

This issue of Silpakorn University's International Journal (SUIJ) is the combination of two volumes to celebrate the 60 th anniversary of the establishment of Silpakorn University to which the founder's story is related in a special note. This commemorating issue is decorated with the articles of some distinguished figures of the university – Emeritus Professor Chetana Nagavajara, a very famous literature and arts critic, once a German lecturer of the Faculty of Arts, and Professor Sodchuen Chaiprasatha, a French lecturer of the Faculty of Archaeology. Their articles are joined by the research on the folk wisdom related to using natural materials for food packaging, and a long study on the dating of the Mon Kingdom by a well known oriental specialist George Cœdès', and a note on upholding children in a globalized society.

The scientists are as active and industrious contributors as ever. The Science category thus consists of ten articles. The first is on the basicity of magnesium oxide, a widely used catalyst in chemical reactions. The second deals with the use of benthic macroinvertebrates as an index for water quality, while the third narrates a field study of the freshwater snail from Toa Dum Forest in Kanchanaburi Province. In the fourth the chemistry of pectin and its uses in Pharmaceuticals are reviewed by Pornsak Sriamornsak, a recipient of the Young Scientist Awards 2004 from the Foundation for the Promotion of Sciences and Technology under the Patronage of H.M. the King. It is followed by the regeneration of Damsak rose or Kulap mon. The sixth article gathers pharmacist service activities conducted by a mail survey from Dane County, Wisconsin, USA, while the seventh shows a preliminary study from Samutsakorn Hospital about the relationship between serum and saliva level of theophylline, a medication for asthma patients. The eighth

presents the use of a scanning electron microscope for the observation of porcine oviductal epithelial cells. Thua nao, a fermented soybean is described in the ninth article, and is followed by the evaluation of a vibration-assisted tight-filling machine for tangerine.

Silpakorn University started off as a fine art university and has expanded as one with nearly all branches of knowledge and has now arrived at a certain change or turning point – an autonomous university. It has to face more serious quality assessment. This may lead to the publication of more international journals on different subjects.

The editorial board would like to apologize to the contributors for taking quite a time in the publication of this issue. We also like to convey our heartfelt thanks to all of you. Our gratitude is also given to all the people who have assisted in the production of the volume. Thanks to them all.