

Issue 1

January-March 2009



Athens Information Technology  
(AIT)

# AIT Grid News

## Become a Friend of AIT

*When people join hands, a force of immeasurable momentum is created.*

Networking and interpersonal communication is always positive and mutually beneficial. Let our investment today bear fruit tomorrow.

By joining our network of highly driven students, alumni, and faculty, **Friends of AIT** becomes a common meeting ground, an agora. Where people sharing common aspirations will gather. Where new and brilliant ideas will be exchanged and debated. Where new opportunities will be created. Where new inventions are cultivated.

AIT has a vibrant and growing international student body from more than 20 countries. We are very privileged to assist in their realization of their goals while also benefiting from their culture and experiences. Bringing students to AIT from around the world, they are able to learn, live and study together, under the same sky where the oldest and most precious values of humanity were conceptualized by the greatest philosophers.

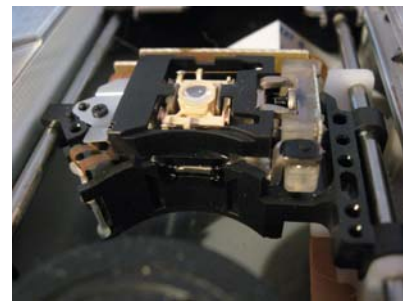
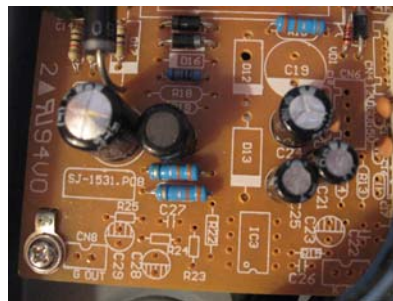
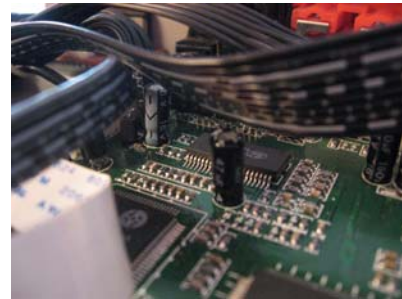
We are proud of our remarkable *diaspora*. Outstanding academic, technological and scientific achievements around the world bear the signature of people of Greek descent.

Your friendship with AIT will broaden international interest and knowledge on the future of technology and science, and our students and faculty will witness and share your achievements and success.

*Please accept this invitation to join our family and share our vision.*

<http://hermes.ait.gr/friends/formbecomeafriend.php>

## Can you guess what these are?



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# What's out there.....

## Grammar

English Grammar: <http://www.edufind.com/english/grammar/TOC.CFM>  
Encyclopedia Britannica: <http://www.britannica.com/>  
Merriam-Webster Dictionary & Thesaurus: <http://www.merriam-webster.com/netdict.htm>  
Pathfinder Lexicon (English-Greek-English): <http://lexicon.pathfinder.gr/>

## Other

Urban dictionary: <http://www.urbandictionary.com/popular.php?character=A>  
DiscoveryBuzz: new scientific discoveries: <http://discoverybuzz.com/buzz/>  
The Spoof: funniest headlines: <http://www.thespoof.com/news/spoof.cfm?headline=s5i17487>

## Book reviews

[http://www.bookreview.com/\\$spindb.query.bottom.booknew](http://www.bookreview.com/$spindb.query.bottom.booknew)  
<http://www.nytimes.com/pages/books/index.html>  
<http://www.reviewsofbooks.com/>  
<http://www.bookspot.com/reviews/>



# ...and way out there.....



National Geographic: Solar System news: <http://science.nationalgeographic.com/science/space/solar-system/space-quiz.html>

The new 10<sup>th</sup> planet  
<http://www.gps.caltech.edu/~mbrown/planetlila/>



# Express yourself in ....

## Ancient Greek:

**Come!** I'thi, ei'a! Deu'ro (sg) / Deu'te (pl)! Bas'ke! Fe're! Hu'page!  
**Excuse me.** Sungignó'ske moi.  
**Go!** Bask' i'thi!  
**Good-bye!** Khai're (sg) / Khai'rete (pl)! E'rrôso!  
**I drink health (to you)!** Filotêsi'an propi'nô [soi (sg) / humin' (pl)]! Or simply: Propi'nô [soi (sg) / humin' (pl)]!  
**Hello!** Ou'le (sg) / Ou'lete (pl)! Khai're (sg) / Khai'rete (pl)! Me'ga khai're (sg) / khai'rete (pl)!  
**How can I help?** Ti d' ou me'llô?

*Aei ho theos geōmetrei* - God always geometrizes  
(Plato)

## Latin:

**Ab imo pectore** - From the bottom of the chest/from the heart  
**Ad acta** - To archives. Not actual any more  
**Ab initio** - From the beginning  
**Acta non verba** - Action not words  
**Arguendo** - For the sake of argument  
**Ad eundum quo nemo ante iit** - To boldly go where no man has gone before  
**Absit invidia** - No offence intended  
**Abutebaris modo subjunctivo denuo!!!** - You've been misusing the subjunctive again!!!

*Appareo Decet Nihil Munditia?* - Is it not nifty?

*absum!* - I'm outta here!

# ...on the world

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(Due to sensitive copyright issues, only resource links are provided).

The Obama Team - updates. As the economy of the USA has repercussions throughout the world and affects us all, we need to know who will be influencing the world's economy over the next four years. [http://projects.nytimes.com/44th\\_president/new\\_team](http://projects.nytimes.com/44th_president/new_team)

As far as I'm concerned, progress peaked  
with frozen pizza.

*Bruce Willis in "Die Hard 2"*

4 Top Science Advisers are named by Obama. "It's time we once again put science at the top of our agenda and worked to restore America's place as the world leader in science and technology," Mr. Obama said when he announced the appointments. [http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/21/us/politics/21science.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/21/us/politics/21science.html?_r=1)

D-Wave Arms 'Smoking Gun' Proof of Quantum Computer. Wave Systems, a Canadian start-up, claims to have concocted a way of proving that its quantum computer is actually a quantum computer. But to pull off the proof, it needs thousands of people to volunteer spare time on their personal computers. <http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/12/22/d-wave-arms-smoking-gun-proof-of-quantum-computer/D->

Pakistan girl band creates a stir. Despite the growing threat of Talebanisation across the country, most Pakistanis remain a liberal and tolerant lot. The country's top music acts such as Junoon, the late Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, Adnan Sami and Atif Aslam are South Asian superstars and have a strong international following as well. [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/7786423.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/7786423.stm)

Russia's high-tech sector reels. After the first round of layoffs, the staff members of MeshNetics filtered in as usual, taking their positions inside powder-blue cubicles and making the ritual run to the cafeteria for coffee. On one level, they felt relief: The cuts had been made, and they were all still here. It made them especially glad to see one another. <http://www.iht.com/articles/2008/11/17/europe/17russia.php>

23 Student Innovations. On campuses across the country, students have been building practical inventions, starting novel businesses and generally alpha-testing their ideas. Here are a few. <http://www.nytimes.com/pages/education/edlife/?8dpc>

Exploring old Rome without air (or time) travel. Google Earth has embraced a frontier dating back 17 centuries: ancient Rome under Constantine the Great. Soaring above a virtual reconstruction of the Forum and the Palatine Hill or zooming into the Colosseum to get a lion's-eye view of the stands, Google Earth's 400 million users will be able to explore the ancient capital. <http://www.iht.com/articles/2008/11/13/arts/13anci.php>

Ancient glory still felt in modern Egypt. Deep below the Egyptian desert, archaeologists have found evidence of yet another pyramid, this one constructed 4,300 years ago to store the remains of a pharaoh's mother. <http://www.iht.com/articles/2008/11/17/mideast/cairo.php>

Annan urges rich nations not to drop aid to Africa. Kofi Annan, one of the world's most outspoken activists for Africa, issued a stern warning to rich nations not to use the current economic turmoil as an excuse to turn their back on his continent. <http://www.iht.com/articles/2008/11/17/europe/kofi.php>

National Geographic Explorer: Basing a vacation on scientific research and education may seem like a counterintuitive combination, but to those who are interested in exploring the world's more remote locations and uncovering the deep secrets of the world's oceans, a cruise on the National Geographic Explorer is perfect. [http://mdislander.com/site/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=7445&Itemid=37](http://mdislander.com/site/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7445&Itemid=37)

Our problems are man-made, therefore they  
may be solved by man. No problem of human  
destiny is beyond human beings.

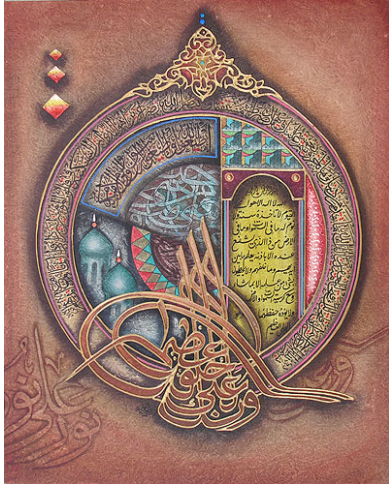
*John. F. Kennedy*

- ✦ New! Knowledge Magazine, by the BBC: <http://www.bbcknowledgemagazine.com/>
- ✦ For history lovers: <http://www.bbchistorymagazine.com/Default.asp?bhcp=1>
- ✦ For those who enjoy the night sky: <http://www.skyatnightmagazine.com/Default.asp?bhcp=1>
- ✦ Who do you think you are? <http://www.bbcwhodoyouthinkyouare.com/>
- ✦ BBC Photo Gallery – events over the past year [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in\\_pictures/default.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_pictures/default.stm)
- ✦ New York Times 2008 Year in Ideas [www.nytimes.com/interactive/2008/12/14/magazine/2008\\_IDEAS.html#a-ideas](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2008/12/14/magazine/2008_IDEAS.html#a-ideas)

# Business Protocol in the Arab World

## Appearance

- ◆ Visitors are expected to abide by local standards of modesty however, do not adopt native clothing. Traditional clothes on foreigners may be offensive.
- ◆ Despite the heat, most of the body must always remain covered.
- ◆ A jacket and tie are usually required for men at business meetings. Men should wear long pants and a shirt, preferably long-sleeved, buttoned up to the collar. Men should also avoid wearing visible jewelry, particularly around the neck.
- ◆ Women should always wear modest clothing in public. High necklines sleeves at least to the elbows are expected. Hemlines, if not ankle-length should at least be well below the knee. A look of baggy concealment should be the goal, pants or pant suits are not recommended. It is a good idea to keep a scarf handy, especially if entering a Mosque.



## Behavior

- ◆ Avoid admiring an item to an excess, your host may feel obligated to give it to you. When offered a gift, it is impolite to refuse.
  - ◆ Often shoes are removed before entering a building. Follow the lead of your host.
  - ◆ Alcohol and pork are not consumed by those that observe the Muslim religion.
  - ◆ There are several styles of greetings in use, it is best to wait for your counterpart to initiate the greeting. Men shake hands with other men. Some men will shake hands women, however it is advisable for a businesswoman to wait for a man to offer his hand. A more traditional greeting between men involves grasping each other's right hand, placing the left hand on the other's right shoulder and exchanging kisses on each cheek.
  - ◆ The left hand is considered unclean and reserved for hygiene. Gesture and eat with the right hand. Do not point at another person.
  - ◆ Men walking hand in hand is a sign a friendship.
- ◆ In the Muslim world, Friday is the day of rest.
  - ◆ Do not cross your legs when sitting, showing the bottom of your shoe or foot is offensive.
  - ◆ The "thumbs up" gesture can also be considered offensive by some.
  - ◆ Gifts are not necessary, but appreciated. If you do give a gift, it will be open in private.
  - ◆ Gifts to avoid giving include: alcohol, perfumes containing alcohol, pork, pigskin products, personal items such as underwear, knives, toy dogs or gifts that picture dogs, images of nude or partially clad women (even in paintings or sculptures with artistic merit)

## Communications

- ◆ Do not discuss the subject of women, not even to inquire about the health of a wife or daughter. The topic of Israel should also be avoided. Sports is an appropriate topic.
- ◆ Names are often confusing. It's best to get the names (in English) of those you will meet, speak to, or correspond with. Learn both their full names and how they are to be addressed in person before you meet.
- ◆ Communication is slow, do not feel obligated to speak during periods of silence. "Yes" usually means "possibly".
- ◆ Meetings are commonly interrupted by phone calls and visits from friends and family.
- ◆ The person at a meeting who asks the most questions is likely to be the least important. The decision-maker is likely a silent observer.
- ◆ A customary greeting is *salaam alaykum*. You respond by shaking hands and saying *kaif halak*.



# ...on Greece

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**“There is no end to it in this city –  
wherever we walk we set foot upon  
history”.**

**Lucius Cicero, c. 150 BC**

Greek Namedays: According to the Greek Orthodox tradition, nearly every day of the year is dedicated to a Christian saint or Martyr. When someone is named after one of those saints, that day becomes their "name day" and is celebrated.

[http://www.eortologio.gr/index\\_uk.htm](http://www.eortologio.gr/index_uk.htm)

Greek traditions and superstitions: <http://www.greeka.com/greece-traditions.htm>

Athens Info Guide: For complete information on: history of Athens, general information, transportation in Athens, maps, hotels, restaurants, entertainment, cultural agenda, shopping, sports, local customs, traveling with children, beaches, off the beaten path, walks in the city, traps and warnings, excursions, car rental, travel agents, photo gallery, and much more.... <http://www.athensinfo.com/index.htm>

Museums in Athens: <http://www.greece-museums.com/athens-museums.php>; <http://www.athensguide.com/museum.html>

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## Independence Day, March 25

March 25 is the date of the Greek revolution against the Ottoman Turks. The Byzantine Empire fell to the Turks in 1453 and the Greeks remained under the Ottoman rule for nearly 400 years. During this time their language, their religion and their sense of identity remained strong.

On March 25, 1821, the bishop Germanos of Patras raised the Greek flag at the Monastery of Agia Lavra in Peloponese. The people of Greece shouted "Freedom or Death" and they fought the War of Independence for nine years (1821-1829) until a small part of modern Greece was finally liberated and it was declared an independent nation. [The Treaty of London for Greek Independence](#), the first official international act which acknowledged Greece as an independent state.

The struggle for the liberation of all the lands inhabited by Greeks continued. In 1864, the Ionian Islands were added to Greece; in 1881 parts of Epirus and Thessaly. Crete, the islands of the Eastern Aegean and Macedonia were added in 1913 and Western Thrace in 1919. After World War II the Dodecanese islands were also returned to Greece.

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## The Greek Flag



"Freedom or Death" (*Eleftheria i Thanatos*) was the motto during the Greek Revolution against the Ottoman Empire. It is believed that the nine lines of the flag reflects the number of syllables in the Greek phrase "*Eleftheria i Thanatos*" = Freedom or Death.

The line pattern was chosen because of their similarity with the wavy sea that surrounds the shores of Greece. The cross demonstrates the respect and the devotion that Greek people have for the Greek Orthodox Church and signifies the important role of Christianity in the formation of the modern Hellenic Nation.