



THE ROYAL TOUCH



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A Nation is nothing without its people. National Security, therefore, simply means a life of safety and well-being for the greatest possible number of people. Furthermore, people must live well and safely not only in the metropolitan or urban areas but also in the remote villages and far away hills.

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, ninth king of the Chakri Dynasty, pledged during the Coronation Ceremony of 1950 to reign over the Kingdom for the greater happiness of the Thai people and His life has been totally dedicated to that avowed task. Royal activities in the field of community development are well-known to the public as the King annually makes extended tours to all the regions of the Thai Kingdom. These trips are made, not only to inspect the progress of government projects, but also to inspect royal projects initiated to complement developmental programme of the Government.

Such projects are implemented after careful consideration of facts given to the King by the local populace and officials. Under these circumstances explanations and instructions are given in order that there will be a complete understanding among all parties and at all levels about the basis, the objectives and the methods of development projects.

As Thailand is an agriculture-based country, the King's projects lay emphasis on programmes which develop arable land to its fullest extent. Irrigation projects are foremost in importance, not only in order to solve the problems of floods, but also to preserve natural reservoirs which in turn will be utilized for agricultural

purposes. Man-made reservoirs are also of great significance as water-shed development, farm ponds and fish-ponds are all necessary infrastructure of an agricultural community.

The King, in addition, advocates joint ownership of land by farmers' groups to prevent transference of land tenure into the hands of absentee landlords. And he has graciously granted land owned by the King, as well as Crown Property lands to be given to farming groups. In 1964 a land development project was initiated by the King in the central part of Thailand to serve as a model for Co-operative Community development projects whereby members of the community and their families are given the right to till the land for perpetuity.

The co-operative has a governing board which is responsible for the marketing, and the purchasing of necessary seeds, foodstuffs and agricultural equipments for its members. The King frequently visits the project, as well as subsequent projects, to converse with the farming families and to give appropriate advices to help alleviate their problems. At the same time, the King holds constant consultations with government officials concerned with the project in order to promote orderly development for the benefits of all.

The King always insists that the ideas are mere suggestions, and those who are proficient in the matter are welcome to make counter suggestions should they find that his ideas are in any way inappropriate to the situation, so that the project will be in accord with the

accepted methods, the current economic trend and the policy of the Government. The King fully understands that the success of any project requires that the people concerned work well together as a group and are willing to help each other out in various circumstances. In short, they must become industrious for the sake of the common good.

The King is ably assisted by the Queen in development projects on the distaff side as She persuades the people to make profitable use of their leisure to bring in extra income for the family. As such, She renders assistance/form of equipments and personnel to teach various methods of handicrafts, sericulture, preservation of foodstuffs and similar items.

The Queen also provides outlets for handicrafts and domestic produce by holding exhibitions, fairs as well as maintaining stores where village products are displayed and sold.

Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn and Princess Chulabhorn are tireless in their efforts in helping their Royal parents and serve as Secretaries and Personal Representatives.

Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn who holds the active military rank of Lieutenant General, Honorary Vice Admiral and Honorary Air Marshal in the Royal Thai Army, Royal Thai Navy and Royal Thai Air force respectively and Princess Soamsawali, his consort, also pay visits in their course of Royal Activities to various Royal and Governmental projects to further encourage the people.

Indeed the Royal Family tirelessly labours to bring about full benefits for the continued and ever increasing happiness and prosperity of the Thai Nation.

Thai National Day Supplement



MESSAGE FROM THE AMBASSADOR



On the Auspicious Occasion of the Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej which is also the National Day of the Kingdom of Thailand, it is my great pleasure and privilege to extend to the Government and people of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the warmest good wishes of His Majesty's Government and the people of Thailand for their continued peace, happiness and prosperity.

I am most happy to observe the continuous improvement and strengthening of the friendly relations between Thailand and Bangladesh which are constantly being

cemented by many exchanges and contacts at all levels.

Both of us have enjoyed mutually beneficial links for several decades and these links have not only been restricted to the area of trade and economic relations but also include ever growing contacts in cultural, technical and tourism relations. I look forward to the future with confidence that this firmly established basis of cooperation will bring our two people ever closer together.

As Thais celebrate this most important day for their beloved and respected Monarch, who throughout the years has shown by words and deeds the dedication of Himself and His Royal Family to bringing about the ever increasing happiness and prosperity of His people in every part of the Kingdom, I avail myself of this Auspicious Occasion to reaffirm once again, on behalf of His Majesty's Government and the People of Thailand, the Royal Thai Embassy and myself, our friendship and deep regard for the government and people of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Sawasdee.

Vichai Vannasin
Ambassador of Thailand



His Majesty Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand dedicated to bringing joy to his people



LONG LIVE
HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THAILAND

SINCERE WISHES

From :

BANGLADESH-THAILAND FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION
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BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ
on the
Auspicious Occasion of
His Royal Birthday



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Loyal Greetings
to His Majesty
The King on
His Royal Birthday



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THAILAND AT A GLANCE

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

There are conflicting opinions as to the origins of the Thais. Three decades ago it could be said with presumed certainty that the Thais originated in Northwestern Szechuan in China about 4,500 years ago and later migrated down to their present homeland. However, this theory has been altered by the discovery of remarkable prehistoric artifacts in the village of Ban Chiang in the Nong Han District of Udon Thani Province in the northeast. These include evidence of bronze metallurgy going back 3,500 years, as well as other indications of a far more sophisticated culture than any previously suspected by archaeologists. It now appears that the Thais might have originated here in Thailand and later scattered to various parts of Asia, including some parts of China.

"Siam" is the name by which the country was known to the world until 1939 and again between 1945 and 1949. On May 11, 1949, an official proclamation changed the name of the country to "Prathet Thai", or "Thailand," by which it has since been known. The word "Thai" means "free," and therefore "Thailand" means "Land of the Free."

RELIGION

Buddhism, the national religion, is the professed faith of 95 per cent of the population. There is total religious freedom and all major religions can be found in practice.

CLIMATE

Thailand is a warm and rather humid tropical country. The climate is monsoonal, marked by a pronounced rainy season lasting from about May to September and a relatively dry

season for the remainder of the year. Temperatures are highest in March and April and lowest in December and January. The average temperature is 23.7°C to 32.6°C.

POPULATION

The population of Thailand is approximately 55,538,000 (June, 1989), with an annual growth rate of approximately 1.3 per cent. The most important ethnic minority are Chinese. Other minority groups include Malays, Kampucheseans, non-Thai hill tribes, and some Vietnamese. Immigration is controlled by a quota system.

LANGUAGE

The official national language, spoken by almost 100 per cent of the population, is Thai, classified by linguists as belonging to a Chinese-Thai branch of the Sino-Tibetan family. It is a tonal language, uninflected, and predominantly monosyllabic. Most polysyllabic words in the vocabulary have been borrowed, mainly from Khmer, Pali or Sanskrit. Dialects are spoken in rural areas. Principal other languages are Chinese and Malay. English, a mandatory subject in public schools, is widely spoken and understood, particularly in Bangkok and other major cities.

ECONOMY

GDP (1989) was approximately US\$ 1,251.90 million. Total exports for 1989 amounted to approximately US\$ 19,978.91 million and imports were approximately US\$ 25,310.77 million.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The national anthem is played on all ceremonial occasions of national importance and while the national flag is being raised and lowered. Its music was composed in 1932.

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