

The Siam Society, and the *Natural History Bulletin*, have survived the first year of Thailand's fiscal crisis although financing will continue to be a problem for the foreseeable future. With a little belt tightening and some understanding and forbearance from the Amarin Press, we are managing to stay within the budget. Although the Siam Society perennially has a problem making ends meet and can never relax in its efforts to maintain sufficient income, it is better off than public institutions dependent on government support. It has tightened expenditures on its staff without having to lay off people, and has continued to recruit new members. The drive for new members is difficult and slow, and I would remind all members to constantly be on the lookout for people who might like to join the society. Carry membership forms around with you at all times in your briefcase.

The *NHB* so far has not had to compromise its quality in any way, and continues to receive manuscripts for publication. Because manuscript submissions have been higher than usual during the past two years, we have had more time to review and edit them. Largely because of this, we will be able to bring out the *NHB* on time this year, something that we have dreamed of doing for the last ten years, at least. Already we have nearly enough material ready for the winter issue, which I hope will be available for distribution before the end of the year. A series of five papers from the Second International Asian Hornbill Workshop held in Bangkok and Khao Yai Park in April of 1996 has been steered our way because these could not be included in the published proceedings of that workshop. They have been published in this issue of the *NHB*. I am particularly happy to get these papers because most of them are by local researchers.

To reduce printing costs, I have had to cut down on color plates when these are not scientifically justified, and to charge authors for printing them. This policy has been announced in this issue and will be implemented for the next issue. So far I have not had to banish the color photo from the cover of the *NHB*, but if printing cost cannot be controlled, a cheaper cover will be one of my next measures.

As the current term of the Siam Society council and journal editors comes to a close this June, I would like to thank the members of the editorial board for the support and help they have given, and also other reviewers of manuscripts who are usually anonymous and necessarily hidden from view. They are the people who really help me to maintain the scientific quality of the *NHB*, which I think has increased significantly over the last decade. I am also grateful for the support of the outgoing council and in particular, the understanding and support of the president, Mr. Bangkok Chowkwanyun. Finally, the publications coordinator Ms. Kanitha Kasina-ubol deserves a special thanks because she is one of the few veteran staff members who can be depended on to solve almost any problem that arises with regard to publication of the *NHB*.

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