

His Majesty King Bhumibol's Birthday Anniversary and National Day of Thailand



5th December 1994

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand

His majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the longest reigning monarch in Thailand's history, was born on Monday 5, December 1927 at Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, being the third and youngest child of Their Royal Highness Prince and Princess Mahidol of Songkla. He was acceded to the throne on June 9, 1946 with the solemn vow "to reign with righteousness for the benefits and happiness of the people of Thailand". After a short spell to complete his studies in Europe, His Majesty returned to the country on permanent basis in 1951, and began the task which he has continued up to the present of working with and for the Thai people. This work has involved many thousands of kilometers of travel throughout the Kingdom from the four regional Royal Residences: at Chiangmai in the North, Sakon Nakhon in the North-east, Hua Hin in the near South and Narathiwat in the far South. Each year His Majesty and other members of the Royal Family make extended stays in these Royal Residences, from where they visit isolated village communities in order to learn about the local problems and, where possible, suggest ways of overcoming the difficulties. These visits have led to the establishment of over 2,000 Royal and royally-initiated projects.

Numerous projects have been initiated under His Majesty's instigation and all receive his personal attention, from the moment of their initiation to the day of their completion. These projects cover such areas as agriculture, health, education, social development, culture and religion. Where funding is not immediately available, through the national budget or charitable donations, His Majesty finances them from his own personal funds.

In all these projects, His Majesty has paid considerable attention to the need to find development strategies which are consistent with the maintenance of environmental stability and utilize natural resources in sustainable ways without prejudice to the livelihood of future generations. More specifically, it can be said that the vast majority of His Majesty's projects incorporate a strong component of land and water conservation and management.

In his personal life, His Majesty is a keen photographer, sailor, artist and musician. His skill as yachtsman won His Majesty a gold medal in the 1967 SEAP Games, while many of his musical compositions have been turned into popular songs. His Majesty's talent as a musician and composer has also been widely recognized abroad in the circle of connoisseurs as was evidenced when, the world-renowned Academy for Music and Dramatic Arts of Vienna presented him with the certificate of Honorary member on October 5, 1964 and inscribed his name on the Commemorative stone Tablet of the Academy as Honorary Member No 21, being the only member from Asia.

Although His Majesty derives great pleasure from his hobbies, he would willingly sacrifice the time reserved for them to spend with the people if he thought that the people needed him more, as seems to be the case as his reign continues. This unselfish, self-sacrificing attitude of His Majesty certainly makes him a monarch for the people.



Foreign Policy of Thailand

THAI Government policy is to abide by obligations under various treaties and international agreements to which Thailand is party, including the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Government, mindful of changes in the world and regional situations, gives priority to policies which pursue national interest in terms of its security, political freedom, economic and social well-being. The Government considers international cooperation a priority in order to enhance Thailand's standing and role globally, as well as to create opportunities for Thailand to become an economic, financial and communications centre in this region. The Government currently conducts the following policies:

1. The promotion of friendship, harmony and cooperation with Thailand's neighbours in Southeast Asia.

2. The enhancement and development of further political, economic, social and cultural cooperation with other member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as well as to promote economic integration through the implementation of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA).

3. The promotion of economic relations and cooperation within the system of free trade and fair competition, with Thailand's major trading partners and countries of other regions as well as to work closely with others to reduce international conflicts arising from problems over

trade, investment, transfer of technology and protection of intellectual property rights, taking into consideration the country's internal capability.

4. The promotion of economic, technical, cultural and human resources development cooperation with other countries on both bilateral and multilateral levels. The development of Thailand's role in providing aid and support for the economic development of developing countries, particularly neighbouring countries, so as to strengthen ties and mutual understanding between Thais and other peoples.

5. The enhancement of Thailand's role in international fora in the area of the conservation of the environment for balanced and sustainable development.

6. The promotion, protection and safeguarding of the rights and interests of Thai Nationals, Thai labour and private enterprises abroad.

General Trends

Thailand is fortunate to have been able to maintain its independence throughout its long history. The ability of the country to get out of harm's way may be largely attributed to the flexible, dynamic and pragmatic characteristics of its foreign policy, which have established its reputation as a model of successful small-nation diplomacy.

As an independent nation with a long and impressive history of foreign contact, Thailand has a wealth of diplomatic experience to draw upon in charting the future course of its foreign policy. In the midst

of significant changes in the international political and economic environment, Thailand has been afforded greater opportunities for a more active and constructive role, not only in furthering its own interests but also in promoting regional peace and stability.

There are at least three basic tenets incorporated into Thailand's foreign policy: the establishment of diplomatic, commercial and cultural relations with all nations regardless of their political ideology or economic system; secondly, the principle of non-alignment; and the maintenance of regional solidarity and cooperation as the cornerstone of foreign relations. At present, Thailand is in the process of adjusting its role and status in a changing world, whilst putting emphasis on peaceful co-existence and interdependence.

Whilst maintaining a high-profile role in world affairs, Thailand has won goodwill and friendship from other nations.

Today it enjoys full diplomatic relations with every major government. It is represented abroad by 56 embassies, 2 permanent missions to the United Nations, 18 consulates-general, 45 honorary consulates, 35 honorary consulates-general and 17 trade centres.

As a focal point on the international map, Bangkok is home to numerous diplomatic missions and the regional headquarters of several international organizations. Furthermore, its location at the crossroads of travel and trade routes has made it an important

Thai-Bangladesh Relations

1. Thailand and Bangladesh established diplomatic relations on 5 October 1972.

2. Thailand opened its Embassy in Dhaka in 1973 and Bangladesh opened its Embassy in Bangkok in 1974. There have been exchanges of official visits as follows:

— President Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh visited Thailand during 8-10 April 1979.

— Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda of Thailand visited Bangladesh during 8-10 August 1983.

— Deputy Prime Minister Pichai Rattakul of Thailand visited Bangladesh during 6-9 July 1985.

— Mr Humayun Rasheed Choudhury, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh visited Thailand during 26-28 August 1987.

— President Hussain Muhammad Ershad of Bangladesh visited Thailand during 28-31 March 1988.

— Sub-Lieutenant Prapas Limpabandhu, Deputy Foreign Minister of Thailand visited Bangladesh during 29-30 May 1989.

— Mr Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Prime Minister of Bangladesh visited Thailand during 21-25 May 1990.

— Her Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn of Thailand visited Bangladesh during 16-21 January 1992.

— Squadron Leader Prasong Soonsiri, Foreign Minister of Thailand visited Bangladesh during 17-19 June 1994.

3. Some agreements were signed, namely —

— Agreement on Trade (22 August 1975)

— Agreement on Co-operation in Fisheries (25 March 1974)

— Agreement on Cultural, Educational and Scientific Cooperation (9 April 1979)

— Agreement on Maritime (30 March 1988)

— Agreement on Investment Promotion & Protection (30 March 1988)

— Agreement on Air Services (6 December 1977)

— Agreement on Joint Commission (29 January 1982)

4. To expand trade and economic relations, the Joint Commission on Cooperation between Thailand and Bangladesh was set up on 29 January 1982. The 5th meeting was held in Dhaka during 15-17 June this year.

5. Volume of Trade between Thailand and

Continued on page 10

MESSAGE



On the 5th of December every year, Thai people throughout the country and who live in abroad are gathering to celebrate His Majesty's Birthday Anniversary. The Royal Thai Embassy is also organizing some activities for this special occasion. We are going to introduce the Royal Songs played by Bangladesh Air Force's orchestra band, Thai classical dance and pop song be performed

and the Thai traditional food preparations be displayed and served during the reception. His Majesty's Bhumibol Adulyadej is known to the Thai people throughout the Kingdom that His Majesty's initiated work is aimed at developing and assisting the population as a whole no distinction being made on grounds of race, religion or social position. In particular, poor people have been aided by many royal ideas, solutions and attendant projects which have come to be called "Royal Development Project". Such projects have spread through every region of the country. There are about 1,000 projects arising as a result of Royal initiative.

His Majesty proclaimed on Coronation Ceremony on 5th May, 1950 that "We will reign with righteousness, for the benefits and happiness of the Siamese people." His Majesty's intention remains as clear today as it was then.

His Majesty will turn 67 years. From 1 January 1995 to 9 June 1996, the whole nation will celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary (golden Jubilee) Celebration of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne.

On this auspicious occasion, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere wish to the government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and her people for their progress, harmony and prosperity.

Sunthorn Vidhyameth
Ambassador of Thailand in Bangladesh