

Welcoming Message from the Executive Director

Suppakorn Disatapandhu^{*}

Welcome to the first issue of The Journal of Urban Culture Research for 2010, a peer-reviewed journal published once a year in September by the Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, Chulalongkorn University and Urban Research Plaza associated with Osaka City University. Our first issue is on the theme of Art Development: Exploring the Role of Culture and the Arts in Sustainable Community Development and Social Transformation, guest edited by Professor Kjell Skillstad from University of Oslo. The concept for the issue initially arose out of the "Empowering Urban Culture and Creativity: Art, Publicity, and Transformation" Forum held at Chulalongkorn University's Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, in March 2010. The success of this forum was a clear indication of the remarkable growth in urban studies and art development in recent years. This forum inspired the very first issue of our new journal.

As initial discussions began, we became aware of a number of recent and forthcoming parallel publications within urban studies and arts development, as well as the launch of a new international journal in the area of urban studies and culture in Japan. This confirmed for us the relevance of the theme and the importance of publishing a volume that would explore the many different facets of creative arts, visual arts, music, various genres of dance, and the relationships between the arts and urban culture. This emphasis on the relationships between the arts and urban culture is the main focus of the journal.

We are grateful for the cooperation between Chulalongkorn University's Office of Academic Affairs, and the Urban Research Plaza associated with Osaka City University in providing financial support to the operating costs. We are also grateful to our guest editors and editorial board members for their sustained and dedicated effort in bringing this issue to fruition. With their combined expertise in ethnomusicology, fashion design, choreography, music composition, art history, and urban studies they have put together a volume, which explores art development from a variety of disciplinary and methodological perspectives. We hope that you find the result to be a rich, varied, and stimulating issue.

Looking ahead to 2011, our second volume will remain focused on cities and creativity. Our journal will serve as a platform for those teaching in higher education and postgraduate students in the arts to publish their research. We encourage all artists to send in their submissions, comments, and ideas, including suggestions for the journal. Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to bring to your attention the next forum on urban culture research, which is a two-day event with a theme of Art Management – City Management: Models for Sustainable City Renewal and Cultural Continuity to be held at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok from March 3-4, 2011. A call for papers, the journal's policies, and contact details are posted on the journal's website, www.cujucr.com.

We look forward to seeing you at our forum and learning about your work.

^{*} Dr. Suppakorn Disatapandhu, Dean and Associate Professor, Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, Chulalongkorn University Phayathai Road, Pathumwan, Bangkok, Thailand 10330. voice: 622-218-4582, fax: 662-218-4563, email: suppakornd@yahoo.com