

FOREWORD

The goal of the ABAC Journal is to provide a forum in which specialists from various academic fields can present work to those in other fields, as well as to non-academics who are curious about current work of university scholars. In a world where learning has reached a point where a high level of specialization is required for productive research, it is important that we retain the capacity for sharing our results and for cross-fertilization among fields. Academics who address their work only to those in their own field, or even to those in a tiny sub-field, may be losing contact with the larger purpose of scholarly endeavor, with the goal of increasing the understanding of humankind as a whole.

Philosophy is an ideal field for addressing multiple fields and issues and the general concerns of philosophers cannot fail to be of interest to all who have an abiding interest in the nature of the cosmos and the beings who populate it. Professor Dr. David Tin Win and Thandee Kywe address in one part of their two part article the most basic of issues - the existence of God - and consider whether the field of theology has been usurped by a scientific understanding that has no need for explanatory hypotheses outside of the natural world and its laws. In seeking to determine whether science and religion are compatible or in opposition, they bring together basic issues that will be of interest not only to scientists and theologians but to all serious people. In the first part of their article they consider another possible opposition to science. Those who see science as providing the only path to truth often at best consider art as a decorative aspect of our culture and lives. In the case of both of these oppositions, the authors point to the importance of the mind in demonstrating compatibility.

More focused but of interest to many who are concerned with the economic development of Thailand is Dr. Thongdee Kijboonchoo and Kunnatee Kalayanakupt's article on the condition and prospects of the Thai tuna industry. Dr. Guido Oelkers and Dr. Barry Elsey look at another aspect of economic development: the effect of intellectual property protection on such development with particular consideration of the pharmaceutical industry.

Professor Emeritus Dr. Wallin provides pedagogical insights in his scholarly research on “Improving School Effectiveness”, which is of great interest to educators involved in both secondary and tertiary education.

Rev. Luchai Chanpoe examines the educational implications of administration in the Catholic schools of Chanthaburi province of Thailand. The recommendations derived from his study of schools in one diocese provide insights for administrators in all schools.

The world of scholarly cooperation will, it is hoped, eventually lead to a world of peaceful cooperation and universal well-being, but unfortunately such a world does not exist today. With the rise of global terrorism and other threats to peace, regional cooperation to meet those threats is crucial. Jane J. Simmons looks at the roles allocated to government and non-governmental organizations in Thailand in this very important area.

A unique feature of the current issue of ABAC Journal is the inclusion of a Book Review by President Emeritus, Rev. Prathip M. Komolmas. The author of the book under review, *Guide to Doing a Good Case Analysis (2003)*, is Dr. Vinai Viriyavidhayavongs, Assistant Professor and Dean of the Graduate School of Business. This book follows his earlier work, *A Unique Way of Case Analysis (1999)*. The necessity of a structured way of approaching problems (i.e. a general frame-work) that can be adapted to specific actual world problems is clearly reflected by the author.

From the most abstract, yet vitally important, issues to the most urgently practical, it is hoped that this issue of the Journal provides all of its readers with some new perspectives on intellectual, educational, economic, and political life.

The Executive Editor