

สยามโพสต์ Bangkok Post



Towards the 21st Century

by
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Firstly, I would like to remind our readers that the HRI/Post High Level Seminar on the Economy, Politics, and their Impact on Human Resources, will take place on February 3, 1995. I am happy to tell you that Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Supachai Panichpakdi will open the seminar, and that Khun Abhisit Vejajiva, Deputy Secretary-General to the Prime Minister for political Affairs, will conclude. We have also lined up a group of experienced leaders in each field to contribute their views, and the HRI will try to present the most up-to-date information and statistics.

I have watched how the press has praised and encouraged Dr. Supachai with great interest. Although he is not a member of parliament, he has contributed so much to the country. I'm tired of listening to all those politicians who say that if anyone wants to be in politics, they should get elected first. Dr. Supachai has been a friend for more than 20 years, and we have worked together on a number of occasions. I can therefore vouch for the fact that he is a unique economist who clearly understands the importance of human resources in national strategies. So, if you are reading this, Dr. Supachai, we support you!

As far as Khun Abhisit is concerned, I must congratulate the Bangkok Post for getting the interview in which he expressed his views on the decision to replace the New Aspiration Party with the Chat Pattana Party. I personally was able to talk to him and lend my support. I know how it is when someone in politics expresses a frank opinion about another figure, and when they are talking about someone who is both the leader of their party and the prime minister, the reaction is even stronger. But I feel we should support people like Khun Abhisit, otherwise as Thailand enters the 21st century, we will not have good politicians around.

I think his point is a very simple one; in the age of globalization, besides all the implications for business, there are also political standards which are compared among countries. In business we call it bench marking, which is really establishing a standard, or reference point against which we measure our performance. The idea is that the bench mark level must be attained otherwise the product will not be able to compete. In the political context, the failure to meet the global standard translates into the whole country becoming uncompetitive, and the people suffering as a result. So please keep up the good work!

This week I would also like to remind everyone that re-engineering guru Dr. Michael Hammer is coming to Bangkok for one day to address a celebration for the Thai Farmers Bank's 50th anniversary at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center. I am pleased to say that the HRI is helping to organise the event. But if you are not able to attend, don't worry, you will still have an opportunity to hear him on my "Toward the 21st" television programme, which I hope will be aired around 22-23 January.

After Dr. Hammer, we are also expecting the arrival of M. Toffler, the well-known writer of "Third Wave" and "Power Shift". He should be in Thailand on February 22, to speak at a seminar organised by the Institute of Policy Research for Development and Bangkok Bank.

By all means watch out for both of these important personalities because they have a lot of experience to share. But don't think that it means that we in Thailand do not also have a lot of imagination and good ideas. We too have many excellent speakers and thinkers, although we have not so far been very effective in marketing them overseas.

Also in the pipeline, I am very confident that my forthcoming trip to Israel will produce some interesting interviews with HR leaders there. After that I'm off to Singapore to specifically interview people who have been involved in skill development funds, and this too should prove very worthwhile.

Just before I close, I'd like to once again thank all the readers of this column and the staff of Bangkok Post, for helping to make a success of our HRI/Post Cooperation Project. Let me assure you that we will take action on many of the suggestions I have received.

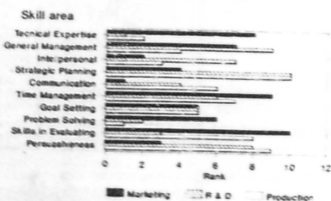
Finally, please welcome His Excellency Mr. Phillip Gibson to our column. My own first degree was taken at Victoria University, Wellington, N.Z., and I benefited a great deal from my education there. I have also invited my friends, Dr. Chai-Anan Samudavanija, Mr. Karun Kittisatporn and Mrs. Tanya Sirivedhin to share with us their experiences of studying in New Zealand. Parents who are thinking about sending their children overseas to be educated, should find enough substance here to strongly recommend New Zealand as a possibility.

IN THIS WEEK'S HRI/POST CO-OPERATION COLUMN:

Dr. Chira introduces three forthcoming events; the HRI/Post High Level Seminar on the economy, Politics and their Impact on Human Resources, and visits by re-engineering guru Dr. Michael Hammer, and influential author M. Toffler.

Dr. Chira also expounds on the performance of non-elected ministers, and offers some thoughts on the implications of globalisation on political behaviour in the light of the recent Coalition reshuffle.

Desirability of Skills for 3 types of Manager



Source: HR Magazine July, 1994

1 = most desirable
12 = least desirable