

***Welcome message
by Director of Behavioral Science Research Institute***

President, faculty delegates from International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), various domestic and international universities, keynote speakers, and honorable guests:

I am delighted and honored that all of you attend this International Postgraduate Research Colloquium today, which have been organized continually for the 4th year. Firstly, I would like to retrace the important motives that transpire organization of such colloquiums. This was initiated by Assoc. Prof. Phachongchit Intrasuwan, former director of Behavioral Science Research Institute, who sought to expand our Doctoral Research Degree Program into an international degree program. At the same time, the policy direction of the university is to develop Srinakharinwirot University into a Research University. The establishment of the Institute's Doctoral Research Degree Program was thus pertinently consistent with the university's policy direction.

To successfully achieve the aforementioned objectives, the institute sought collaboration from academic institutes overseas, which received exceptional response and cooperation from International Islamic University (IIUM) Malaysia along with other domestic universities. Dialogues and discussions lead to mutual agreement that collaborative efforts should begin with academic exchange first, resulting in the first colloquium in 2004, which the IIUM hosted. In that colloquium, the Institute allowed the By-Research PhD candidates class 1 to present research works. After that, colloquiums were organized continually for the 2nd and 3rd time in subsequent years, which still maintained the original objectives for organizing the events, i.e. academic exchange and collaboration on developing the Doctoral Research Degree Program into an international degree program, but with expansion of scope to have faculty of the institute to participate in presentation of research projects also. For this 4th colloquium, which Srinakharinwirot University hosts, an additional objective is to build networks with other universities in Thailand to encourage academic exchanges in a wider circle, allowing for free/unrestricted/volunteer research works presentation. For later occasions, other universities may wish to be represented or to collaborate as event host and progress toward higher collaborative efforts, such as faculty exchange or joint advisors on students' dissertation both domestic and international.

Srinakharinwirot University and The Behavioral Science Research Institute welcome all of you to The 4th International Postgraduate Research Colloquium, and hope that you will receive utmost benefits from attending this colloquium.