

## FOREWORD

Education plays perhaps the most critical role in the achievement of personal satisfaction and social progress in the modern world. It is only through education that the impoverished are able to establish a more adequate life style and that entire nations can take their place as leaders in the world economy, guaranteeing that the citizens of those nations are able to fulfill those ambitions. Moreover, education is not only an instrument for economic advancement but itself a source of human satisfaction. Aristotle noted that human beings are by their nature curious about the world in which they live and that basic sense of wonder can only be fulfilled by establishing the skills and knowledge base that comes from an education that does not end in youth but that is lifelong. For these reasons, the ABAC Journal has always given some emphasis on publishing articles that further our knowledge of educational processes. This is particularly true of the current issue.

Because both economic and personal factors demand that education not be limited to one's own culture, but rather should serve to expand a student's horizon to a world-wide view, the learning of foreign languages plays a critical role in the modern world. Two of the articles in this issue address questions involving this matter. Thanatkun Tangpermpoon considers the very important topic of the development of English writing skills. Reviewing the complex of factors involved in this and a number of integrated approaches that seek to address these factors, the article critically evaluates these approaches. Thus, outlining both their strengths and weaknesses, the authors provide educators and educational institutions with the means for deciding the best approach for their students.

Dr. Sureepong Phothongsunan and Dr. Kasma Suwanarak consider administrative aspects of this question, looking particularly at the differences between those teachers of English who are native speakers and those who are themselves speakers of English as a second language. Their research demonstrates that administrators as well as students tend to treat these two differently but that this differential is not warranted. What is most crucial is expertise in English as a Second Language and the emphasis should be on enhancement of those skills, rather than on considering the language of origin of the teacher. In a world where there is a great need for foreign language instructors, this viewpoint can be very critical.

The issues of cross-cultural and cross-linguistic communication is the topic of Taguhi Sahakyan and Dr. Sivakumar Sivasubramaniam's study of the difficulty of Armenian scholars to publish their work in English. Most publications by such scholars are in Russian, reflecting that close cultural connections between Armenia and Russia, but the authors note that younger scholars have a strong interest in publishing their work in English, recognizing the degree which that language has become the lingua franca of the scholarly world. The article explores the difficulties that the scholars have in trying to bridge the gap that would provide them with a greater readership and enhanced opportunities for publication.

Moving away from specific concerns with linguistic education, Pariyaporn Tungkunan, Dr. Punnee Leekitchwatana, Narong Pimsarn, and Siripun Chumnum collaborate on an article considering the quality culture of a particular school of vocation. The factors the authors considered in their research are critical for educational achievement and the analysis has a comprehensiveness that will make the article of interest to all those concerned with quality of educational institutions, a group that should include all of us, whether professionally involved in the subject or not.

Although it is in fact life-long, we tend to think of education primarily in terms of the development in the early stages of life. The final article shifts to the latter stages of life and in it Chalouy Laubunjong, Dr. Nawarat Phlainoi, Dr. Siriwan Graisorapong, and Dr. Wanna Kongsuriyanavin look at the care giving of the elderly as found in a rural Thai community. The authors conclude that such care-giving is currently insufficient and that society as a whole should make institutional commitments to improving the situation.

This issue thus ranges throughout the life-cycle, looking at the needs of citizens in the modern world in a way that is appropriate for the wide-ranging publication that ABAC Journal aspires to be.

Executive Editor

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