

FOREWORD

This issue of the ABAC Journal contains just two articles and a long document from the United Nations. The articles, by Dr. Ioan Voicu and Dr. Michel Picavet, are so deeply concerned with improving the human condition, both in Thailand and throughout the world, that we have decided to provide our readers with a special opportunity to reflect on the prospects for growth and improvement. The scope of the articles may be different, but each embodies an essential level of analysis that is very much connected to the well-being of the modern world. Both top-down and bottom-up approaches are needed if we are to move forward.

If the world is ever to know peace and full prosperity it will have to devise on a global level much stronger mechanisms of cooperation than exist at present. The United Nations, in existence for sixty years, is the logical basis for such efforts but many have recognized that in its current form it does not fully live up to its potential. We therefore are proud to present Dr. Ioan Voicu's introduction to a document from the World Summit of 2005, which proposes an analysis of the prospects of and possible limitations concerning the reformation of the institution. We believe that this is so important that we are publishing the entire U.N. document in this article. We are certain that our readers are as concerned about the world as is Dr. Voicu and will welcome the opportunity to read this critical document in its entirety.

The United Nations is very much concerned with development but also with the status of various groups of people who have been subject to past discrimination. In Dr. Michel Picavet's article these themes are brought together with specific reference to the Thai situation. Rather than seeing Thai women as playing a secondary role in the development process, the author argues that women play a central role in development. This suggests the extent that universal development of human potential is a universal good. Like the United Nations document, this article has a heartening underlying optimism towards the prospects of the world.

Because of the length of the material contained in these articles the editors have had to postpone articles they had planned to place in this issue, but I am certain that our readers will appreciate the chance to reflect deeply on such an important topic.

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