



FOREWORD

In this issue of the *ABAC Journal* a series of business-oriented articles examine their topic from both the personal and the industry-wide points of view. The perspectives may be varied, but the two levels are in fact united: there would be no corporations without the individuals who work in them and most individuals would flounder aimlessly without the structure provided by social and corporate aims.

The personal motivations of future business leaders in India is the topic of Nidheesh Joseph's article. What makes some business students act as entrepreneurs when they leave school while others take on more conventional employment? This paper provides an important analysis of the factors that lead into forming a new business. Md. Sahidur Rahman, Shameema Ferdausy, and Rana Karan look at a cognitive factor, emotional intelligence, suspected of influencing job performance and find that there indeed is a relationship. This suggests that intellectual capacities are not the only mental resources needed for business success. Dr. Myint Thein considers the practice of corporations buying back shares, noting that executives involved in such decisions may be working more in their own interest than in the interest of the stockholders. Here the relationship and tensions between corporation and the individuals who manage them are explicitly considered. Finally, Professor John Maturri's review of the French author Georges Perec's novella, *The Art of Asking your Boss for a Raise*, suggests that beneath its literary farce is a serious consideration of the corporate environment and the role of computers within it.

Chai Nimakorn, Dr. Supitr Samahito, and Dr. Issadee Kutintara contribute a study of a small scale industry, a professional women's volleyball league. One might think that the relatively small-scale nature of such a business would be conducive to an informal culture, but the authors find that the professional business model is as necessary here as it is in larger enterprises. Moving up the scale of size, Md. Shaha Alam Patwary and Dr. Md. Serazul Islam investigate the impact of the availability of natural gas distribution on the lives of the rural Bangladeshi, finding an improvement in standard of living but also the emergence of problems that need to be addressed.

Shifting to the educational arena, Dr. Kasma Suwanarak explores how background cognitions, such as beliefs and learning strategies, have an effect on the English language skills of Thai graduate business students. With English often acting as a lingua franca for an increasingly internationalized business environment this educational endeavor is critical for such students and the results of this paper provide useful information to those involved in business education.

Finally, Professor Dr. Ioan Voicu provides another of his insightful analyses of the impli-



cations of international meetings, this time focusing on a meeting between the United States and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). As noted above, in an increasingly globalized world we can ill-afford to neglect or ignore such partnerships.

This consideration of the issue began with the interaction of the corporate and the personal and ends with a consideration of the relevance of the larger geopolitical sphere. All of these varied levels must be considered if we are to properly understand our complex world and we are glad that as a generalist publication the *ABAC Journal* is able to adjust all of them.

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