

Associate Professor Piniti Ratananukul, Ph.D.

Deputy Secretary-General
Commission on Higher Education

Associate Professor Dr. Piniti Ratananukul, the new Deputy Secretary-General, has been appointed by the Commission on Higher Education (CHE), Thailand since 1 October 2008. In addition, to being an Associate Professor in organic chemistry, Dr. Piniti has involved in a number of high-level management.



Dr. Piniti graduated a B.Sc in Chemistry from Mahidol University and then granted a scholarship from the Royal Thai Government under the University Development Commission Scholarship to study for an M.Sc at Mahidol University. Then, he pursued his doctoral study in Organic Chemistry at the National University of Ireland. After his graduation in 1983, he worked at the Faculty of Science, Silpakorn University and taught Chemistry. One year later, he became the Head of Chemistry Department. After his sabbatical leave for Post Doctoral research at the Queen's University of Belfast, Northern Ireland, in 1988, he was nominated to be the Dean of Faculty of Science at Silpakorn University in 1990.

At that time, he took care of administration, financial and staff management of the



faculty. Besides, he also managed an assistance programme for the development of basic science from Australia. During that time, the Australian Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB), currently called AusAID, gave a number of Ph.D. scholarships to university staff members to further their study at the Ph.D. level and conduct research in Australia.

Before ending his term, the President of Silpakorn University appointed him as Vice-President for International Relations and later for Administrative Affairs. After completing the term in 1996, he became the Deputy Director of Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Anthropology Center until 1997 and extensively involved in a new system planning to make this center autonomous. Later, he joined Srinakharinwirot University, to serve as the Vice-President and worked in that position for 6 years; the first 2 years in Finance and Property Management and the last 4 years in Finance and Personnel.

As his expertise in Chemistry, he also serves as a board member of the Chemical Society of Thailand. He was involved in coaching and selecting students for the International



Chemistry Olympiad Competition for almost 10 years. He was also the team leader for the Thai representatives for three competitions in China, Australia and Thailand.



Dr. Piniti has been nominated by CHE to serve as the ASEAN University Network (AUN) Executive Director since 1 January 2005. Under his directorship, he has participated in many activities within ASEAN and with its Dialogue Partner. The AUN has been enlarged and played a leading role in higher education, which is not

only in the ASEAN countries but also well-recognized by agencies and universities in Australia, China, EU, Japan, Korea, US, etc. He has also made the AUN Secretariat more internationalized and accomplished the AUN's goals indicated in the Charter in terms of solidarity in ASEAN, enhancing university collaboration, and building up mutual understanding among universities within and outside ASEAN. Recently, the AUN is tasked to provide the higher education policy recommendation to the ASEAN Education Minister (ASEM) Meeting.



In his role as the Deputy Secretary-General of CHE, Dr. Piniti wished to carry on the aspirations towards Thai Academic Advancement. Developing study programmes and promoting high quality academic staffs and students is the most challenging work. Internationalization is also essential for us to help consolidating our core, improving our coordination and accelerating our speed, in the face of new challenges and high competition. More than 10 years of his experiences in institutional management will be indubitably contributed to the development of CHE's structure. His international connections that have been built previously, can also take a crucial part in seeking more cooperation and achieving our higher goal of the nation and competitive ASEAN.