

## **EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to the first edition of 2012 of the SIU Journal of Management. The journal enters its second year of publication with an edition including an invited paper, three double-blind peer-reviewed research papers, a commentary and two book reviews. The invited paper is provided by Dr. Cornelis Reiman, who is an accomplished international businessman, academic and writer. He has worked in Australia, Asia and the former Soviet Union and had pivotal responsibility when establishing a global business based in Singapore. In addition, as an independent director of the Chamber of Professional Accountants of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the largest professional accounting association in that country, his guidance and advice helped that entity to become an Associate Member of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC). I was delighted when Dr. Reiman agreed to share something of his experiences and wisdom, especially in relation to cross-cultural Asian management. He provides a thought-provoking and educational view as to the challenges of working internationally and a challenging view of the Thai business environment.

In the first peer-reviewed paper, Shankar Prasad Acharya writes about the Wagner Hypothesis, which links government expenditure and national wealth, in the context of six countries in the South Asian Association of Research Cooperation. He finds, through using p-value analysis, some support for the hypothesis in five of the six countries and draws some policy conclusions from this.

Salawati Sahari, Michael Tinggi and Norlina Kadri consider the impact of inventory management on firm performance by analyzing a sample of construction firms in Malaysia. The authors find that the situation does not yield a simple, linear relationship but a more complex one that must take into account a number of different factors.

The third paper, by Mahmoud Moussa, returns to the issue of cross-cultural management raised in the invited paper. Based on a series of

personal, in-depth interviews with executives in the automobile industry in the Eastern Seaboard region of Thailand, he finds that intercultural workplace relationships are complex and multi-faceted but that sophisticated and mature managers are capable of navigating them not only on their own behalf but on behalf of the firm as a whole.

Professor Ran next provides a brief note on the IFRD Conference successfully held in Bangkok at the beginning of this year. The editor and several doctoral candidates from Shinawatra University's School of Management also attended this conference and presented papers.

Finally, the editor provides a short commentary on the recent events in Myanmar and the role of Dawei Industrial Estate is shaping likely future commercial and social developments in that country.

Please consult the call for papers at the end of this edition for details of how to submit papers and the types of submission of interest.

The first half of 2012 has seen Thailand escape from the worst of the ongoing crisis of austerity. This may not continue if European governments continue to fail to provide the growth policies so badly needed to improve employment and consumer confidence and, instead, continue with the discredited anti-Keynesian ideology that has done so much damage around the world. The Mekong region continues to represent an attractive venue for investment and, by virtue of the 300 baht daily minimum wage policy, the current Pheu Thai administration is bravely seeking to convert the inwards investment into a more effective means of social and economic development. This is part of the much-needed attempt to escape from the Middle Income Trap: the development model that enabled Thailand to rise from low to middle income status is not the same as that which will be required to move to high income status. There will need to be more structural changes.

*John Walsh, Editor, SIU Journal of Management*