

## **Abstract**

In this paper, I present a picture of the interaction between history, education, textbooks, and Thailand's relations with her neighbors. Thailand is surrounded by Burma, Laos, Cambodia, and Malaysia. Even with efforts toward regional collaboration such as ASEAN, we seem to have some difficulty being good neighbors to one another. In this connection, I shall argue that the use of the Past or History, if incorrectly perceived or negatively and politically exploited could produce an unpleasant outcome. In other words, 'bad history' produces 'bad education' and eventually leads to 'bad relations between nations.' I will use case studies which are rather familiar to me, namely Thailand and its nearest ASEAN neighbors.

## **Biographical Sketch**

**Professor Charnvit Kasetsiri** is the recipient of the Southeast Asian Scholars and Public Intellectuals Fellowship (SEAF) in 2006. Following his graduation from Cornell University, in 1973 he began a long and illustrious career in the History Department of Thammasat University, Bangkok. Following retirement, he has been the Secretary of the Social Sciences and Humanities Textbook Foundation and conducted research on the Mekong delta region. In his work, Professor Charnvit challenges the parameters of historical writing in Thailand. Additionally, he has contributed to the study of Southeast Asia within the region. He is widely published in Thai and English on the history of Thailand and mainland Southeast Asia. His publications in English include *The Rise of Ayudhya: A History of Siam in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries* (Oxford, 1976).

## **SEAF**

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