

FOREWORD

With this issue of the **International Journal of Computer and Engineering Management** we mark the completion of the journal's first year of publication. The content of this issue also provides an indication of our success in meeting the major goals for the journal: that it should be a journal with international scope and one that provides a mix of technical and managerial articles, with a minimum of three technical articles per issue.

The five papers in the issue clearly indicate its international scope; along with the two Thai authors, both of whom write about computer networking, the issue also includes authors from Australia, the United Kingdom, and Hong Kong. The articles also reflect the desired mix of technical and managerial concerns, with three articles falling into the former category.

The first paper of the issue, "Metaphors: the Invisible Power in Engineering Management and Management Accounting", by Mike Metcalfe of the University of Adelaide, Australia, and Philip Powell of the University of Southampton, England examines the role of metaphors in communication and reviews the basic attributes of these communication devices. The authors then apply their analysis of metaphor to engineering management and management accounting by examining the disciplines' root metaphors.

The second paper is "Information Systems Research and Education: the State of Current Practice from a Software Engineering Perspective" by Matthew Lee of the City Polytechnic of Hong Kong. The article reviews current information systems research practices and information systems education in the USA, the United Kingdom, and Hong Kong.

Ernest Jordan, also of the City Polytechnic of Hong Kong, shares with his colleagues an interest in the disciplinary character of Information Technology in his paper "Information Technology Strategy for Professional Practice." The paper reviews work on organizational structure and competitive strategy in the field and develops a theoretical framework for that work. The paper demonstrates how the research, development, design, and implementation components of Information Technology may each be provided with distinct roles.

The fourth paper, "Enterprise-Wide Networking", by J.S. Watana of TelecomAsia in Thailand presents analyzes of the nature of networking systems that link all of an organization's computers together and explores the applications of such systems.

The final paper in this issue, "Internet Computer Access in Thailand" was written by S. Charmonman, Distinguished Professor of King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang and Board Chairman of The Board of Assumption University, both of which are Thai institutions. This paper describes the recent popularity of Internet-based computer networking in Thailand. The rapid growth of the Internet in Thailand is illustrated by an ambitious project that will provide full Internet access to all 15,000 students of Assumption University.

As we complete the first year of IJCEM 's publication, the journal's editors and staff would like to take an opportunity to express their thanks to the many people who have helped make the journal's success possible. These include, among many others, the administration and staff of Assumption University, the Thai Federation for Information Processing, the Thailand Chapter of the ACM, the Thailand Joint Chapter of the Computer Society, and the Engineering Management Society of the IEEE; and, of course, our authors. We wish them, and all our readers, a prosperous and successful new year. May this be a year when all of us working in the exciting field of Information Technology expand both our knowledge and our capabilities.



Prof. Dr.Srisakdi Charmonman
Editor-in-Chief