

## FOREWORD

This issue of the ABAC Journal provides a full range of contributions that reflect the generalist orientation of the journal. We are, however, associated with an educational institution and a particular emphasis of this issue will be on educational matters. Assumption University and its publications have as part of their purpose the advancement of educational practice in Thailand and throughout the world and we believe that this issue provides a strong indication of our commitment in this area. We are also a business oriented institution and our commitment to education cannot be separated from our role as an institution participating in the economic development effort of Thailand and of the establishment of a world order that will allow economic and social activity to flourish in a world where cooperation and peaceful competition have replaced war and violent conflict.

The relationship between education and this larger political and social vision is well established in Dr. Ioan Voicu's **'Education and Global Solidarity'**, in which he looks at the role that UNESCO plays in developing humanistic educational systems that encourage peaceful globalization in the context of a positive recognition of the diversity of the cultures of the world. Education can be an important tool in establishing a framework in which human beings feel themselves in solidarity with the entire species rather than with only their own society. Dr. Voicu explores this issue in an extremely cogent manner.

Part of the establishment of this type of solidarity is found in the ability of people of various cultures to communicate with each other effectively and efficiently. Education can contribute to this process by helping students come to understand others by learning to speak their language. As global communications expand the importance of having common languages will be crucial for economic and political reasons. San Shwe Baw explores some of the technical issues of language learning in **"A Brief Examination of Some Earlier Grammar-based Methods Through Brown's Twelve Principles of Language Teaching."** Examining the question of the best way to teach language historically, Baw provides a degree of support for earlier methods based on grammar.

Education not only occurs in the classroom but in every area of life where men and women seek out and use new ideas for making their lives better and

their work more productive. In, “**Integrated Pest Management as sustainable agricultural practice: the process of innovation-adoption by durian growers in Thailand and the role of Agricultural Extension Workers as change management agents**”, Dr. Barry Elsey and Dr. Kittipong Sirichoti relate educational ideas not to classrooms but to the fields of durian farmers. This commitment to universal education is an essential process of lifelong learning and provides a fitting conclusion to this education-oriented issue of the ABAC Journal.

The Executive Editor

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