

FOREWORD

As an eventful year ends, it is natural to reflect on what has been done and what is planned for the future. This passing year we have been gratified to have been sent a constant stream of work for consideration from authors seeking to publish in the ABAC Journal. We are pleased to have been granted funds from NRCT (the National Research Council of Thailand) to support a joint publication ABAC/NRCT due in January of 2018 and pleased also to have enjoyed continuing support from TCI and our Editorial Board.

The priority for the coming year is to move the ABAC Journal into SCOPUS, an international database, with guidance and assistance from TCI. The move will bring renewed focus on language, and increased international exposure for our authors.

With the Royal cremation on the 26th of November Thai people marked the end of an era but the late King Bhumibol remains in our hearts as we resolve to work together to sustain an uncertain future. We recognize anew the importance of his philosophy of sustainability, expressed as the principle of the self-sufficient economy with a call for papers reflecting the Buddhist principle of the Middle Way.

We publish the December Edition with eight papers representing diverse interests.

- *Acquiring English in a Constructionist Environment: A Case Study*

This qualitative study explores how the psychological and social environment in a constructionist classroom influences the learning of English as a Foreign Language (EFL). The findings reveal that personally evocative and meaningful activities lead to more classroom interactions and enhanced learning.

- *Enhancing Learner Autonomy amongst Rural Young EFL Learners through Project-Based Learning: An Action Research*

This paper explores how Project-Based Learning (PBL) can enhance LA with existing resources. All students were found to be receptive to PBL and LA enhancement. Because the national standardized achievement test, ONET 2015, returned higher average scores for all Grade 6 students treated with PBL it is concluded that through PBL rural teachers can make the most of existing resources to gradually enhance learning autonomy and improve test scores.

- *Development of a Self-Diagnostic Model in the Cognitive Domain in Problem Solving Skills in Mathematics*

This study developed problem solving skills in upper secondary mathematics using a self-diagnostic model in the cognitive domain. The effectiveness of the self-diagnostic model shows

that students who have meta-cognitive awareness self-regulate their learning and return higher test scores.

- *The Problems of Conflict between Unilateral and Bilateral Relief under Thai Income Taxation Law*

In attempt to adhere to both International and National Law for the elimination of double taxation, Thailand is using both unilateral and bilateral relief measures. This research considered the neutrality of tax relief for taxpayers within the theory of capital import neutrality (CIN) and capital export neutrality (CEN). Studies have revealed that the use of bilateral relief in connection with unilateral relief creates several issues and loopholes.

- *Promotion of Proactive Behavior for Government Officers in the Eastern Region: A Multilevel Model with Mixed Methods Analysis*

This mixed method research develops a Proactive Behavior Measurement Model and applies the model to identify proactive behavior for Government Officers in the Eastern Region of Thailand. The results reveal that proactive behavior of this group involves four factors, namely, Personal Initiative, Proactive Personality, Taking Charge, and Role Breadth Self-Efficacy. Of these four factors, Personal Initiative is the most important factor at individual level, and Proactive Personality the most important factor at group level.

- *Organizational Development Intervention on Service Climate and Psychological Meaningfulness to improve Employee Engagement: An action research in a private family hotel Samui, Thailand*

This action research, conducted in a mid-sized family owned hotel in Samui, southern Thailand, investigates the positive impact of organizational development intervention (ODI) on service climate, and psychological meaningfulness to enhance the level of employee engagement.

- *Impact of eLearning in Foreign Direct Investment on Thai Manufacturing SMEs*

The objective of the study was to develop eLearning in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) using Facebook for the Thai manufacturing SMEs, comprising seven modules including Vertical and Horizontal FDI, Creating an Investment Promotion Strategy, Building Effective Partnerships, Strengthening the Location's Image, and Thai Government Policies on FD. It was found that participants showed significant improvement in their knowledge and understanding in FDI after completion of the course.

- *Identifying the Reliability and Validity of Hard and Soft HRM Measures: A Study on the Banking Sector of Bangladesh*

This comparative study of Hard and Soft Human Resource Management (HRM) explores HRM practices in the banking sector of Bangladesh in terms of the two categories. The results indicate that the Bangladesh banking sector practices a combination of both hard and soft

HRM: and most of their employees think that HRM practices and policies increase employee motivation, satisfaction, commitment, and welfare.

- Book review: *English Grammar in Use by Raymond Murphy, 4th edition, 9th printing (2014) reviewed by San Shwe Baw*

The book is intended mainly for use as a self-study reference and practice book for intermediate students who want to master selected sentence structures suitable for their level. It deserves credit for the clarity of the grammatical points made in a simple style with clear format and precise explanations, the book will serve its intended intermediate students and lower level EFL learners well. It is user-friendly. Teachers and learners will find it a useful reference book.

I wish to express my deep gratitude to the authors and individuals who contributed to the publication of this issue. My sincere thanks to the Assistant Editor Mr. Aung Kyi Win for his tireless work to meet deadlines: The Supervising Editor, Mr. Daniel Merillat for his professional help and to Asst. Prof. San Shwe Baw for his well-written book review.

I wish all our readers a Merry Christmas, a rewarding New Year, and please, do let us know how we can better serve your needs.

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