., and Chuersuwan, N.
- **Development of Tray Biofilter for Treating Wastewater Odor from Pig Farm** ..... 247  
Rakthaisong, A., Karuchit, S., and Potivichayanon, S.
- **Performance comparison vetiver grass roots to reduce estrogen in the water** .....254  
Poramin Kumchoo and Krittiya Lertpocasombut
- **Production and Cost Benefit Analysis of Biodegradable Poly(lactic acid)-Epoxidized Palm Oil Blend/  
Graphene Nanocomposite**.....260  
Sorawit Duangsripat and Chongrak Polprasert
- **Concrete waste utilization for coarse aggregation replacement in concrete mixed design**.....266.  
Thaniya Kaosolb, Surangkana Trangkanont
- **Eco-efficiency and Environmental Impact Evaluation of Motorcycle Production Plant in Thailand**. 272  
Taratip Chaisomkoon and Chongrak Polprasert
- **Diversification of Eco-services in Wetlands: *E. coli* - Rotifer Interaction under the Presence of  
Emergent Macrophyte** .....278  
Hussnain Mukhtar, Muhammad Saleem Kalhoro
- **Ecological Engineering for Surface Water Quality Improvement: Determination of Optimal  
Emergent Macrophyte (*Nymphaea*) Coverage in Wetland Mesocosm**.....284  
Joel H. Kamanda, Hussnain Mukhtar\*, Muhammad Saleem Kalhoro
- **Socio-Eco-Efficiency Indicator (Sustainability Score) for Business Sustainability Development**..... 290.  
Suvapak Taechasriprasert, Harnpon Phungrassami, Phairat Usubharatana
- **Effect of Mist Injection on Particle Separation Performance of Cyclone Separator**..... 296  
Hiroki Takahashi, Satoshi Kodama, Hidetoshi sekiguchi
- **Life Cycle Assessment of Thermal Insulation Product from Agricultural waste** ..... 302  
Teerapong Churam, Phairat Usubharatan, Harnpon Phungrassami
- **Silver Nanostructure for Detection of Hydrogen Sulfide Gas** ..... 309  
Somphon Tripan, Rungroj Maolanon, Paiboon Sreearunothai
- **The design of two-stage cyclones separates the icing powder by using particle tracing flow analysis** ... 315  
Yotsakorn Pratumwal, Wiroj Limtrakarn

## **Manufacturing and design**

- **The Study of Electrical discharge machining on Lead Zirconate Titanate (PZT)** ..... 325  
Apiwat Muttamara, Siwawong Phuphet, Patittar Nakwong
- **A Study on Mechanism of Smoothing Surface Creation by Diamond Burnishing Process**..... 326  
Hidetake Tanaka, Takaya Takahashi
- **Concurrent measurement method of spindle error motions using concentric circle grating  
and frequency modulation interferometers**.....332  
Masato Aketagawa, Muhummad Madden, Yoshitaka Maeda, Kohsei Terao, Shigemitsu Koga,  
Takashi Sawada, Michitaka Kawada and Eiki Okuyama
- **Comparison of Fuzzy Inference System and Artificial Neural Network for Process Control**..... 338  
Prasert Aengchuan, Busaba Phruksaphanrat
- **Estimation of Bending Characteristics of Creased White-Coated Paperboard subjected to In-Plane  
Compressive Load using V-Block Fixtures** .....344  
Shigeru Nagasawa, Tran Xuan Quyet
- **Double Scale Measurements for Large Scale Surface Profile Measurement** ..... 350  
Eiki OKUYAMA and Masayuki ITO
- **Design of Stress Distribution in 2D Beam using FEM** .....  
Aurasa Wuttiworawanit, Nutthanicha Kanhasiri, Attaporn Wisessint



## Materials engineering

- **Investigation into Effect of Mineral Admixture on Delayed Ettringite Formation**..... 359  
Shingo Asamoto, Kohki Murao, Isao Kurashige and Anura Nanayakkara
- **Development of internal hydrophobic cementitious material**..... 365  
Haruka Furuta, Yao Luan, Shingo Asamoto, Taiju Yoneda
- **Density Functional Theory Simulations of Aluminium Alkoxide and Fluoride** ..... 371  
A. Jomphoak, T. Onjun, K. Hongo, R. Maezono
- **Influence of Crack Closure on Fretting Fatigue Strength of 316L Stainless Steel** .....376  
N. Noraphaiphaksa, C. Kanchanomai and Y. Mutoh
- **Experimental study on moisture absorption behavior of cracked mortar**..... 384  
Yao Luan
- **The Effect of Sulfuric Acid Solution on Electrical and Mechanical Properties of CFRTP Material using in Automotive Structural Application** .....393  
Patarapon Palungvachira, Masatoshi Kubouchi, Yoshihiko Arao, Shinsuke Katayama, Hiroyuki Ogata
- **Effect of Heat Treatments on Microstructures and Mechanical Properties of Gas-Metal-Arc-Welded SKD 61 Tool Steel** .....399  
Teerayut Kanchanasangtong, Supamard Sujatanond and Supachai Surapunt
- **Optimization of Surface Roughness in EDM Using Artificial Neural Network and Ant Colony Optimization** ..... 407  
Wuthichai Wongthatsanekorn, Jurapun Tongkun, Jirawan Kloypayan
- **An Experiment Study of Crack Repairing Using Yeast Fungus Biogrout** ..... 414  
Jie Fang , Hiroshi Mutsuyoshi, Yao Luan
- **Notch fatigue behavior of polypropylene resin** .....420  
Yuichi Otsuka, Sarita Morakul, Montri Sangsuriyun, Yukio Miyashita, Yoshiharu Mutoh
- **Fatigue behavior of laser welded dissimilar stainless steels joint at room and elevated temperature**...426  
Hideto Irah, Yu Narita, Yuki Iizawa and Yukio Miyashita  
Jirapol Klinbun and Somsak Vongpradubchai

## Productivity improvement

- **Improvement of Ring Tab Die Manufacturing**..... 433  
Peter Cheriank, Kavin Laoharatchatanun and Sawat Pararach
- **Solving Supplier Selection Problem of Ice Machine Manufacturer Using Fuzzy Multi-objective Linear Programming**.....442  
Wuthichai Wongthatsanekorn and Pornpan Jantasung

## Renewable energy and energy management

- **Effect of inlet air velocity on downdraft type gasification system for plastic-waste RDFs** .....451  
Thaniya Kaosol, Chatchai Kungkajita, Gumpon Prateepchaikul
- **Upgrading Japanese Cypress Pyrolysis Vapors using Zr-Ti, ZSM-5, and Silica Catalysts**..... 457  
Michael Behrens, Jeffrey S. Crossa, Hiroki Akasaka, Naoto Ohtakea
- **A Simplified Linear Scattering Phase Function for Solving Equation of Radiative Heat Transfer**....465  
Bundit Krittacom, Pathiwat Waramit, Ittiphon Worapun, Anucha Klamnoi and Naronksak Yotha
- **Dependable Capacity Evaluation of Solar Power Plants By Considering Actual Minutely Solar Power Generation**.....472  
C. Sansilah, P. Bhasaputra and W. Pattaraprakorn
- **Evaluation of Fruit Peels for Ethanol Production**..... 479  
Snunkhaem Echaroj, Noranit Praisont, Akradeth Buarat, Malee Santikunaporn
- **Automated Fault Detection and Diagnosis in Supermarkets: Review and Investigation**..... 485  
Denchai Woradechjumroena, Thanapat Promwattanapakdeeb
- **The Effect of Decanter Cake Concentration on Biogas Production by Block Rubber Wastewater Co-digestion**.....491  
Weerapong Lerdratranataywee and Thaniya Kaosol



● <b>Design of an Energy Efficient, Effective, Healthy and Vibrant Public Market Infrastructure</b> .....	497
Ferdinand G. Manegdeg, Mary Ann A. Espina, Jon Dewitt E. Dalisay, Azero P. Pascual	
● <b>Energy-Saving Behavior in Households after the Great East Japan Earthquake</b> .....	504
Ayami Otsuka and Daisuke Narumi	
● <b>Energy Management Program for University Campuses: A Case of Yokohama National University</b> .	510
Ayami Otsuka and Daisuke Narumi	
● <b>Effect of Mediators on a Microbial Fuel Cell with Carbon-Fiber Electrodes</b> .....	516
Bunpot Sirinutsomboon, Apichat Kritruchtanun, and Nirut Arnaratana	
● <b>Thermal Treatment of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) using Microwave Irradiation with the Assistance of Agricultural Residue</b> .....	522
Prodpran Siritheerasas, Phichayanan Waiyanate, Palita Aroonratsamee, Hidetoshi Sekiguchi and Satoshi Kodama	
● <b>Comparison of Conventional and Microwave Heatings of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)</b> .....	529
Prodpran Siritheerasas, Kannika Kromtin, Danita Thanmaneesin, Phichayanan Waiyanate, Palita Aroonratsamee	
● <b>System Dynamic Modeling of a Thermoelectric Peltier cooled Refrigerator</b> .....	537
Yossawee Weerakamhaeng, Sumethee Naree, Jirayut Fungrattanatrai	
● <b>Evaluation of Energy Efficiency Standard and Labeling Program in Thailand</b> .....	543
Watcharin Boonyarit, Prapat Wangskarn, Sarawoot Watechagit	
● <b>Analysis of Energy Consumption and Cooling Load for Improving the Chiller Plant Management of Library: the Case Study of Puey Ungphakorn Library</b> .....	549
Prakasit Kittasangka and Chainarong Chaktranond	
● <b>EHD-enhanced Heat Transfer of Fluid Flow related with Sample Size</b> .....	558
Suwimon Saneewong Na Ayuttayaa*, Chainarong Chaktranond and Phadungsak Rattanadecho	
● <b>Thermal Efficiency Enhancement of CB Cooking Stove by Open Type Porous Cover Using Cordierite Alumina Open-Cellular Porous Material</b> .....	567
Preecha Khantikomol, Bundit Kritacom, Maitree Polsongkram	
● <b>Economic Values of Reliability Improvement for Smart Grid in Thailand by Considering Outage Cost</b> .....	576
Narongkorn Uthathip, Pornrapeepat Bhasaputra and Woraratana Pattaraprakorn	
● <b>Power Flow Algorithm Including Wind Turbine Induction Generator</b> .....	583
Pichai Aree	

## Resilient engineering

(Natural disaster, Infrastructure, Transportation, etc.)

● <b>The Numerical and Experimental Investigation of Flow Propagation in case of Urban Flooding using 3D DAM-Break Model</b> .....	591
Chartchay Chumchan, Phadungsak Rattanadecho	
● <b>Seismic Performance of Reinforced Concrete Buildings with Various Ductility by Incremental Dynamic Analysis</b> .....	604
Jirawat Junruang, Virote Boonyapinyo	
● <b>Evaluation of damping properties on railway structures by vibration measurement</b> .....	616
Kazunori WADA, Kimitoshi SAKAI, Yoshitaka MURONO	
● <b>Resilient Structural Systems for Earthquake Disaster Mitigation Using Collapse Direction Control Device</b> .....	622
Masato Saitoh, Yoshitaka Muro, Hiroki Motoyama	
● <b>Application of SFM and 3D Laser Scanning for Heritage Documentation: Wat Yai Chaimongkol, Ayutthaya, Thailand</b> .....	626
Bhakapong Bhadrakom, Nakhorn Poovaradom, Krisada Chaiyasarn	
● <b>GEV Distribution with Non-central Moment Estimate for Modeling Extreme Rainfalls</b> .....	636
P. Punlum, C. Chaleeraktragoon, V-T-V. Nguyen	
● <b>Statistical Downscaling of Annual Maximum Daily Rainfall</b> .....	654
Chavalit Chaleeraktragoon and Pitiphat Meemookkich	



● <b>Multiple viewpoint change detection in concrete beams for infrastructure resiliency</b> .....	654
Krisada Chaiyasarn, Bhakapong Bhadrakom	
● <b>A Preliminary Experimental Study for Structural Seismic Response Measurement using Smart Devices</b> .....	662
Ji Dang, Ashish Threstha, Xin Wang	
● <b>Estimation of Phase Velocity of Deep Soil in Bangkok by Spatial Autocorrelation (SPAC) and Centerless Circular Array (CCA) Methods</b> .....	668
Amorntep Jirasakjamroonsria, Nakhorn Poovarodomb	
● <b>Effect of Mode Shapes Nonlinearity and Base Translation on Wind Loads and Responses of Buildings</b> .....	677
Naret Limsamphancharoen and Chanchai Orapinpong	
● <b>Analytical evaluation of deformation-mitigation device for structures subjected to earthquake ground motions</b> .....	684
Zongmu Liu, Masato Saitoh	
● <b>A Fundamental Study on Out-of-Phase Rocking Motion Caused by Batter Piles during Earthquake</b> ..	689
Hiroki MOTOYAMA, Yoshitaka MURONO and Yuusuke TAKANO	
● <b>Novel method in avoiding flood induced damages due to tidal waves</b> .....	695
Shungo Nakabe, Masato Saitoh	
● <b>Investigation of Modal Properties for Torsionally Coupled Building from Ambient Vibration Responses</b> .....	700
Nuttaphon Magteppong, Nakhorn Poovarodom	
● <b>Investigation of Critical Parameters for Accurate FEM Simulation of Cracking in Concrete Lining of NATM Tunnels</b> .....	707
Chamila Rankoth, Akira Hosoda, Satoshi Komatsu, Iwama Keitai	

## Transportation and logistics

● <b>A Trade Credit Inventory Model with Multivariate Demand for Non-Instantaneous Deteriorating Items</b> .....	715
A.K. Malik	
● <b>An ant colony optimization for vehicle routing problem with time windows and shift time limit</b> .....	726
Rattakorn Taengsaengjan, Sawat Pararach	
● <b>Evidence-based Road Accidents via Dashboard Camera Traffic Monitoring System</b> .....	732
Boonsap Witchyangkoon and Sayan Sirimontree	
● <b>Study of Bus Service Information System Based on User Generated Contents</b> .....	738
Chihiro Kawamura, Shunji Ueno, Shinobu Hanamura, Kazuhiro Maruyama, Yuichi Shirasee, Aya Kojima, Hisashi Kubota	
● <b>Study on Evaluation Index for Walking Space Focusing on Pedestrians' Smile</b> .....	744
Aya Kojima, Manabu Sato, Hisashi Kubota	
● <b>Common-line Assignment model -Case Study of Bangkok Transit Network</b> .....	751
Muanmas Wichensin	
● <b>Directional impact of relevant factors of trip making in a congestion charging scheme</b> .....	758
Muanmas Wichensin David Boyce	

## Other

● <b>Optimal Design of a Cascade Thermoacoustic Engine</b> .....	767
Patcharin Saechan, Isares Dhuchakallaya	
● <b>Showcase View: Design of a Public Advertising Display that Renders from the Viewer's Perspective</b> ..	774
Sirisilp Kongsilp, Sra Sontisirikit, Matthew N. Dailey	
● <b>Impacts of Nitrogen and Neon seeding in Tokamak Plasma</b> .....	782
W. Buangam and T. Onjun	
● <b>The Formation of radial electric field during L-H transition</b> .....	788
P Intharat, B Chatthong, T Onjun, and N Poolyarat	





● <b>Factors for Success in Eco-Industrial Town Development in Thailand</b> .....	798
Jirarat Teeravarapug and Tarathon Podcharathitikul	
● <b>Skin Surface Treatment using Atmospheric Plasma</b> .....	803
Kamonchanok Deemek, Tipwimol Traikool, Thawatchai Onjun, Noppon Poolyarat, Supenya Chittapun, Nuankamol Amnuaysin, and Manu Fuangfung	
● <b>Sampling Smoothed Local Descriptors by Creating a Semi-local Feature in a Vector Quantization Process</b> .....	807
Izumi Suzuki, Koichi Yamada, Muneyuki Unehara	
● <b>Simulation of Neoclassical Tearing Mode Effects in Tokamak Plasma</b> .....	813
Wittawat Kanjanaput and Thawatchai Onjun	
● <b>Experimental Optimization of Heat load and Cooling Flow Rate of a Micro Heat Pipe with R134a as Working Fluid</b> .....	814
Jirapol Klinbun and Somsak Vongpradubchai	

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# Analysis of Energy Consumption and Cooling Load for Improving Chiller Plant Management of Library: the Case Study of Puey Ungphakorn Library

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## Abstract

This study aims to investigate and improve the chiller plant management of Puey Ungphakorn library, which is the fourth largest electricity consumption building in Thammasat University, Rangsit Center. In this plant, a primary-only chilled-water pumping system is used. Moreover, variable speed drives (VSD) are used for both chiller and condenser pumps. The flow rate of chilled water loop depends on differential pressure varying with working of air handling units (AHU). While the flow rate of condenser water loop is fixed.

It is found from data analysis that shut-off workings of chiller for long period causes the heat and moisture to much transfer and accumulate in the building, resulting in higher electrical energy consumption of chiller in the beginning operation. Moreover, by running two chilled-water pumps, the total flow rate is higher than estimation. This causes cooling estimation to be higher than the cooling capacity of chiller.

The study has proposed two measuring of energy saving. There are, for new chiller installation cause, the estimate of chiller capacity for Puey Library on weekday is equal to 330 tons. On weekends the estimate of chiller capacity is equal to 390 tons. For peak load period is operated chiller 2 set 390 tons 1 set and 330 tons 1 set this measuring will reduce the value of energy consumption is about 0.55-11% or 230 kWh per day. For existing chiller cause the suitable chiller operated on weekday should be run chiller No. 1 and control cooling load is equal to 267.6 ton and operated on weekend should be run chiller No. 2 or 3 and control cooling load is equal to 316.9 ton by variable speed drive of chilled water pump and increase set point of chilled water supply temperature for chiller operated on optimum point at percent load between 80%-90% the procedure of this measuring will reduce the value of energy consumption is equal about 190 kWh per days.

*Keywords:* Energy Consumption; Chiller Plant Management

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## 1. Introduction

With growing up of energy consumption, all countries have paid much attention on efficient strategies of energy conservation, as well as, global warm problem. Normally in buildings, the most of energy consumption comes from electrical usage for air conditioning system. Due to constructing the new class rooms and large buildings for serving the increase of the large number of students in Thammasat University, Rangsit Centre, electrical cost increases in every year. The electrical costs are 178 and 274 million baht in 2013 and 2014 (1.4 Million kWh), respectively. Moreover, it is expected that the cost will be up to 330 million baht at the end of 2015. One of buildings, which consume a large amount of electrical consumption, is Puey library. In addition, the most of electrical usage comes from air conditioning system.

Yu and Chan (2013) examine the improvement of energy management of chiller systems with data envelopment analysis. This paper describes the energy management opportunities to maximize the coefficient of performance (COP). The system composes of seven sets of chillers with two different capacities, pumps and cooling towers. In the analysis, the improvement strategies involve find-tuning the temperature related controllable variables could achieve the highest possible COP with technical efficiency of one.

Xiaosong et al. (2006) study the improvement of the energy efficiency of air-cooled water chiller plant operating on part load conditions. The conventional multiple-chiller plant was proposed to be integrated into one refrigeration cycle, by connecting those separate compressors, condensers, and evaporators in parallel, respectively. The electronic expansion valve is used to control refrigerant flow of the system, achieving variable condensing temperature control. The system consists of four reciprocating compressors including one variable speed compressor, have total cooling capacity of 120 kW. It is found from both simulation and experimental results that the air-cooled chiller plant could get a significant performance improvement on various part load ratio (PLR) conditions. Moreover, when the PLR decreases from 100% to 50%, the COP increases about 16.2% from simulation and 9.5% from experiment. Furthermore, the refrigeration capacity of the system is 55% when the PLR condition is 50%.

Mak et al. (2013) explore and propose the method to reduce the power consumption of chillers in a hotel. The parameters are air-conditioned floor area, guest floor area, gross floor area, number of employees, room occupancy, food cover, outdoor air temperature, wind velocity, service type, and relative humidity. From analysis, it indicates that number of hotel employees and outdoor temperature are a main parameter of consuming the electricity of chiller.

This research analyzes the chiller-plant data which influences the overall electrical power consumption of Puey library, and also propose the strategies to saving the energy by considering the operation of chiller plant and the estimation of suitable chiller size.

## 2. Theory

In this study, the heat load estimation is computed by Eq. (1). New electrical power of pumps varying with water flow rate is calculated by affinity law, as shown in Eq. (2). In addition, efficiency of the chiller is presented in term of electric power using for a unit of cooling capacity, as shown in Eq. (3),

$$\zeta = \frac{m(T_{CHS} - T_{CHR})}{12,000} \quad (1),$$



where  $\dot{Q}$  = Cooling Capacity (Ton of refrigeration),  
 $gpm$  = gallon per minute,  
 $T_{CHR}$  = Chilled-water-return temperature (°F),  
 $T_{CHS}$  = Chilled-water-supply temperature (°F),

$$\left(\frac{rpm_1}{rpm_2}\right)^3 = \left(\frac{gpm_1}{gpm_2}\right)^3 = \left(\frac{Power_1}{Power_2}\right) \quad (2),$$

where  $rpm$  = rotation per minute,

$$Eff. = \frac{Power}{Cooling\ capacity} \quad (3),$$

where  $Eff.$  = efficiency of chiller (kW/Ton).

### 3. Results

Study courses of Thammasat University are divided into three semesters: (1) first semester (Aug – Dec), (2) second semester (Jan – May) and (3) summer (May – July). Information of main equipment of Puey Library is shown in Table 1. In regular course period, service hours are from 08:00 to 24:00 on weekdays and from 09:00 to 18:00 on weekends. In summer course, the library opens from 08:00 to 21:00 on weekdays and from 09:00 to 18:00 on weekends. Normally, one chiller, two chilled-water pumps, two condenser-water pumps and a cooling tower are used for air conditioning system on every day. In addition, chiller No.1 works on weekends. As shown in Fig.1, a primary-only chilled-water pumping system is used. Moreover, variable speed drives (VSD) with frequency control are used for both chilled and condenser water pumps. The flow rate of chilled water sides depends on differential pressure varying with working of air handling units (AHU). Due to the limitation of minimum water flow rate requirements of chillers, the frequencies to control chilled-water pump is in the range of 37 – 50 Hz. While the flow rate of condenser water pump is fixed at 900 gpm. In addition, the set point temperature of chilled-water supply (CHS) is at 48°F

Table 1 Specification of equipments

Item	Description	Quantity [set]	Capacity	Power [kW]
1	Chiller No.1	1	280 Ton	165.3
2	Chiller No.2	1	316 Ton	221
3	Chiller No.3	1	316 Ton	221
4	Chilled water pump	3	900 gpm	30
5	Condenser water pump	3	950 gpm	15

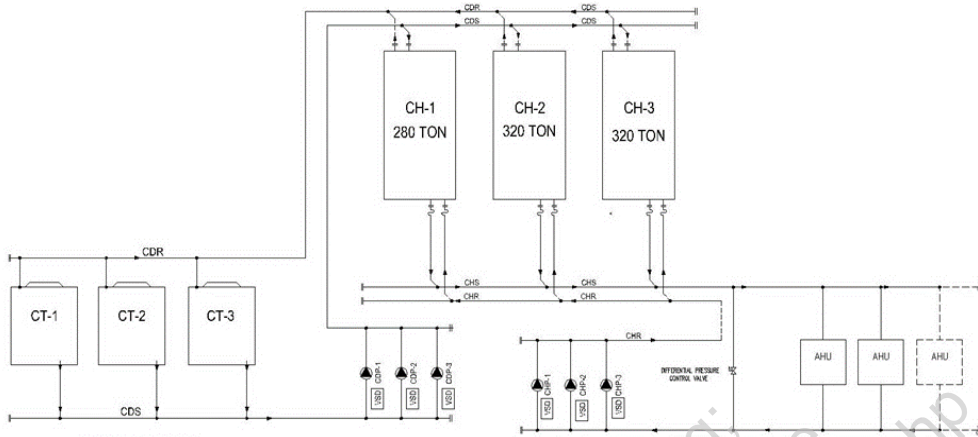


Fig. 1. Chiller plant diagram of Puey Library

### 3.1. Energy consumption of chiller plant

From data and, the total electrical energy consumption is around 59,000 kWh/month in regular courses and 43,000 kWh/month in summer course. Energy utilization indices (EUI) in regular and summer courses are 2.3 kWh/sq.m and 3.2 kWh/sq.m, respectively. By considering the occupancy, it is found that specific energy consumption (SEC) in regular and summer periods are 0.54 and 4.5 kWh/person, respectively.

Figure 2 shows that the number of users in regular and summer courses is quite different. However, it is found that overall electrical power consumption is not much different. Therefore, the number of users does not much influence the overall electrical power consumption, as shown in Fig. 3 and 4.

Figure 3 and 4 also indicate that the electrical power consumption of chiller rapidly increases in the beginning periods of chiller operation, and then trends to be constant in afternoon. Due to effects of high chilled-water temperature and high room temperature, chiller must run with full load in the beginning period. These figures also show that on weekends the power is higher than that on weekdays. Moreover, the power consumption on Monday is higher than that on the other weekdays. But Fig. 5 is shown that temperatures of air and fluid are approximately same. This is because air conditioning system is not used for long periods. Therefore, heat and moisture much more flow into and accumulate in the building. As mentioned before, operating hours of chiller on weekend is only 9 hours but on weekdays it is 16 hours. Therefore, chiller must operate at full load and consume the large amount of electrical power in order to remove these effects in the beginning. Consequently, electric power consumption of chiller mainly comes from heat and moisture accumulation in the building.

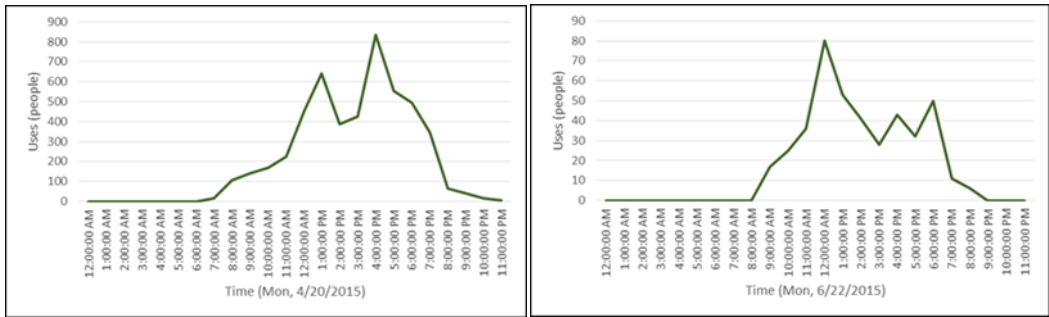


Fig.2 Number of occupancy in various times: (a) on April 20, 2015, and (b) on July 22, 2015.

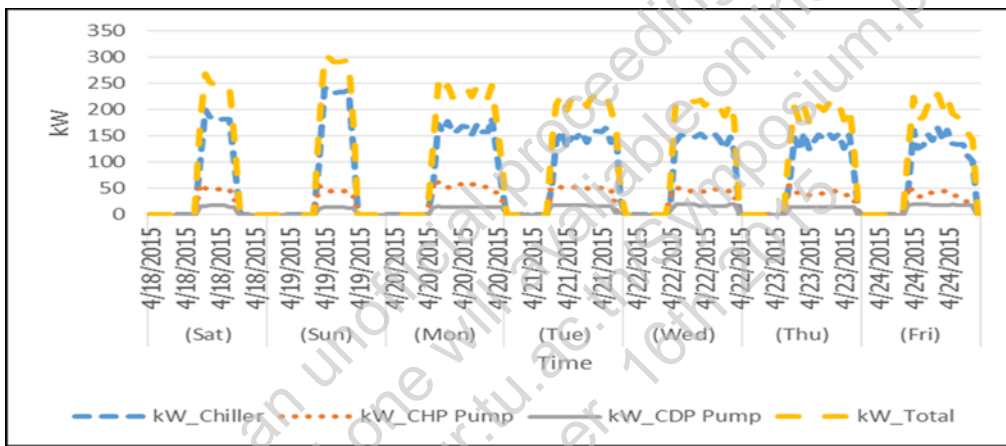


Fig.3 Total energy consumption of equipment in regular course in April 2015 (18<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>)

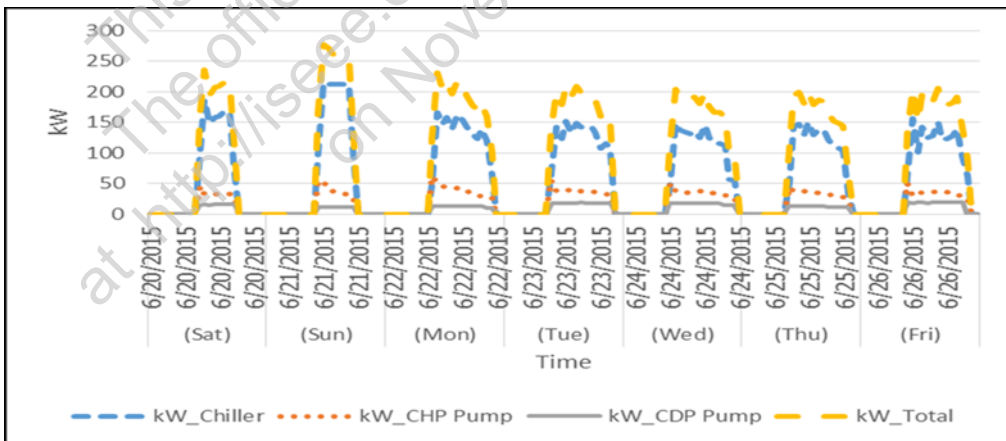


Fig.4 Total energy consumption of equipment in summer course in July 2015 (20<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>)

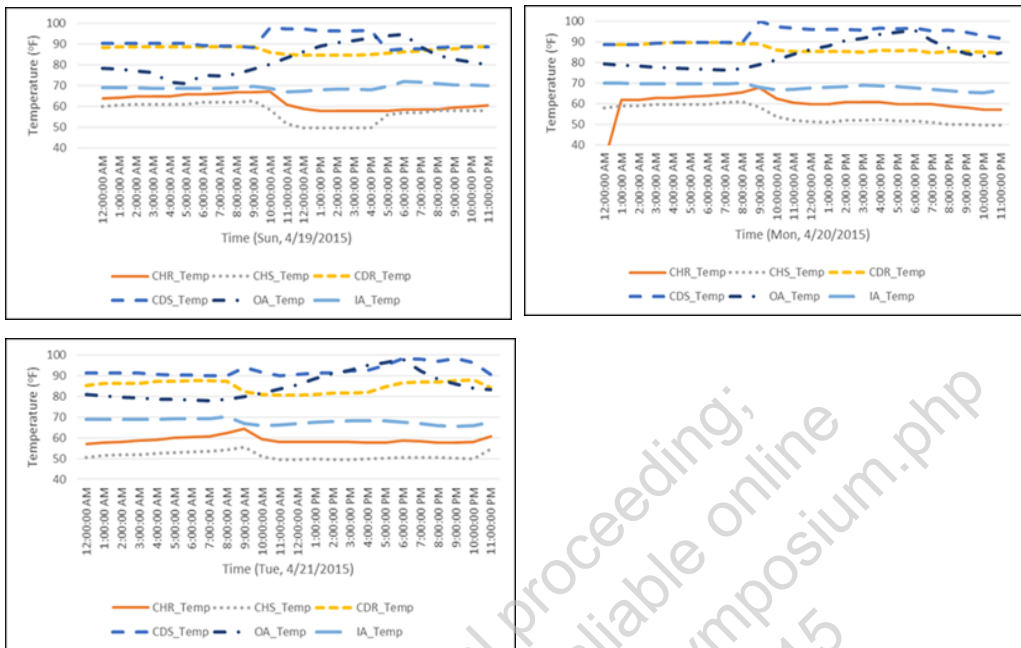


Fig.5 Comparison on temperature of fluids and air in April 2015 (19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>)

Figure 6 shows that cooling load estimated by Eq. (1) rapidly increases in the beginning period, and then rapidly decrease again after 10:00. Afterwards, it is approximately constant in afternoon. In normal operation, two chilled-water pumps are run since library opens. When all AHUs are used, pressure drop in chilled-water pipe is high. Therefore, the signal from differential pressure sensor is sent to controller unit for requiring high flow rate of chilled water. Then chilled-water pump will rotate with high speed. In fact, the maximum cooling capacity of chillers is only 316 Tons, but cooling load estimated increases up to approximately 700 Tons. This implies that this plant is operated with over flow rate in the beginning. In other words, this chiller plant management may not be good in the beginning period. Moreover, it leads to misunderstand of evaluating the COP of system as well. As shown in Fig. 7, cooling load in beginning operation period is higher than the maximum cooling capacity of chiller. When a chiller is started, suitable flow rate of chilled-water pump should be around 758.4 gpm. But in practice, since two-way valves of all AHUs are fully opened, two chilled-water pumps are run with the total average flow rate of 870 gpm approximately, which is higher than the suitable flow rate. This conduct cooling load to be overestimated by Eq.(1). Even though cooling load in afternoon is nearby the capacity of chiller, flow rate is still high (~850 gpm). Therefore, it is possible to reduce power consumption by running only one chilled-water pump.

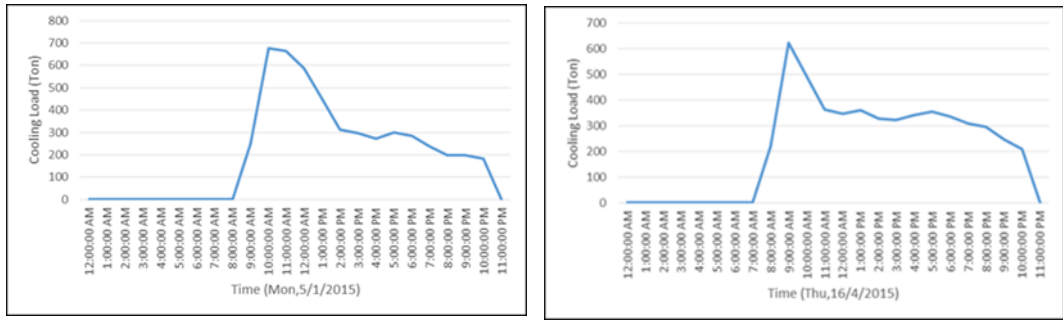


Fig. 6 Cooling load in various times: (a) on April 21, 2015, and (b) on May 23, 2015.

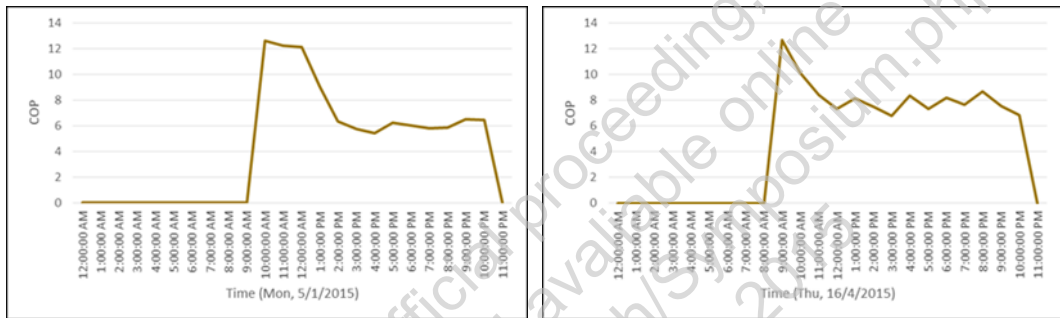


Fig. 7 COP in various times: (a) on 16/4/2015, and (b) on 5/1/2015

### 3.2 Optimal operating conditions

Table 2 and 3 show the chiller performance based on chilled-water supply (CHS) temperature at 48°C and provided by supplier. It is shown that higher efficiency of chiller and chilled-water pump can be obtained when the temperature difference between CHR and CHS is larger.

Table 2 shows operate on optimum point for chiller No. 1 chilled water return temperature is 56-57 °F, percent load 80-90% so as minimum total efficiency is equal 0.635 kW/ton and Fig. 13 shows optimum point for Chiller No. 2 and 3 chilled water return temperature is 56 °F, percent load 90% so as minimum total efficiency is equal 0.619 kW/ton. Now chiller is not operated on optimum point by chilled water return is vary between 57.81 – 60 °F because cooling capacity of chiller is not enough to compare with cooling load of building.

Table 2 Part Load Performance Chiller No. 1.

%Load	Cap. (Ton)	LWT Evap	EWT Evap	Flow Evap	EWT Cond	LWT Cond	Flow Cond	Kw.	Eff.
100	297.3	48.0	58.0	712.2	85.0	100	541.2	165.4	0.556
90	267.6	48.0	57.0	712.2	85.0	98.5	541.2	147.9	0.553
80	237.8	48.0	56.0	712.2	85.0	97.0	541.2	131.6	0.553
70	208.1	48.0	55.0	712.2	85.0	95.5	541.2	116.4	0.559
60	178.4	48.0	54.0	712.2	85.0	94.1	541.2	101.5	0.569
50	148.6	48.0	53.0	712.2	85.0	92.6	541.2	86.3	0.581
40	118.9	48.0	52.0	712.2	85.0	91.1	541.2	72.4	0.609
30	89.2	48.0	51.0	712.2	85.0	89.7	541.2	62.9	0.705
20	59.5	48.0	50.0	712.2	85.0	88.4	541.2	55.0	0.926

Table 3 Part Load Performance Chiller No. 2., 3.

%Load	Cap. (Ton)	LWT Evap	EWT Evap	Flow Evap	EWT Cond	LWT Cond	Flow Cond	Kw.	Eff.
100	352.1	48.0	58.0	843.6	85.0	100	652.5	222.0	0.630
90	316.9	48.0	57.0	843.6	85.0	98.5	652.5	197.4	0.623
80	281.7	48.0	56.0	843.6	85.0	97.0	652.5	174.4	0.619
70	246.5	48.0	55.0	843.6	85.0	95.5	652.5	153.0	0.621
60	211.3	48.0	54.0	843.6	85.0	94.1	652.5	133.6	0.633
50	176.0	48.0	53.0	843.6	85.0	92.6	652.5	115.3	0.655
40	140.8	48.0	52.0	843.6	85.0	91.1	652.5	102.7	0.729
30	105.6	48.0	51.0	843.6	85.0	89.7	652.5	95.1	0.900
20	70.4	48.0	50.0	843.6	85.0	88.4	652.5	88.6	1.258

### 3.3 Estimation of chiller capacity

The measuring to use the chiller at the point of highest efficiency, operate on optimum point for chiller is operated on chilled water return temperature is 56-57°F at percent load between 80%-90%. From Fig. 6 cooling load in various time each day, it is found that the maximum peak load is equal to 670 tons on January 5<sup>th</sup> 2015. During the Monday to Friday, it is found that the average part load each day is equal to 250-300 tons. During Saturday to Sunday, it is found that the average part load each day is equal to 300-350 tons. During 09:00 to 12:00 is peak load period is operated about three hours and 12:00 to 22:00 is part load period is operated about ten hours.

The estimate of new chiller capacity for Puey Library on Monday to Friday is equal to 330 tons so that percent load of chiller is value between 75.8% - 90.9% during 12:00 to 22:00 part load period. On Saturday-Sunday the estimate of chiller capacity is equal to 390 tons so that percent load of chiller is value between 76.9% - 89.7% during 12:00 to 22:00 part load period. During 09:00 to 12:00 peak load period is operated chiller 2 set 390 tons 1 set and 330 tons 1 set so that chiller is operated between 69.4% - 93%. From Fig. 8 the procedure of this measuring will reduce the value of energy consumption is about 0.55-11% or 230 kWh per day.

For existing chiller cause, the suitable chiller operated on Monday-Friday should be run chiller No. 1 and control cooling load is equal to 267.6 ton and operated on Saturday-Sunday should be run chiller No. 2 or 3 and control cooling load is equal to 316.9 ton by variable speed drive of chilled pump and increase set point of chilled water supply temperature for chiller

operated on optimum point at percent load between 80%-90%. The procedure of this measuring will reduce the value kw/ton to 0.04-0.07 kw/ton about 190 kWh per days.

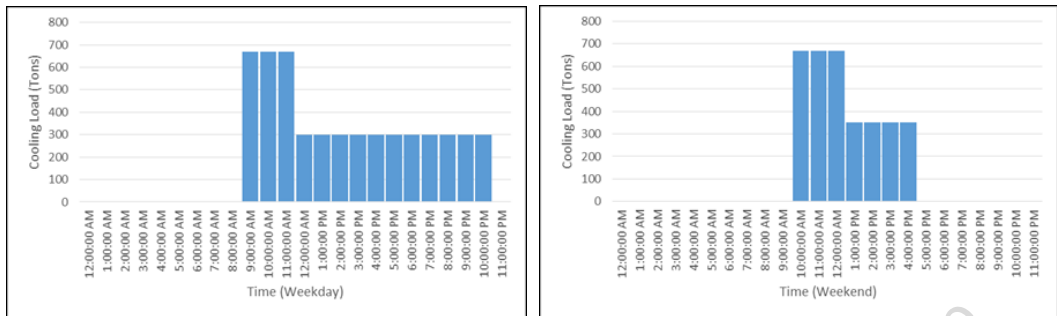


Fig. 8. Estimate Cooling load in various times: (a) on weekday, and (b) on weekend

#### 4. Conclusions

This case study the total electrical energy consumption in regular courses is higher than summer course. Energy utilization indices (EUI) and specific energy consumption (SEC) in summer courses is higher than regular courses. The electrical power consumption of chiller rapidly increases in the beginning periods of chiller operation, and then trends to be constant in afternoon. Due to effects of high chilled-water temperature and high room temperature, chiller must run with full load in the beginning period. The power on weekends is higher than that on weekdays. Moreover, the power consumption on Monday is higher than that on the other weekdays.

The study has proposed two measuring of energy saving. There are, for new chiller installation cause, the estimate of chiller capacity for Puey Library on weekday is equal to 330 tons. On weekends the estimate of chiller capacity is equal to 390 tons. For peak load period is operated chiller 2 set 390 tons 1 set and 330 tons 1 set this measuring will reduce the value of energy consumption is about 0.55-11% or 230 kWh per day. For existing chiller cause the suitable chiller operated on weekday should be run chiller No. 1 and control cooling load is equal to 267.6 ton and operated on weekend should be run chiller No. 2 or 3 and control cooling load is equal to 316.9 ton by variable speed drive of chilled water pump and increase set point of chilled water supply temperature for chiller operated on optimum point at percent load between 80%-90% the procedure of this measuring will reduce the value of energy consumption is equal about 190 kWh per days.

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