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Introduction to Special Issue

The International Symposium “Go Organic” was successfully held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 19-21 August 2009. The Symposium was a collaborative effort between King Mongkut’s University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT) and Silapakorn University. Participation was high, particularly from Asia and the Symposium had an extensive range of invited speakers offering the latest developments on all aspects of organic agriculture.

As we felt many of the presentations would be of interest to readers of AJOFAI, it was decided to put together a select number of papers from this symposium as a special issue of the journal. Following on from the symposium was another international conference on hands-on education, held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, from 23-29 August 2009, and a small number of papers from this event have also been included in this issue as they are closely related.

It becomes apparent from these papers that organic agriculture is being taken much more seriously in the world and that markets are increasingly demanding more of this produce as consumers demonstrate their preference for chemical-free food. As reflected in the contributions, the search goes on for organic or natural fertilizers and pesticides, while certification and standards receive increasing attention.

It is to be hoped that the symposium organizers will be encouraged to hold similar forums in the future on this important topic.

Terry Commins
Editor