Simple and true love for His Majesty
The King of Thailand

Its simple and yet so true
Your people love You
Its visible and crystal clear
In their hearts and minds You’re near

Its simple and yet so true
There will never be someone like You
Taking kingship into the lives of people farther
To everyone You are a loved father

Its simple and yet so true
There can be no other like You
The longest reigning monarch,
The kingdom’s brightest torch

Beaming wisdom, so simple so true
Into willing hearts, looking up to You
Looking beyond history, into eternity’s eyes
Where You inspire myriads of lives

Its simple and yet even more true
Eighty years of Your life have given
Far more than what You’ve taken
In being King over this ornate Kingdom

May the bliss of this land, remain constant
For You, among us love and unity are consonant
Beyond this birthday, may cycles of life continue
Of our love, simple and true, for You

Assumption University pays homage to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej on the occasion of his 80th birthday, December 5, 2007.

(Dedicated to His Majesty the King of Thailand on the occasion of His 80th Birthday, December 5, 2007 by Mr. Glen Chatelier, Director, the Office of International Affairs, Assumption University, Thailand)
THAILAND MARKS THE 80TH BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING

The Kingdom of Thailand woke up to the 5th of December 2007 to fete and venerate His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej on the occasion of His 80th Birthday anniversary. This milestone in His Majesty’s life and in the history of the Kingdom is unparalleled. No other Thai King in any of the other dynasties has lived for so long, or for that matter, ruled for so long. The longevity of His Majesty’s life and reign is set to enter world records: in two year’s time His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej will be the oldest and the longest reigning Monarch.

Thailand was awash with the color of yellow and festivities on the King’s birthday. People from all walks of life and from many different countries lined the historic streets of Bangkok to catch a glimpse of the festive king and his royal family, and thereby to be blessed. Speaking from the Grand Palace on the morning of His Birthday, His Majesty the King called on all Thais to be united. And united they were in abounding praise and veneration of this great King.

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

The President of Assumption University led the faculty, staff and students at the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Hua Mak campus on December 3, 2007. Christmas festivities were held on December 24, 2007.

caps with souvenir value, Royal patronage through many favors and visits by the members of the Royal Family to Assumption University since the year 1990. As the only Gabriellite tertiary-level international institution within Thailand, and in the framework of other Gabriellite institutions in Thailand, Assumption University remains deeply indebted to His Majesty and to the Royal Family for their benevolence through which the university has developed to the shape it has now assumed. The recounting of the momentous patronage and visits by members of the Royal family is an act of rededication by Assumption University, to the cause of education in service of His Majesty the King.

Long Live His Majesty the King!
ROYAL RECOGNITIONS AND VISITS TO ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY SINCE 1990

His Majesty the King graciously bestows the Knight Grand Cross (first class) of The Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand on Rev. Bro. Dr. Martin Komolmas, f.s.g., on December 5, 2004.

His Majesty the King Awards a Certificate of Appreciation to Rev. Bro. Dr. Bancha Saenghiran, f.s.g., on November 29, 2005, recognizing Assumption University for having granted scholarships to eight students in commemoration of His Majesty the King’s 72nd Birthday.

March 4, 1998

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn accepting the academic gown being offered to Him on the occasion when Assumption University awarded the Crown Prince with a Doctor Honoris Causa in Computer Engineering Management.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn poses for a group photograph with Assumption University’s University Council and top administration on the occasion of His being awarded a Doctor Honoris Causa in Computer Engineering Management at Nonthaburi Palace.
November 7, 1990

On the occasion of the Commemoration of His Majesty the King's 5th Cycle Birthday Anniversary, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn visited Assumption University and anointed two foundation stones for new buildings at Assumption University's Hua Mak campus.

January 19, 1995

Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn being accorded a welcome befitting Her Royal status while gracing the Silver Jubilee celebrations of Assumption University at Hua Mak campus.

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn formally opened the Takolprakiet Hall, the Queen's Tower and performed the initiation rites for the University's Suvarnabhumi campus.

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn is seen inspecting the First Private Server Internet gateway at Assumption University's Computing center.

H.R.H. the Princess posed for a commemorative photograph with Assumption University Deans and special invited guests at the end of Her visit.
June 27, 2002

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn formally inaugurates Assumption University's Suvanabhumi campus in the presence of His Eminence Michai Cardinal Michael Kitbunchu and Assumption University's top management.

Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn gracefully accepts floral garlands offered to her by representatives of the Assumption University Student Organization.

August 20, 2004

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn being accorded a welcome by H.E. Dr. Surapong Suebwonglee, Minister for ICT, His Eminence Michai Cardinal Michael Kitbunchu, the Provincial Superior Brother Sakda Kittaroen, f.s.g., and the top Management of Assumption University when she arrived to inaugurate the Dr. Srisakdi Charmonman IT building at the Suvanabhumi campus.

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn seen in consultation with top Catholic leaders as the Princess inspects the facilities and the commemorative Science Exhibition arranged in her honor.
July 8-11, 1999

Her Royal Highness Princess Soamsawali at the opening ceremony of the Academic Exhibition "The Father of Thai Nation" in honor of the 6th Cycle Anniversary Celebration of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej organized by Assumption University and Seacon Management Co., Ltd. at Seacon Square, Bangkok, on July 8, 1999.

The President of Assumption University presenting a token of appreciation to Her Royal Highness Princess Soamsawali at the opening ceremony of the Academic Exhibition.

Her Royal Highness Princess Soamsawali is pictured inaugurating the Academic Exhibition "The Father of Thai Nation" in honor of the 6th Cycle Anniversary Celebration of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej organized by Assumption University and Seacon Management Co., Ltd. at Seacon Square, Bangkok, on July 8, 1999.

Her Royal Highness Princess Soamsawali being briefed by the Dean of the Faculty of Nursing Science at Assumption University on a blood donation campaign.

MEMORABLE QUOTATIONS FROM HIS MAJESTY THE KING

On the King’s determination to do his utmost for the people:

“On the way, I heard a voice above the crowd shouting ‘Don’t forsake your people.’ I wished to shout back in response that ‘If the people don’t forsake me, how could I forsake them?’”

AUGUST 19, 1946

On Tradition:

“Tradition refers to a pattern or the custom of doing things on an ongoing basis. What was initiated and widely adopted is considered a tradition. To lead a life, there must be some sort of pattern that we can follow. It is essential therefore that we have tradition as our guiding principle. Thailand has enjoyed an age-old tradition to which generations of our forebearers have adhered. When it is passed on to us, we should observe it with respect…”

APRIL 21, 1960

On Education:

“Science and wisdom cannot be separated; you need to use both. Wisdom does not refer only to intellect or academic skill, but also moral intellect, or the ability to judge right from wrong, to be far-sighted, and to be almost enlightened to the point of seeing into the future by the light of your wisdom.”

MARCH 5, 1964
Her Royal Highness Princess Soamsawali being greeted upon her arrival at Assumption University's John XXIII Conference Center, by Assumption University's President, when she graciously presided over the opening ceremony of the 22nd International Conference of FILLM.

Her Royal Highness Princess Soamsawali participating in the opening ceremony.

Her Royal Highness Princess Soamsawali acknowledges applause from the international delegates before leaving the John XXIII Conference Hall.

Her Royal Highness Princess Soamsawali tours Assumption University's Library at Suvarnabhumi campus, assisted by the University's top management.

MEMORABLE QUOTATIONS FROM HIS MAJESTY THE KING

On Development:

"Development must be carried out in accordance with both the geographical landscape and the sociological landscape. The socio-landscape is the people's thinking, which cannot be forced to change. We should give advice instead of trying to alter thoughts to suit our own. Once we get involved we should look into their needs and give them clear explanations. With this approach, a development plan can bring great benefit."

JUNE 13, 1969

On Democracy:

"I don't wish to see anybody succumb to anybody else. I am for democracy. But we must create genuine and appropriate democracy. Democracy without wisdom will turn into chaos. And that chaos will develop into anarchy...we must respect the dignity of individuals. We should think of how to promote people's dignity."

DECEMBER 1, 1970

On Sufficiency:

"Heavy development of advanced and more efficient machinery creates joblessness because people are robbed of their jobs by machines...therefore we should think of tools and plans that are easy and practical, making the most of the energy and other resources available in our country. Such plans may not look glamorous or modern and give not as much in terms of yield, yet the produce obtained would be enough for consumption. More than that, most people will have jobs and be able to earn the decent living they wish for."

OCTOBER 18, 1975
November 30, 2007

Her Royal Highness Princess Soamsawali graciously inaugurated Assumption University's academic exhibition in honor of His Majesty the King on the occasion of His 80th Birthday. Upon her arrival, the Princess was greeted by the Governor of Samut Prakan and Assumption University's top management.

Her Royal Highness Princess Soamsawali accepts a gift from Assumption University, presented by its President, Rev. Brother Dr. Bancha Saenghiran, f.s.g.

Her Royal Highness Princess Soamsawali inaugurates the Commemorative Exhibition honoring His Majesty the King in Assumption University's Grand Salon.

Her Royal Highness Princess Soamsawali visits the Commemorative Exhibition honoring His Majesty the King in Assumption University's ornate Grand Salon.

Her Royal Highness Princess Soamsawali receives greetings from the President and President Emeritus of Assumption University.

Her Royal Highness Princess Soamsawali in a Commemorative photograph in the Queen's Hall, at Assumption University, Suvabhumibumi campus.
H.R.H. Princess Ubolratana kindly inaugurated the Asian Youth Forum at Assumption University's Suvarnabhumi campus on November 20, 2003. At Her arrival, Assumption University’s top management accorded the Princess a formal welcome.

H.R.H. Princess Ubolratana graciously accepts a traditional floral garland from a student leader at Assumption University.

H.R.H. Princess Patcharakittiyapa, accepts a Souvenir from the Vice President for Academic Affairs at Assumption University's Suvarnabhumi campus. The Princess participated in the U-JUMP Equestrian event.

H.R.H. Princess Patcharakittiyapa, in a commemorative photograph with Assumption University representatives at the conclusion of the U-JUMP event.

**MEMORABLE QUOTATIONS FROM HIS MAJESTY THE KING**

**On the idea of "giving" and "sacrificing" for the tangible benefits of the people:**

"Over the past three years, world economies collapsed despite the ruling ideology of their founding fathers. Will Thailand disintegrate, too? So far, Thailand has managed comfortably. Ten days ago, a group of foreigners was in an audience to seek my advice on how to rule a country. My advice was do it the pauper's way, not overly academic; supporting it with harmony and compassion and lasting existence will be possible. Unlike those who do it by the book, they do not know how to put these things into practice. As a result they have to start all over again. In other words, going backward. However, if the book is used moderately, the result would be constructive. I told them that our loss is our gain. The economists will disagree. But my explanation was what we lost in the process would indirectly result in gains. It is in direct comparison to the government efforts whereby money from the Treasury or the taxpayer's money is used in projects worth several hundred millions or billions of baht for the well being of the people. With the money invested, people will reap the result, they will profit. When the people have more income, the government is in a position to collect tax more easily and to use it to finance more projects for the progress of the country. If only we know how to love, harmonize and sacrifice, the country will benefit and move forward. A happy people cannot be measured in money terms..."

**DECEMBER 4, 1991**

**On Attitudes Towards Royal Projects:**

"Some people say that a royal project can not be touched. This is a mistaken view, or a view that is not quite right. If a royal project cannot be commented on, Thailand cannot develop. A royal project is a royal opinion..."

**DECEMBER 4, 1993**
March 12, 2002

H.R.H. Princess Galyani Vadhana arrives at the John XXIII Conference center at Suvarnabhumi campus to preside over a conference organized by the Ruamjit Nomklao Foundation.

H.R.H. Princess Galyani Vadhana is seen acknowledging the greeting by Assumption University’s Vice President, Rev. Brother Dr. Bancha Saengthiran, f.s.g.

December 8, 1996

H.R.H. Princess Suthasirisopha graciously attended a play based on musical compositions of H.M. the King presented at Chalermkrung Royal theater as one of Assumption University’s commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of H.M the King’s Accession to the throne.

H.R.H. Princess Suthasirisopha was presented a floral bouquet at the simultaneous celebration of the Golden Jubilee of H.M. the King’s Accession to the throne and Her birthday on December 8, 1996.
AU Press was established in the year 1980. At the beginning it was a small department under the direct supervision of Rev. Brother Dr. Martin Komolmas, f.s.g. There was only one office-staff who controlled and took care of the Printing Design Operation using modern offset lithography at that time. Later the university developed and expanded every aspect of the press. This was because of the increase in the responsibility and the amount of work that the press was carrying out. Therefore, they had increased the number of officers, printing machines and also transferred authorization to the department of Academic Documents and Examination, Office of Administrative Affairs. For effectiveness in production control and management, AU Press has become a unit of the Academic Documents with five staff. The staff have developed the system to have more capacity and to be complete in production by using technology in the Office of Administrative Affairs. Assumption University is the first private higher education institution in Thailand to introduce new digital press technology with full functions and print on-demand production.

**Tasks and Responsibilities**

1. To provide service for artwork documents.
2. Design and print artwork.
3. Responsibility for printing and copying all documents using offset lithography and digital systems.
4. Control, cooperate with and check the quality of paper that has been assigned to outside publishers.
5. Control the finances of the AU Press.

**Locations**

- **AU Press, Hua Mak campus**
  - Printing, design and copy print service with offset lithography: Mr. Narintr Chomchinda, the supervisor.
- **Digital Press, Suvarnabhumi campus**
  - Printing, design and copy print service with digital system: Mr. Watcharawong Worakij, supervisor.

**Editors note:** ABAC Today was the first AU Newsletter, both in Thai and English languages, produced by the AU Press. Mr. Narintr Chomchinda has contributed to the publication of ABAC Today for the past 27 years.

**History of Assumption University press (AU Press)**

**Mr. Narintr Chomchinda**

**Mr. Pichet Chokchai**

**Mr. Watcharawong Worakij**

**Mr. Boonyoung Pholmeepoon**

**Mrs. Sirapat Khunkaw**

*continued from page 16*

are laid down for the Au-FoE to further consider. Firstly, courses may be held at Au campus with the Vietnamese students coming to Bangkok for the actual attendance of classes. Secondly, FoE instructors may be invited to hold classes at their campus in Vietnam. And finally, if options one and two may seem to be impossible tele-classes shall be made as the third option in order for the collaboration between the two universities through IPE and FoE to become possible. In response to these proposals Dr. Kitima instructed Dr. Chong to keep in touch with the UTE-IPE and make some follow-ups for future agreement.

The session between the two universities was very lively that both sides expressed interest on the possibility of drafting an agreement of partnership with Au-FoE as education provider and UTE-IPE as representative of Au-FoE in Vietnam. Furthermore, Au-FoE also expressed support to Vietnam's development of teacher education. There was an exchange of tokens and taking of pictures before the session came to a conclusion. The meeting ended at 3:30 p.m. with high hopes from both parties of making a fruitful collaboration in the near future.
ACTIVITIES ON AND OFF CAMPUS

Rev. Brother Dr. Bancha Saenghiran, President, and Rev. Brother Dr. Prathip Martin Komolmas, President Emeritus are seen cutting the ribbon at the inauguration of the ABAC City Campus on the 14th floor of the Zen World Tower on November 1, 2007. The inauguration was simultaneously organized to wish the President and the President Emeritus on the occasions of their Feast days which occurred later in the month of November 2007.

Assumption University administrators, deans and executives from ABACA, the Alumni Association pose for a photograph to mark the opening of the ABAC City campus and the celebration of the feast days of the President and the President Emeritus.

The Assumption University's Graduate School of Business' MBA Program in Tourism Management teamed up with the Tourism Authority of Thailand to organize a one day seminar titled: "Climate Change: Tourism Change" at Assumption University's Salle de Expo, Hua Mak campus. The President of Assumption University, Rev. Brother Dr. Bancha Saenghiran, f.s.g., inaugurated the conference and then posed for a photograph with the Governor and representatives of TAT and faculty from Assumption University's MBA programs.

The conference was well attended and elicited active debates on what the best options are to contain climate change and manage tourism programs equitably.

Representatives from the Confederation of the Gabrielle Alumni Association in Thailand presented the President and President Emeritus with gifts on the occasion of the opening of the ABAC City campus and the celebration of the feast days of the President and the President Emeritus.

The President of Assumption University is pictured with Dr. Juthamas Wisansing, the Director of the MBA Tourism Management program at the concurrent exhibition on Climate Change and Tourism at the lobby of the Assumption Hall at Hua Mak campus.
The 28th WUDC World Universities Debating Championship 2008

It started with the unanimous approval of the bid proposal by the World Council in Dublin, Ireland 2006. A year later another unequivocal ratification of Assumption University as the host for the 28th World Universities Debating Championship 2008. It was the first time that Thailand was given the honor to host one of the most prestigious inter-collegiate academic tournaments in existence.

Two years of meticulous planning and uncountable hours of sheer effort was finally coming to fruit as the delegates from all around the world started to arrive in droves on the 26th and the 27th of December 2007. There were a total of 1189 participants from 57 countries representing 185 institutions who registered to be part of the largest and probably the most diverse Worlds in the 28 years history of Worlds. A total of 388 teams competed to lift the Royal Trophy endorsed by H.M. the King of Thailand and be crowned the World Champions for the year 2008.

After 9 grueling rounds of debate ranging from topics such as "Environment", "Politics", "Public Health", a total of 32 teams made it to the knockout stages of the tournament. Oxford Union A garnered 25 points out of a maximum of 27 points, a World Record in itself, to be the highest ranked team heading into the breaking rounds. Finally after cut-throat competition, 4 teams made it to the finals, namely, Cambridge B, Monash A, Oxford A and Sydney Union A. The entertaining final saw Oxford A pip the other 3 competing teams to be World Champions.

Assumption University had delegated students the task of hosting one of the largest student-run activities in its history. A strong field of dedicated students took up the responsibility to organize the "biggest" Worlds ever with astounding success. The 274 staff members, played no small role to make the Worlds one of the most memorable tournaments ever hosted. In addition, the Student Affairs Department played an instrumental role in promoting the idea of Debating in English to the Local Media and the public while the Academic department had its own share of contribution in trying to generate the interest of students in Persuasive Communication, an essential part of any professional career.

One of the highlights of the tournament was the overwhelming interest shown by the governmental as well as the corporate sectors to promote the noble goal of Debating. The importance of being able to expedite one's thinking process and be able to express oneself fluently was clearly shown. The need to develop students with a globalized outlook to be able to view issues with a holistic perspective was a pivotal idea for the sponsors to contribute generously to the academic event.

The tournament made an indelible mark in the arena of debating by not only being the largest-ever tournament but also by being one that received strong backings from the private as well as the public sector. Finally, the tournament came to an end with the flying of lanterns which brightly lit the sky.

Ravi Prajapati
Debate Tournament Director
"International Seminar on Religion and Democracy in Thailand" 20-21 December 2007, Bangkok, Thailand, marking the 80th Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty the King of Thailand

The Graduate School of Philosophy and Religion, Assumption University, Bangkok and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Bangkok, organized a two-day seminar titled, "International Seminar on Religion And Democracy In Thailand at the Wimarn Bangphi Room, Cathedral of Learning Building, Assumption University, Suvarnabhumi campus, Bangkok, Thailand.

On each day, a total number of about 100 participants comprising members of governmental institutions, diplomats, Thai and foreign academics, students and general public, attended the seminar.

The main objective of the seminar was to offer a forum for Thai and international academics and public figures to examine and discuss about what should be the status of religion in Thai democracy and what are the similarities and dissimilarities in the Thai and general debates and attitudes towards the position of religion in a democracy.

Speakers at the seminar comprised of prominent political scientists, political philosophers, and religion specialists who are engaged both academically or practically in addressing the debate about the position of religion in the Thai constitution.

The opening ceremony of the seminar featured an address by Dr. Canan Atilgan, Thailand representative, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. In her opening remarks, she talked about the mission of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and the importance it gives to the task of resolving conflicts and building civil societies. The presidential address was delivered by Rev. Bro. Dr. Bancha Saenghiran, f.s.g., President, Assumption University. Rev. Brother Dr. Bancha described the religious demography of Thailand and talked about the long interaction between religion and politics in Thailand since the ancient times which continues into contemporary times. President Bancha remarked, "At the political level, Thailand aspires to be a democratic state where freedom of religion is seen as an essential component of the political system. People of all religions are expected to mobilize to attain national ends, thus Buddhists, Muslims and Christians all are united in the process of the development of the country and maintaining Thai identity. Hence, recognition of religion as an integral part of 'human life and presence of democracy offers Thai citizens with space to practice their religions freely, and also engage in social work activities such as building schools, hospitals, charities and other works of social action, community development and public welfare. Thai Buddhists along with Thai Muslims and Thai Christians have enjoyed considerable freedom in practicing their religions in this country.'

The keynote address to the seminar was given by Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, secretary general of ASEAN and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand. The topic of his address was, "Civic Religion, Secular State and Democracy: The Taming of Religious Sentiments in Thailand." He talked about the challenges for recognizing the roles and accommodation between religion and democracy in modern societies including Thailand. He also called for more interreligious dialogue between ASEAN citizens.

A total of eleven research papers were presented during the seminar. The titles of the papers and their authors are listed here below:

**Prof. Thanet Aphornsuvan**, Southeast Asian Studies Program, Thammasat University, "Buddhist Cosmology and the Genesis of Thai Political Discourse."

**Acharn Ukrist Pathmanand**, Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University, "How did Nation, Religion and King Discourse Reemerge In The Late Thaksin Era?"

**Dr. Joseph Fernando**, Graduate School of Philosophy and Religion, Assumption University, "The Ideals of Democracy and Religion: A Philosophical Perspective."

**Dr. Duncan McCargo**, School of Politics and International Studies, University of Leeds, "The Myth of Civic Religion in Thailand: Centralization and Control."
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Somporn Promta, Center for Buddhist Studies, Chulalongkorn University "The Future of Thai Buddhism in Democratic Society."

Dr. Parichart Suwanbubbha, Graduate Program in Comparative Religion, Mahidol University, Bangkok. "The Dream of Deep Democracy from Buddhist Perspective."

Assoc. Prof. Chaiwat Sathanand, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University, "Contested Democracy in Thai Society."

Asst. Prof. Dr. Warayuth Sriswarakuel, Graduate School of Philosophy and Religion, Assumption University, "Christianity and Democracy in Thailand."

Dr. Intiyaz Yusuf, Graduate School of Philosophy and Religion, Assumption University, "Democracy and Muslim Minority in Thailand."

Dr. John Giordano, Graduate School of Philosophy and Religion, Assumption University, "Friday Offerings: Some Reflections on Political Theology."

Acharn Glen Chatelier, Director, Office of International Affairs, Assumption University, "Redefinition of Democracy and Religion in Thailand: An Approach to Aspirational Paradigm."

All the papers focused on different dimensions of the interaction between religion and democracy in Thailand approaching it from different scientifically researched angles and proposed recommendations for the future functional relations between these two dimensions of public and private life of Thai citizens. This was probably the first time that relations between religion and democracy were discussed at a public forum.

Discussions during the seminar focused around questions such as the status of Buddhism as Thailand’s national religion; internal variety within Thai Buddhism as it moves between commercialization of religion through the cult of amulets and the mainstream orthodox Buddhism; the recurrence of religion as a political factor during the Thaksin era; the status and contributions of Christians and Muslims in Thai polity; enabling the evolution of civic religion in a democratic regime; promotion of deep democracy through interreligious dialogue; religion in Thailand between democratic authoritarianism and authoritarian democracy; the role of religion in the December 2007 elections and calls for greater human understanding of religion and democracy as two interrelated ideals of indispensable values for contemporary living at both national and global levels.

It would not be too exaggerating if we, the organizers, conclude that the seminar has enjoyed a considerable success. Some participants have opined that this seminar gave them a rare opportunity and freedom to express their views to the public. There were engaged discussions between the paper presenters and the audience at the end of each session.

The seminar is an important contribution to the objective of building peace, stability and religious coexistence in Thai society.

Report prepared by: Dr. Intiyaz Yusuf Seminar Coordinator Graduate School of Philosophy and Religion Assumption University Bangkok, Thailand
A university visit to the Faculty of Education (FOE), Assumption University, Hua Mak campus, C81 Coronation Building, Thursday, 25 October 2007, 2:00 p.m. was made by the University of Technical Education, Ho Chi Minh city, Vietnam.

Visiting Team:
Mr. Do Manh, Cuong
Mr. Nguyen Huu, Minh Luan
Fr. Joseph Nguyen Van Quang, SDB

FoE Instructors:
Dr. Robert J. Ciszek
Dr. Sangob Laksana
Dr. Felicito P. Salvacion, Jr.
Dr. Athipat Preedeelok
Dr. Naree Aware Achawan
Dr. Kitima Preedeelok - Assoc. Dean

Highlights of the session between the two universities
At 2:00 p.m. on 25th October 2007, a welcome reception was held at C81 of the 8th floor of Coronation Building for the visiting team from the Institute for Research and Development of Professional Education (IPE) of the University of Technical Education (UTE), Ho Chi Minh city, Vietnam. The reception was attended by the instructors of FoE and was headed by the associate dean, Dr. Kitima Preedeelok who gave a warm welcome to the visiting team from Vietnam.

This is the 5th time the Faculty of Education of Assumption University was visited by schools and universities from the neighboring countries such as Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, and India.

After the welcome statement by Dr. Kitima, a CD presentation showing the history of ABAC and the Faculty of Education followed. A brief discussion of the management of FoE as well as the discussion of the program offerings of the faculty was also delivered by Dr. Kitima who was presiding over the session. Also included in the presentation was the organizational structure of the faculty showing the chain of command from the dean down to the staff of FoE. Likewise, the associate dean also mentioned that student activities are held in Suvarnabhumi campus as it provides wide space for various activities.

ACKNOWLEDGING the welcome and CD presentation of AU-FOE, Mr. Nguyen Huu introduced his party to the FoE faculty members and on his part rendered a presentation about a brief background and situation of their university. He made mention in his presentation that in the future, UTE is looking forward to offering MSc programs in ICT and IT, and also on MA in Education as their country is in great demand of school administrators at present. For the meantime, UTE through IPE is proposing a set of recommendation for the FoE to consider. Among others, this includes the open-short term training courses for teachers in Vietnam along the following areas: Educational Leadership, School Management, Teaching Skills, Measurement and Evaluation, and Educational Research. These training courses shall be made open to both public and private school teachers in the country with at least 15 participants in each course during the period of 2-3 weeks depending on the scope of the training course.

Speaking on behalf of the IPE director, Mr. Nguyen Huu also added that under this proposal, three options continued on page 11