

Editorial
บทบรรณาธิการ

King Bhumibol Adulyadej and his royal projects
พระบาทสมเด็จพระปรมินทรมหาภูมิพลอดุลยเดชและโครงการหลวง

Over 70 years on the throne, King Bhumibol Adulyadej is well known for his devotion to the wellbeing of the Thai people, especially the poorest and most disadvantaged. His Majesty performed as a role model in many ways of life. His Majesty, conferred with the title King Bhumibol the Great in 1987, was the ninth monarch of Thailand from the Chakri Dynasty.

Royal development projects have originated from His Majesty's extensive travel throughout the country. Those royal visits, both official and private, to all regions of the Kingdom have made the Royal Family deeply aware of the people's problems and conditions. King's projects are divided into many categories and carried out in every region of the country. The projects can be classified as follows:

1. The Projects Initiated According to His Majesty's Wishes: These are the projects that His Majesty implements, and in which he conducts study, and experiments himself. They are based on the recommendations of experts, and use his private funds. Once the projects have yielded satisfactory results, His Majesty passes them on to the government for further development. As we know very well about the Royal Chitralada projects in the Chitralada palace and also in other royal development study centers.

2. The royal projects that they are the private projects of their Majesties the King and Queen, such as the crop substitution projects and the preservation of watershed areas in the North. The objectives of the crop substitution projects were to stop opium cultivation, deforestation, and the slash and burn cultivation methods used by the hill tribes. His Majesty gave advices and assistances to hill tribes on how to plant cool climate fruits and flowers, which yield a better income.

3. The projects under royal patronage that they are projects on which His Majesty gave advices and guidelines to the private sectors, which then implemented them using its own funds, technical and human resources. These projects included the Thai Encyclopaedia Project for Youth, the Dictionary Project, and the Din Daeng Cooperative Village Development Project.

4. The Royal-Initiated Projects: They are projects which His Majesty Initiates, and gives advice to government agencies concerning necessary studies and implementation. Kaem ling is a well-known flood-control project by the Government has agreed with the Advisor to the Strategic Committee for Water Resources Management to uphold royally initiated guidelines for flood prevention and control after flood disaster in 2011.

From mention above, the royal project (1969) is non-profit organization founded by His Majesty, King Bhumibol Adulyadej to solve the problems of deforestation, poverty and opium production by promoting

alternative crops in Thailand on a sustainable basis. The royal project, which was registered as a foundation in 1992, involved the growing of a wide variety of cash crops, especially temperate-zone plants. There are currently 38 development centers under the Royal Project in northern provinces (Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Lampoon, Pra Yoi and Mae Hong Son) to help farmers collect, distribute, and sell highland products, while improving their quality of life through education, health care, and environmental preservation.

His Majesty received many awards which the greatest recognized awards from the world are such as:

- Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1988: to replace opium poppies with temperate climate cash crops and to arrest the destruction of precious forests and watersheds in the hills of the north of Thailand.
- Thai Export Award in 1988: for its outstanding activities to promote Thai exports of fresh vegetables and fruit and canned fruit.
- The Drug Advisory Program of the Colombo Plan in Sri Lanka in December 2003: to successfully eradicate opium poppy cultivation through positive measures.
- The United Nations in 2006: the United Nations Development Program's first-ever Human Development Lifetime Achievement Award. This distinction brings global recognition to His Majesty's extraordinary achievements, dedication and compassion.

His Majesty, King Bhumibol Adulyadej was the world's longest-serving monarch, much beloved and revered by his people. He dedicated himself wholly to his country and to improve his people's lives. His wise leadership and enormous prestige held the country together. His Majesty has been adored by his people in Thailand and the world. As His Majesty has been deeply loved, the grief of the Thai people for losing their King is great. The best expression of our bereavement and loyalty to His Majesty is to follow in His Majesty's footsteps and live up to His Majesty's aspirations to maintain the independence, sovereignty, and prosperity, as well as to heed His Majesty's sayings and teachings.

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