Letter from the Editor

"…It is highly important to encourage and help people in earning their living and supporting themselves with adequate means, because those who are gainfully employed and self-supporting are capable of contributing definitely towards higher levels of development…"

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great

When it comes to development, it would be impossible not to acknowledge His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great of Thailand whose strength and devotion to human development were an inspiration to all. The above message is an excerpt from the royal speech delivered at the degrees conferring ceremony at Kasetsart University in 1974. In the message, His Late Majesty implied that by leading one's life in moderation in the pursuit of wealth and living within one's mean, one can achieve self-reliance which is a powerful tool to steer the country towards sustainability. This suggestion is based on the philosophy of Sufficiency Economy initiated by His Late Majesty where innovative and ethical thinking is needed for vulnerable communities to tackle the critical challenges that they are currently encountering.

I firmly believe that sustainability starts with all of us. To build a strong and sustainable community, it requires inclusiveness, where full participation and spirit of cooperation from every member of the community are involved in making decisions and creating mutual knowledge. Thus, Sufficiency Economy serves as an outstanding example of the alternative development paradigm which emphasizes on the need to strengthen the community's capacity to ensure that the community members join forces in order to create a resilient and balanced way of life, with respect to their environment.

With the constructive addition to the scientific literature in the area of the sustainable community development, I would like to extend my congratulations to the editor and staff for the inaugural publication of the Sustainable Community Development Journal. I am certain that this international publication will surely provide valuable insights into how the community involvement and development are encouraged and promoted. I am also delighted to learn that it will significantly contribute to the research and practice in this area, allowing all the concerned parties to share beneficial information and to learn from one another.

I wish the journal have an extensive and a distinguished place in the international literature which will certainly be compatible with the missions of this era of globalization.

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