

FOREWORD

Although it is committed to providing its students with a broad education that they will need to lead lives that are both productive and satisfying, the core educational mission of Assumption University has always highlighted and emphasized business education. AU is committed to contributing both to its students and to the society in general by training generations of business and societal leaders who will guide the economic development of Thailand in a sustainable economic and ethical manner.

It is thus very appropriate that this issue of the ABAC Journal contains articles centering on both education and economics, with a book review serving to suggest the larger concerns that are important to any higher educational program and goals.

Just as business today is international, so too is education, and this is reflected in two of the articles in this issue. The first examines the important matter of second language education and in it Dr. Sureepong Phothongsunan evaluates in a critical manner three overall models of such language learning. We are certain that the author's insights make this article important reading for all modern educators.

In their article the co-authors, Dr. Noel Jones, Dr. C.R.H. Gigante McBain, and Ms. Shannon Madden examine the interactions that affect education in which teachers come from a different cultural background than students. The authors deal less with the techniques of teaching than with the attitudes behind the teaching, emphasizing the moral basis that makes such cross-cultural education possible both within and outside the classroom.

The final educational article deals with a specific subject area, accounting, looking not at factors internal to that subject but the social context in which that education takes place. In the article, Dr. Myint Thein presents the results of a survey study that brings to light the complex contextual factors in which education takes place. In general, the articles in this section suggest the many dimensions critical for successful educational practice.

The importance of business education is of course found in the increase of knowledge available to future business leaders. This dimension is emphasized by Asst. Prof. Dr. Abu Saleh Md. Sohel-Uz-Zaman and Asst. Prof. Umana Anjalin in their discussion of the importance of human knowledge for business success. This provides the flexibility needed in the modern economic world. This flexibility also requires that human resources demand varied knowledge and capacities for success. In her article Soniya Billore examines specific constraints in the use of crucial resources, particularly those facing women immigrants to Japan. The article also considers ways that can be used to loosen the constraints facing these immigrants.

In the book review section, Stithorn Thananithichot examines the work of Adeeb Khalid concerning the effect of communism on Islam. It may seem that this issue is very separate from the business and educational considerations of other articles but in the modern world almost everything has such an impact. For this reason, although the emphasis of the Journal in general will tend to match the educational emphases of the sponsoring institution of the journal, we encourage the submission of appropriate manuscripts from all fields of research.

The Executive Editor would like to acknowledge the great advances in the publication of the ABAC Journal under the tenure of his successor Dr. Bancha Saenghiran, and the excellent support provided by Dr. Sompit Porsutyaruk, Vice President of Academic Affairs, in getting the support of the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) for the Journal.

Executive Editor
Prathip M. Komolmas, f.s.g., Ph.D.
President Emeritus,
Assumption University of Thailand