

Message from the President

On behalf of ATPAC, I would like to wish you and your family great health, career success and a very happy and prosperous New Year 2010. I want to thank all of you who continuously sacrifice their precious time and shared knowledge with our beloved country, Thailand. I am pretty sure that in your heart you want the Thai people to improve in environment, health, education and finance.

The last annual ATPAC meeting at Rutgers University on 26-27 September 2009 was a success. More than 100 participants from Thailand, U.S. and Canada attended the 19th technology exchange meeting. Thanks to Dr. Wanpracha (Art) Chaovalitwongse and his team for making this possible. From this plane field, we heard issues from Thailand first hand, researches from many individuals and the ongoing Ph.D. work from Thai students. Please keep in touch with the people you've met during the meeting.

In the beginning of December, Dr. Art and I met with Khun Alongkon, the new Science and Technology Counsel (OSTC) and Ambassador Dorn to brief both of them regarding ATPAC activities and its direction. Two key issues discussed were the upcoming 20th ATPAC annual meeting and future technical proposals. If you have an idea or question on the proposal but don't quite sure know how to go about submitting it, you may contact www.ostc.thaiembdc.org (202-944-5200) for more information and the format.

In mid December 2009, I participated in the RBD board meeting in Bangkok. The 20th ATPAC annual meeting will be in Bangkok on July 4-6, 2010. The venue will be identified later. The theme of this conference will include Green environment and food, among other issues. Since this is a major milestone for ATPAC, its history, major projects and messages of reflections from Thai counterparts will be collected and printed in the ATPAC 20th year commemorative book. Khun Somchai Tiamboonprasert (Ministry of Science and Technology - MOST) will assist in the printing and is the key contact person in Thailand; Khun Usa Ungsunantawiwat will be the Chair of this book project. Currently, we are collecting old photographs and if you have them, please contact Khun Usa at uu2@columbia.edu .

Dr. Art and I went to pay a visit and congratulate the new Director of NSTDA (Dr. Taweesak Koanantakool) who will officially start on July 1, 2010. Environmental disaster at Mabtaput, food safety, transportation and visual logistic techniques were among the subjects discussed. Our two senior members, Drs. Methi Wecharatana and Nisai received a funding support from RBD/NSTDA for the Mabtaput project and will be in Thailand in the second week of January. I also congratulate Dr. Pansak Siriruchatapong who received approval for the second term as the Director of NECTEC.

Dr. Art and I met Dr. Sumeth Yamnun (Secretary of Commission of Higher Education - CHE) and he would like ATPAC to work on two national issues which

are Research-University project and Increasing CHE organization efficiency project.

If you believe that you can be of assistance and would like to know more regarding the aforementioned projects, please contact either me or Dr. Art. Finally, I hope that this coming year ATPAC will get involved in a couple of national significant projects and active members continue aggressively to participate with their Thai counterparts.

Happy New Year 2010!

**Vichate Ungvichian, Ph.D., P.E.
2 January 2010**