1. Background.

The first South East Asia Regional Computer Conference was held in Singapore 6-9 September 1976 with support from IFIP (International Federation for Information Processing). Shown in the picture above is Prof. Dr. Srisakdi Charmonman (Third from the left) serving as the Chief Delegate from the Computer Association of Thailand under the Royal Patronage of HM the King. Others in the picture are representatives of IFIP and of various countries. It was proposed at that Conference that a regional computer confederation be formed.

The Charter and Constitution of SEARCC was signed in Singapore on 28 February 1978 with 6 founding members, namely 1) Hong Kong Computer Society,

The number of members has changed from time to time. The largest number of SEARCC member was 14, namely, 1) Australia, 2) Canada, 3) Hong Kong, 4) India, 5) Indonesia, 6) Japan, 7) Malaysia, 8) Nepal, 9) New Zealand, 10) Pakistan, 11) Philippines, 12) Sri Lanka, 13) Taiwan, and 14) Thailand.

In the year 2007, SEARCC has 10 member countries, namely, 1) Australia, 2) Hong Kong, 3) India, 4) Japan, 7) Malaysia, 6) New Zealand, 7) Pakistan, 8) Sri Lanka, 9) Taiwan, and 10) Thailand.

From 1976 to 1988, seven biennial conferences were sponsored by SEARCC. From 1988, SEARCC decided on annual conference. South East Asia Regional Computer Conference 2007 or SEARCC 2007 has been scheduled to be held in Thailand 2-3 August 2007 as shown in www.SEARC07.com with support from Thailand Chapter of the ACM (ACM is the oldest and largest computer science association in the world), Thailand Joint of the Computer Society and the Engineering Management Society of the IEEE (IEEE Computer Society is the largest and oldest computer engineering society in the world), and Thailand Chapter of the Internet Society.
SEARCC 2007 will be held concurrently with Bangkok International ICT EXPO which attracted over 100,000 participants in the previous years. In the picture below HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously presided over the opening ceremony. Prof.Dr. Srisakdi Charmonman in his capacity as Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the International Conference on eLearning for Knowledge-Based Society was also presented in the picture (Second from the right).

SEARCC started the International School Software Competition (ISSC) in 1989. ISSC was held in conjunction with SEARCC Conference. The purposes of ISSC is to foster the development of software skills for the young among member countries of SEARCC. It is open to students no more than 17 years old. The students travel to the country hosting the event. Therefore, they will acquire better understanding of the culture, life-style, and aspirations of each other’s countries which will contribute to better understanding and relationship for future generations. The competition is run under international competition rules The 2007 International School Software Competition (ISSC 2007) is scheduled to be held in Thailand 3-6 August 2007 with information shown in the web www.SEARCC07.com clicking to “International School Software Competition”.
2. Should Continue with the 30-Years-Old Institution.

From 1976 to 2007, SEARCC is already about 30 years old, i.e. it is a 30-years-old institution. Like other non-profit and non-political associations, SEARCC has gain a lot of experiences, especially in organizing SEARCC Conferences and International School Software Competitions.

SEARCC 2007 has been scheduled to be held in Thailand 2-3 August 2007 as shown in www.SEARC07.com with support from Thailand Chapter of the ACM, Thailand Joint of the Computer Society and the Engineering Management Society of the IEEE, and Thailand Chapter of the Internet Society.

The 2007 International School Software Competitions has also been scheduled to be held 3-5 August 2007 in conjunction with SEARCC 2007.

Therefore, the Computer Association of Thailand under the Royal Patronage of HM the King strongly propose that we continue the good deeds of our institution, i.e. SEARCC.
3. Keep the Name SEARCC Rather Than Changing It.

Similar to the ACM, there is no need to change the name of SEARCC. Many people did not like the name of the ACM or the Association for Computing Machinery (www.acm.org). I joined the ACM in 1961 and was a founding member for the Special Interest Group on University Computing Centers. At that time, the computing machine was the main feature and that was why they called it “the Association for Computing Machinery”. Later, the machine became less important than other topics like Information Technology, Software, Applications, etc. There have been many attempts to change the ACM name. Votes were made and the attempt to change the name has never been passed. A compromise was made by keeping the name of “the Association for Computing Machinery” but add a phrase “The First Society in Computing” as shown on the web. Perhaps, SEARCC should add a phrase “The First International IT Society Started in South East Asia Since 1976”.

4. Recruit More Members.

SEARCC was started with only 6 members. In the year 2007, we have 10 members and so, if 4 members were to withdraw, we still have 6 members equal to
the number when we started. We hope that no member would withdraw. As a matter of fact, SEARCC should put its best efforts into recruiting more members.

For both South East Asia Regional Computer Conference 2007 (SEARCC 2007) and the International School Software Competitions (ISSC 2007), we should send invitations to as many countries as we can. Perhaps, there would be two sets of winners, namely, winners among the SEARCC country members, and winners among non-SEARCC country members. The prestigious prizes will be requested from HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

Perhaps, we should target of at least two new members per year.

5. Make More Use of the Internet.

According to Bill Gates in his book, Business at the Speed of Thought, the Internet is the central nervous system of all organizations. Therefore, SEARCC should make more use of the Internet.

The existing practice is for SEARCC EXCO to meet in person and that has created many problems, e.g. travel expenses, time, personal safety, etc. Therefore, SEARCC EXCO Meeting should have an option of being done thru VDO conference and/or other electronic means. In general, electronic meeting should be allowed. Email should be used to make proposal, to deliberate on the proposal, and finally, to cast vote on the proposal. Free telephone services like Skype should be accepted. Chat Room and Bulletin Board should be available on the SEARCC web. Webinars with world-class speakers should be sponsored by SEARCC, perhaps in conjunction with the ACM, the IEEE, and ISOC.

6. Web Hosting for SEARCC.

Instead of hosting the SEARCC web (www.SEARCC.org) in the country where the President is, CAT would like to propose that it is hosted at Srisakdi Charmonman IT Center of Assumption University of Thailand. SCIT has high-quality server with diesel generator backup and 26 Mbps to the US. Personnel at SCIT can also be used to support the SEARCC web free of charge.

7. Permanent Place for the Secretariat.

At the beginning of SEARCC, the secretariat was located in Singapore. Later, the secretariat moved to the location of the President or the Secretary-General. CAT would like to propose that the Office of the Secretariat be located at Srisakdi Charmonman IT Center. The Secretary-General can use teleworking to connect to the Office.
8. Coordination of the Visiting Expert Program with ACM and IEEE.

SEARCC Visiting Expert program should be continued. However, there are international societies providing Visiting Experts such as ACM and IEEE. Therefore, SEARCC should coordinate with ACM and IEEE which already pay for travel of their experts. In those cases, SEARCC would pay any local expenses and get international experts.


SEARCC should establish “SEARCC Certification of IT Skills”. Japan may be approached to support the SEARCC certification program so that SEARCC member countries would have more mobility of IT experts.

Training thru eLearning similar to those from ACM and IEEE should also be made available to members of SEARCC Societies.


The Computer Association of Thailand Under the Royal Patronage of HM the King will try our best to perform our duties, such as in the followings:

- South East Asia Regional Computer Conference 2007 (SEARCC 2007) to be held 2-3 August 2007 in Bangkok, Thailand, with Prof. Dr. Srisakdi Charmonman as the Chairman of the Organizing Committee.

- SEARCC International School Software Competition 2007 (ISSC 2007) to be held 3-5 August 2007 in Bangkok, Thailand, with Prof. Dr. Srisakdi Charmonman as the Chairman of the Organizing Committee.

The President of CAT, Prof. Dr. Srisakdi Charmonman, will make his best contribution in the SEARCC duties as:

- Vice President of SEARCC from 4 March 2007 to 3 August 2007.

- President of SEARCC for a one-year term starting 4 August 2007.