

**His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand
(King Rama IX)
and Human Development Award
presented by the United Nations (UN) on May 26, 2006**



Mr. Kofi Annan came to humbly present Human Development Lifetime Achievement Award on behalf of UNDP Human Development as an honor to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand on May 26, 2006.

More than 11 years ago, Mr. Kofi Annan came to humbly present Human Development Lifetime Achievement Award as an honor to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand on May 26, 2006. The UN presented it on behalf of UNDP Human Development.

Such award brought about pride to all Thais and extended to other nationalities in Thailand and all over the world. The former UN Secretary

General delivered commendations in honor of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej in several dimensions.

In human development, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand focused on 5 major aspects. If Thais apply what was mentioned by the UN, Thais can be reformed in the long term. I would like to request Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha to apply the concepts on 5 aspects to reform grass-root people development.

1.1 Money is not as important as knowledge. His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand (King Rama IX) greatly emphasized on transferring knowledge to villagers. The knowledge sharing approach is teaching people to be able to teach. It is like giving fishing rod instead of fish. He taught Thais to be self-reliant. He prudently studied it. Instead of theory, he applied knowledge from reality. He did not ignore theory. However, he accepted the reality. He visited to see the actual sites in person. Moreover, spending should be only on necessary things. They must be managed based on Sufficiency Economy. For example, in the New Agricultural Theory, area is divided for rice paddy, fish pond and vegetable plot instead of rubber monoculture. He supported farmers to be self-reliant. Production for household consumption is more necessary for earning to spend resulting in debt.

1.2 The UN's commendation to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand showed that, despite grass-root level development, creativity-based approach was so important that it could not be ignored. The villagers were stimulated to think out of the box, have creative thinking and new different ideas. Then, the villagers could be proud. Moreover, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand supported teamwork instead of working alone. This led to highly diverse farmer group creation with leadership development. This was creativity at the grass-root level. The UN gracefully honored his creative Royal Initiatives. I shared his Royal Initiatives to promote villagers' creativity. I gave them several opportunities to exchange views. Then, the villagers were sufficiently capable to generate creativity.

1.3 His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand promoted natural resource and social environment alignment. Therefore, he gave the Royal Advice about social environment. For example, the Southern Muslims' agriculture must differ from other regions. Socio-cultural aspect must be carefully considered. Different regions and provinces are not similar. This is a very profound aspect.

1.4. His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand expected that the rich and the poor gap to be lessened. Gap is not only an economic factor.

However, it is a driving force for the grass-root people to have pride dignity, self-value and self-discovery. For example, the Royal Projects in the North were initiated to distract the highland minorities from opium farming. Nowadays, the highland minorities working for the Royal Projects have sufficient income because they produce high quality products to sell in large cities and export to the global markets. The Royal Projects in the North was adopted as the best practice for foreigners like Afghanistan.

1.5 The last aspect was sustainability. His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand had total 4,000 Royal Initiatives Projects. He did it step by step. Instead of technology, he developed people to respond to the social demands. Then, they could achieve the ultimate goal of sustainability. All of these are the wisdom from His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand.

This year, the UN shares 17 Sustainable Development Goals to the world. They know that these goals can be achieved by the approaches as the origin of Sufficiency Economy as follows.

- Moderation
- Self-immunity
- Reasonableness

Ethics and up-to-date knowledge are conditions.

I, as a follower to his Royal Path apply these concepts. The focus is always on national development must firstly come from grass-root people development.

All Thais must start to well study, understand, access and apply. UN Human Development Award remains His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand's work philosophy. Then, the UN has understanding and shares to the world.

All Thais must carefully study and apply based on the right understanding, accessing and development.

Prof. Dr. Chira Hongladarom

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