

*A Tribute to Thailand's Greatest Teacher, Our
Beloved King **Bhumibol Adulyadej**, the Developer King
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Forewords:

The writer of this article is well aware that "Galaxy" is a journal for English teaching articles. Nevertheless, as a Thai instructor who has been with IELE for a few decades, I feel that this issue of "Galaxy" should contain an article about the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, who had been the greatest teacher, developer and the Father of this country. It is a tribute to our beloved king, the most hard-working, and the world's *longest reigning monarch, serving for 70 years, and 127 days.*

October 13, 2016 was the day Thai people will never forget. It was the saddest day in our lives when our benevolent and most loved King Bhumibol Adulyadej passed away at the age of 89 years. All Thai people were heartbroken, stunned, speechless, burst into tears and went into national mourning. Millions of teardrops have flooded Thailand on that day up to now, for we had lost the King who was our Father, the center of our love and unity, who had developed Thailand in many ways.

This article is compiled from many reports of the Office of the Royal Development Projects Board, which provide various kinds of useful information that deserve to be publicized further.

For 70 years since his accession to the throne on June 9, 1946, His Majesty King Bhumibol relentlessly devoted himself and his life to the well-being of the Thai people. He has visited people in every part of the country, no matter how remote and underdeveloped. He was very determined to alleviate the difficulties that Thai people encountered and bring forth good living conditions and happiness to them, regardless of their status, religion and occupation.

This was the start of 4100 royal initiatives and development projects in 1982, converging several areas as follows:

1. Water sources development (70, 73%)
2. Social welfare (9.0796%)
3. Integration projects and others (5.6496%)
4. Occupational promotions (4.6896%)
5. Agriculture (4.0%)
6. Natural resources and the environment (3.2296%)
7. Transport and communications (1.8596%)
8. Public health (0.8196%)

Because the King was gifted with various kinds of abilities and talents, he applied all his skills and talents to reform, develop, and improve the standard of living of the Thai people in every way. His

Majesty impressed us with his versatility as a skilled operator of irrigation systems for Thai farmers and people who suffered drought or flooding. He initiated the Royal Rain to make rain for the farmers, in the hot season. He was a traffic congestion solver in Bangkok by building many superhighways, bypass roads, bridges and tunnels. He was also a talented photographer, a skilled musician who was good at playing saxophone, piano, etc. and a composer of many beautiful songs.

His Majesty believed that development of the country should be carried out in stages, starting with the laying of a foundation by ensuring that a majority of the people have their basic necessities met through the use of economic means and equipment in accordance with theoretical principles. Thus, His Majesty initiated sufficiency economy, which is a foundation of life and the secure foundation of the country. His Majesty initiated a total of 4,634 project activities to correct the economic and social imbalances in Thailand over a long period of more than 60 years. These projects cover all regions in the country. Their common purposes are 1. To solve problems for the majority of people in the country in the areas of public health education, basic public utilities, agriculture, preservation of natural resources and environment (soil, water, forest and energy), including transport problems, 2. to solve problems in specific areas that might affect national security. 3. To solve problems arising from natural disasters, mostly to assist the government in providing relief, which is urgently needed.

Apart from this, His Majesty the King initiated the establishment of six Royal Development Study Centers in all regions of the country to represent different socio-economic conditions. Each center provides a learning center in the form of "living natural museum" and a one-stop service for farmers, and interested parties who can thus apply the knowledge of such projects/activities for themselves. The centers, focusing on knowledge dissemination, lay a firm foundation for a self-reliant and sustainable society.

Six examples of Royal Development Projects (Tilapia fish given by His Imperial Majesty Emperor Akihito, then the Crown Prince of Japan, on March 25, 1965.)

1. The Chitralada Nit Fish Project
2. The Flood Management for Bangkok and Metropolitan Areas Project
3. The Development and Promotion of the Utilization of Vetiver Grass Project
4. The Check Dam Project
5. The Royal Project
6. The Soil Acidity Acceleration Project

The United Nations Development Programmed summarizes the qualities of his effort to alleviate problems of unbalanced development of Thailand, in the following ways :

He serves as scientist, philosopher, advocate and exemplar. These qualities can be elaborated as follows :

A scientist – he experiments and develops many kinds of solution then forwards and advises various Royal Development Study Centers to carry out the projects A philosopher – of sufficiency economy for the Thai people to lead a satisfying and fulfilling life, as well as a guideline for Thailand's development in general.

An advocate – who believes that his theories as proved can be of benefit to others and he spreads his ideas and findings.

- A good practitioner – who travels to different parts of the country to see how people live and their problems, then finds ways to help them.

- An exemplary leader – under his guidance and leadership, people from different organizations come to work together successfully.

The United Nations Development Programmed presented the first UNDP Human Development Lifetime Achievement Award to HM King Bhumibol on May 26, 2006. Later on, after his passing, the United Nations announced his birthday (December 5) as Earth Day. The Encyclopedia Britannica of England has put HM King Bhumibol's name in its entries. The Thai government proclaimed December 5 (His Majesty's birthday) Thailand National Day, besides Father's Day which was announced long before.

Now Thailand is preparing a path to sustainability in all aspects. Many organizations are working on further applying His Majesty's wisdom such as in the project to propagate the sufficiency economy principles in schools. The project aims to lay a solid ground for sustainable development by making young students more conscious

of the ways they lead their lives, to be academically intelligent and morally good. Another project that attracts much attention now is called MOSO, or Moderation Society, which showcases model lifestyles of many important and well-known people. This project aims at inspiring a new generation through the demonstration effect to create a society that pays more attention to the philosophy of the sufficiency economy. It is hoped that Thai people, especially Thai youth, will confidently step forward and continue along a path that will lead to sustainable well-being for themselves and for the country.

Lastly, Thai people have a firm belief that we are very fortunate to be born in the reign of King Rama IX, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the National Father, whose gracious care has helped develop Thailand in various aspects and has solved uncountable problems that would have been more severe in degree without His Majesty's efforts to recommend, warn, and encourage Thai people through his speeches and addresses, as well as through the royally initiated projects. Thai people are wholeheartedly grateful for what His Majesty had done for us and Thailand. The King Father will stay in our hearts forever, eternally. We dearly love you, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej

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