

Editor's Introduction

Welcome to the Volume 4, Number 1 (January-June, 2026) issue of the ASEAN Journal of Research. The AJR is an academic journal that publishes double blind peer reviewed papers in a wide range of academic disciplines. Its home is now the British International College of Krirk University, based at Bangkok, the capital of Thailand.

Throughout its more than four years of publication, the AJR has coincided with a particularly unhappy period of human history. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has been joined by the genocide in Gaza, the potential genocide in southern Lebanon and the senseless war with Iran. Atrocities in Sudan continue to multiply. At the time of writing, western Europe is suffering from an intense climate change-caused heatwave more likely to become the norm than not. The threat of right-wing populism continues to mount, fuelled by a brazenly corrupt US president and Supreme Court and a supine Congress. Artificial Intelligence continues to advance into people's lives, mostly without any hint of permission, cheapening human interaction and coarsening the prospects for education at all levels. Many other problems exist. It is difficult to remain optimistic about what can be achieved from here.

However, all members of the academic world have the duty to try to maintain rigorous scientific standards, as they are manifested in our different academic fields, as part of the effort to encourage wider society to follow good principles in seeking to understand the world around us. Consequently, we continue to establish our own paths to greater knowledge and in assisting each other to make new connections and new ways of teaching our students and stakeholders what we have learned. This journal represents a small part of that overall effort.

In this issue, I am again delighted to welcome papers from scholars from around the world. This is truly an internationalized journal, which reflects the internationalized nature of the British International College at Krirk University. I commend the issue to you.

John Walsh, Editor, June, 2026