

## FOREWORD

The emphasis of this issue of the ABAC Journal is economic, with one article considering an interesting and innovative educational technique.

Ismail Ali Siad considers the possibility that processes associated with the mathematics of chaos theory play an important role in the financial markets. Studying price fluctuations of The Stock Exchange of Thailand between 1975 and 1999, he determines the extent that nonlinear (chaotic) processes are responsible for these movements.

The other two economic articles examine the social aspects of business activity. Myat Mon addresses the question of what factors encourage women to enter the workforce in Burma. Perhaps somewhat surprisingly, the research finds that educational level is not a significant factor but that marital status and husband's income are significantly correlated with female entrance into the labor market.

Sasithorn Phonkaew examines an important aspect of business development not from the standpoint of the social environment but, rather, by looking at the properties of businesses themselves. In particular, the study examines the role resource dependence plays in the adoption of innovative technologies.

The educational interest of this issue is provided by San Shwe Baw, who describes an innovative technique for using what is often considered to be a human weakness - - our propensity to gossip - - in support of the educational endeavor of learning a new language. Recognizing that most people do gossip, this technique incorporates this behavior to get beyond the artificiality of language class conversational situations, thereby increasing students motivation to learn.

The Executive Editor

Prathip Martin Komolmas, f.s.g., Ph.D.  
President, Assumption University