

## FOREWORD

In the last several years there has been a tremendous interest in computer connectivity among businesses, policy makers, and ordinary citizens. The predictions that this technology will transform our lives and ways of doing business have been many, as have also been the warnings of the corrosive effects that the Internet can have on our lives. In this issue, we look at computer interconnectivity from both a practical and theoretical perspective.

The articles range from the practical, as in an article that provides advice about developing an Internet site by Montree Suntichaikul, to the historical, as in Ms. Kanokwan Wongwatanasin and Dr. Srisakdi Charmonman's comparative presentation of the development of the Internet in the United States and Thailand, to the evaluatory, as in Dr. Anucha Pitasanonkul's analysis of the benefits of connecting to the Internet available to both individuals and organizations. Dr. Charmonman and Praphuet Punjamanus consider a technological solution to one of the potential problems of the Internet, involving potential access to sites purveying questionable sexual content, in their article about "Net Nanny", a software package that allows parents and others to prevent access to material deemed inappropriate. More philosophical in orientation is an article co-authored by Gisela M. von Dran, and Leon A. Kappelman, which focuses on the potential benefits of connectivity; Dr. Von Dran and associates look broadly at the theoretical policy background of computer interconnectivity, arguing that technology should be reconceptualized as an instrument for freedom, particularly freedom of expression.

We are certain that these thought-provoking articles will help you make sense of this emerging technology.



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