

Siam Society Members Recognized in United Nations Publications

Two members of the Siam Society, Ms. Sanguansri Nenthananta and Dr. Steven J. Török of the Natural History Section, have recently been recognized for their contributions to science education and environmental economics, respectively. Ms. Sanguansri, Director of Research at Pak Chong High School and Principal of a new Rural Extension School in Pak Chong District, Nakhon Ratchasima Province, is reported by *ESCAP Environment News* to have initiated an innovative program of teaching about the environment in English classes. UNEP's Regional Office for Asia and Pacific has responded to a request from the district schools by providing issues of its *Outreach magazine* and its *ESCAP Environment News* to be used in the innovative teaching program. The reading materials are studied by the students and used to create posters depicting various environmental themes. These become the focus of a structured English learning exercise which requires students to list what they see, compare things in the posters, describe causes, and recognize and solve problems. These one-on-one exercises serve to increase motivation for both practicing English and learning about the environment.

Dr. Steven Török recently had published a stimulating article in *ESCAP Energy News* entitled "Islands in the world economy--economic and environmental considerations in Pacific Islands". Dr. Török's far-reaching theme is that local environmental crises and problems cannot easily be solved in a closed "island" community while still achieving modernization. Using arguments based on waste management and the growth of entropy, he argues that only by opening the system to larger "entropic sinks" (i.e., the world economy and ecosystem, if not outer space!), can local waste problems be solved and eventual system collapse be avoided. Dr. Török's article, originally given as an address to the Institute for World Economics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest in 1993, is bound to stimulate further discussion and analysis.