

## FOREWORD

The IJCEM seeks to present both general articles that allow our readers to gain an overview of the field and also more technical articles that provide them with some awareness of the nuts and bolts of areas of technology that may be outside their speciality.

An overview article is presented by Professor Dr. Srisakdi Charmonman and Ms. Kanokwan Wongwatanasin, who relate Information Technology to the Internet and give an account of the development of IT and the Internet in Thailand, particularly in educational environments.

Liaquat Hossain and Prof. Joan Cooper also look at the Thai environment, albeit with the detail made possible by a somewhat narrower perspective. Their economic analysis of TOT raises interesting issues about the politico-economic context of telecommunications.

Haidong Song and Jianwen Liao also are interested in the economic implications of information systems, particularly the competitive use of such systems.

Much more specific and technical is Nabil N. Kamel's and Robert Davison's consideration of the synthesis of Group Support Systems. Finally, Constantine Loucopoulos and Robert Pavur focus not on information technology itself but on problems concerning research into the technology.

As always, then, we have tried to put together a wide-ranging group of articles and are certain that all of our readers will find useful information and food for thought in this issue.



**Prof. Dr. Srisakdi Charmonman**  
**Editor-in-Chief**