

**RANGSIT JOURNAL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES (RJAS)
Volume 1, Number 2, July-December 2011**

Editor's Note

The pace of transformation in the world seems to validate the old adage that “change is the only constant”.

In the past year global weather has tended toward extremes in both hot and cold and many regions have been buffeted by an unprecedented number of violent storms. Are these validations of the widely-held theory of global warming or, as a vocal minority suggests, merely reoccurring phenomena? In the realm of governance, are the dramatic political changes in the Middle East a harbinger of more positive futures for the people or are these social movements destined to experience untimely ends?

As scholars based in South East Asia but with an international mission, we are mindful of the sweep of history. In 1967 we witnessed the birth of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), a grouping of nations committed to cooperation in constructing a better future for its citizens. ASEAN leaders are seeking answers to challenges that affect us all such as national development that will benefit all levels of society, improvements in the quality of education, and overcoming environmental degradation. The nascent ASEAN Free Trade Area holds hope for wider economic integration with the promise of sustainable economic growth.

Ideas carry influence. Today's gains in communication technology provide opportunities for discovering and creating new links and relationships based not on region or nation, but on broader themes of consequence. Just as the rise in literacy levels of ordinary people was driven by the invention of the printing press, we now see Facebook, Twitter and other Internet platforms operating to influence and educate. In this interconnected domain, people have the potential to forge new associations defined not by region or nation, but by inspired thought. In learning about others we discover more of the human condition, our shared wants and aspirations, our strengths and our weaknesses.

In keeping with RJAS's avowed purpose, the second issue of the RANGSIT JOURNAL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES (RJAS) spans a diversity of intellectual endeavors, with articles in education ergonomics, physics, the social sciences, the health sciences and medicine, plus computer and information technology. It is our fervent hope that these articles will contribute to the shared dialogue in search of advancement in all reaches of human endeavor.

During the preparation of the current issue of RJAS, record flooding inundated the central and northern regions of Thailand with recent flooding in some southern provinces resulting in widespread property damage including damage to industrial zones and rice fields and with significant loss of life. We, the staff of the RANGSIT JOURNAL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES wish to express our deepest sympathy to the families and friends who have been so terribly impacted by this natural disaster. We have high hopes that, as a consequence of this catastrophe, scholars will pay greater attention to contemporary problems and issues, perhaps more than they might have done in times past.

Finally we extend to one and all sincere wishes for a healthy, productive and happy New Year.