

## Dean's Report 2008

This past year was another good one academically for our institute.

Judged purely by the research assessment exercise conducted by the Thailand Research Fund (TRF), we were in the top or near the top of the list comparable to the well established universities like Chulalongkorn or Mahidol. In 2006, our institute was assessed to be excellent overall in research by the TRF. This year the assessment went down to school level and they found that, using three indexes, our School of Physics came on top of the list, receiving excellence for all the three indexes. Our School of Chemistry got excellence in two indexes; this is only because the other index favors bigger schools or departments which have more faculty members. Also from the report of the internal academic quality assurance conducted by the external committee, in which Prof.Dr.Thirayud Ghreensukhon from Walailak University was the chair, we received the highest score among the five institutes in SUT.

At faculty level, we congratulate Dr.Joewono Widjaja (Laser Technology) Dr.Prasart Suebka and Dr.Yupeng Yan (Physics) for being appointed by the king to be full professor. We again congratulate Professor Dr.Joewono Widjaja for receiving the prestigious Galileo Galilei Award 2008 from the International Commission for Optics. Also a picture of Thai Chicken from a research paper of Asst.Prof.Dr.Yupaporn Chaiseha was chosen to be on the cover of the *GENERAL AND COMPARATIVE ENDOCRINOLOGY JOURNAL*, October 2008 issue.

There were three departures amongst our faculties. Assoc.Prof.Dr.Sompong Thammathaworn (Biology), Assoc.Prof.Dr.Saowanee Rattanaphani and Assoc.Prof.Dr.Vichitr Rattanaphani (Chemistry) retired after spent many years helping our institute to establish both national and international reputation in their particular areas of research. They will also be remembered in the institute and by their pupils and peers as great teachers. We will look forward to a continued association with them - as special invited guests or lecturers for the coming year. Last but not least, Assoc.Prof.Dr.Korakod Indrapichate also retired this year, but we are also fortunate in having her to continue working with us on a contract basis. She too is an excellent teacher and renowned scholar in her respected field.

We welcome five new faculties who have joined us this year including Dr.Panida Khankaewla (Biochemistry), Assoc.Prof.Dr.Damras Darasake (Sport Science), Dr.Tidarut Plienpanich (Maths), Dr.Sirichok Jungthawan (Physics), and Dr.Benjawan Rodjanadid (Maths).

At graduate level, it was a high level of achievement for our graduate study. This past year, including 3/2550, 1/2551 and 2/2551 terms, thirty two students completed their study from our institute including 24 Ph.D. and 8 M.Sc. Nineteen Ph.D. and two M.Sc. degrees were awarded to our graduate students this year during the degree ceremony which was presiding over by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn on October 29.

At undergraduate level, finally, we are able to recruit students up to the target of sixty students per academic year for our only undergraduate curriculum in Sports Science. This is the third year of this undergraduate curriculum. Like many undergraduate programs, at the beginning, much work is still needed to make this program stronger and to be able to attract students which good academic performance to come studying with us.

We saw a great deal of activity. Three MOUs initiated by members of our institute were signed between SUT and 1) Pohang University of Science and Technology 2) National Taiwan University of Science and Technology and 3) Seoul National University. Activities following the signing of the MOUs have been started. There were a number of visiting guesses coming to the schools in our institute. An honorary Ph.D. degree in Physics was given to Prof.Dr.Amand Faessler from University of Tuebingen, Germany, for his achievement in the area of nuclear and particle physics and for his help and long collaboration with faculty member in the School of Physics. It was great to see Prof.Dr.Amand Faessler comes to the degree ceremony and also saw Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn have a long conversation with him when we were lying up in front of Surasamanakhan to see Her Royal Highness Princess off after lunch.

Apart from our usual academic services, the extra-service arena for this past year may be that the Institute hosted the Fourth POSN Olympiad in Informatics and the School of Biology hosted the Fifth Biology Olympiad. Thank all those involved in all these academic services who did very well in their responsibility. The two Olympiads were also very successful.

We will, surely, look for another successful year in 2009. A road map or a strategy plan to bring our institute to become an excellent institution will be completed. We hope to be able to make a more complete record of everything within our institute. We also would like to include news from our alumni. We therefore would like to hear from all of our alumni also. Our new website will be completed, thank Asst.Prof.Dr.Chinorat Kobdaj for his help and corresponding.

Our institute has already established a good reputation in doing science research among science community in Thailand. We will help to build this reputation to be well known even more in the national and international arena. I am sure that all these have made us proud to be part of our institute and SUT, either as a faculty member, a student, a supporting staff or as an alumnus.

Have a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year!



Prapan Manyum

