

FOREWORD

This issue marks the thirty-fourth volume of the ABAC Journal. The Journal was founded to present a wide variety of current scholarship to a general audience that extended beyond specialists and we believe that we have been quite successful in accomplishing that goal. Given the orientation of Assumption University, which was known as Assumption College at the time of the Journal's inception, articles about business and education have always provided a particular emphasis, but articles on topics from philosophy, to science, to political science, to literature have also appeared with some regularity. We intend to maintain this broad orientation and encourage scholars in all areas to contribute their work to the Journal. Human beings are marked by a natural curiosity and we are certain scholars and intellectuals in all fields are happy to gain an audience apart from their immediate colleagues.

The University has as one of its major purposes the training of leaders and thus it is quite fitting that the issue opens with the investigation of Professors Mohammad Aftab Uddin, Md. Sahidur Rahman, and Mohammad Harisur Rahman Howlader into the nature of transformational leadership, a topic that is of vital importance in a world where innovation plays a critical role in every organization. The authors find that not only is such leadership associated with job performance but that it also contributes to avoiding a deviant workplace. Another aspect of organizational behavior is investigated by Dr. Ousanee Sawagvudcharee, who looks at the role of internal marketing in the context of the privatization of the Thai Provincial Electricity Authority.

Professors Sumon Bhattacharjee, Swadip Bhattacharjee, and Shimul Chakraborty, on the other hand, consider the role of external communications, looking at the voluntary disclosure practices among a variety of knowledge-based companies. Even within such industries, it is found that the level of voluntary disclosure is quite variable. Because of the importance of the free flow of accurate information to the markets, the authors suggest that a statutory provision should also play a role.

Dr. Myat Mon, in another prospective, has studied the international flow of skilled workers across borders. The changing history of the political situation in Burma provides Dr. Mon the opportunity to investigate the role that skilled Burmese workers have played in Thailand and their relationship to Thai culture. She found that many Burmese migrants have had considerable success in Thailand, though they maintain an identity separate from that of the host country. With recent developments in Burma, the plans of these migrants are certain to be changing. This article provides not only important practical information but also suggests the complex relationships that exist between business and politics.

Switching to education, Professor San Shwe Baw considers another aspect of the globalization of the economy. As has been frequently reflected in the articles published in the Journal in recent years, this globalization has made linguistic training, most particularly competence in English, which has emerged as the lingua franca of world business, a matter of crucial importance. To achieve full competence, it is important not only to master the basic rules of a language but to, in a sense, come to know the language from the perspective of native speakers. This article addresses this issue by examining the increasing trend towards the use of authentic teaching materials in language learning.

Technology plays an increasing role in the education of even young children and Professor Boonyalak Tamnanchit examines the current use and problems involved with the use of educational information technology by child caretakers. The article suggests that the caretakers are concerned with proper technological resources but that budgetary issues have imposed limitations on progress in this area.

The article by Dr. Nkechi M. Christopher shifts geographically to Nigeria and towards consideration of matters that are more artistic than the other articles in this issue. Both in its consideration of literary publishing and in its appraisal of the role of digital publishing in Nigerian culture, the article retains a connection to business. It also is involved with the consideration of technology in modern life. This, in the context of the other articles in the issue, suggests the interconnectedness of research in diverse scholarly areas. This provides further evidence of the importance of the vision that the Journal's founders demonstrated in establishing a generalist journal that would allow the sharing of ideas and perspectives among scholars of many disciplines.

In the Book Review section of this issue, Dr. Absorn Meesing writes a positive appraisal of the book—"The Talent Code: Greatness isn't Born, it's Grown. Here's how" by Daniel Coyle (2009), which features how to build talents and skills through deep practice, long-term motivation, and master coaching. The book is recommended for the prime movers in the field of education such as educators, teachers, coaches and all those involved in the teaching profession who are dedicated to instill skills, talents, and self efficacy in their learners to the highest level achievable.

If this Foreword has had something of a retrospective quality about it, it is not only because of the beginning of a new volume, but also because the issue marks a critical turning point in the Journal's history, as Dr. James Gallagher completes his many years of service as Managing Editor. Dr. Gallagher expresses his pride at his role in helping the Journal grow in stature and also for the satisfaction he had as a faculty member at the University. It has been a source of great satisfaction to play a role in the growth of both the Journal and the educational institution which publishes it. He greatly values the students, faculty members, administrators, and journal contributors who have made his ca-

reer at Assumption University so satisfying. In particular, he wants to express his appreciation to Rev. Bro. Martin Prathip Komolmas, who has acted as Executive Director of the ABAC Journal and who has played such a central role in the development of the University. All at AU want to thank Dr. Gallagher for his many years of service to the university and Journal and wish him the best as he retires.

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