

## FOREWORD

The year 2012 has been an important one for the ABAC Journal. We have published a group of exceptional articles on a variety of subjects and continued to provide new emphasis on book reviews and review articles. We are very pleased that our authors consider to see the advantages of publishing in a journal addressed to a general audience rather than to fellow specialists. We, of course, recognize the importance of professional communication within fields but are also committed to the idea that scholars should also address those in fields separate from their own just as in agriculture such cross-fertilization can often be extremely productive. We trust the journal will continue to expand its scope during 2013 and even more, act as a conduit for communication between a diverse and talented group of scholars.

For all of the Journal's diversity, education and business continue to provide the greatest number of our articles, which is of course quite appropriate for a historically business-oriented educational institution. This issue is no exception. Given the international scope of contemporary business, and the importance of English as the lingua franca in the business world, it is no surprise that articles concerning the teaching of English as a second language are frequently submitted to us. Watcharee Kulprasit and Dr. Thanyapa Chiramanee contribute in this issue an article considering ways to encourage positive attitudes towards writing in English, such attitudes having been shown in previous studies to facilitate the acquisition of skills. Dr. Vikanda Pornsakulvanich, Dr. Nuchada Dumrongsiri, Pair Sajampun, Suppasit Sornsri, Surej P. John, Tipa Sriyabhand, Chatkaew Nuntapanich, Chulamani Chantarawandi, Parichart Wongweeranonchai, and Smith Jiradilok also consider seemingly non-academic factors that play a role in academic success. In this experiment, the authors compared the impact of learning styles and personality traits on academic success among business students and found that the former had a greater predictive value. This is not, of course, to say that subject matter plays no role in learning. As everyone who has struggled to learn a second language knows, the proper construction of sentences is a major challenge and San Shwe Baw considers a set of activities that have been shown to help students learning English deal with these grammatical complexities. This issue's book review, by Dr. Lori Dassa, also considers educational practice through a thorough discussion of *Literacy Language & Culture: Methods and Strategies for Mainstream Teachers with Not-So-Mainstream Learners* by Eileen N. Whelan Ariza and Susanne I. Lapp.

Turning to the world of business studies in this issue, we find a variety of interesting and important topics being investigated. The first of the articles, by Ayesha Tabassum, Tasnuva Rahman and Kursia Jahan looks at the university as an academic work environment, exploring the self-perception of quality of work-life among faculty members at Bangladesh universities. An article written by Dr. S. Santhosh Kumar, Susheel M.A., and Bindu C. looks very specifically at trade between Thailand and India after the passage of the 2012 Free Trade Agreement between India and Thailand. More theoretical but also very relevant to trade is Praphrut

Chatprapachai's consideration of the tax on foreign exchange transactions proposed by Nobel Prize winning economist James Tobin. This tax would reign in speculation and create a more stable environment in which international business interactions could take place.

So we bring this year to a close with articles that should be of interest to both specialists and to general readers. We are very pleased with the way ABAC Journal has progressed in recent years and ask our readers to help us with its continued expansion from any academic field, and informing their scholarly colleagues about the Journal and the advantages of reaching out to a broad number of informed readers through it.

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