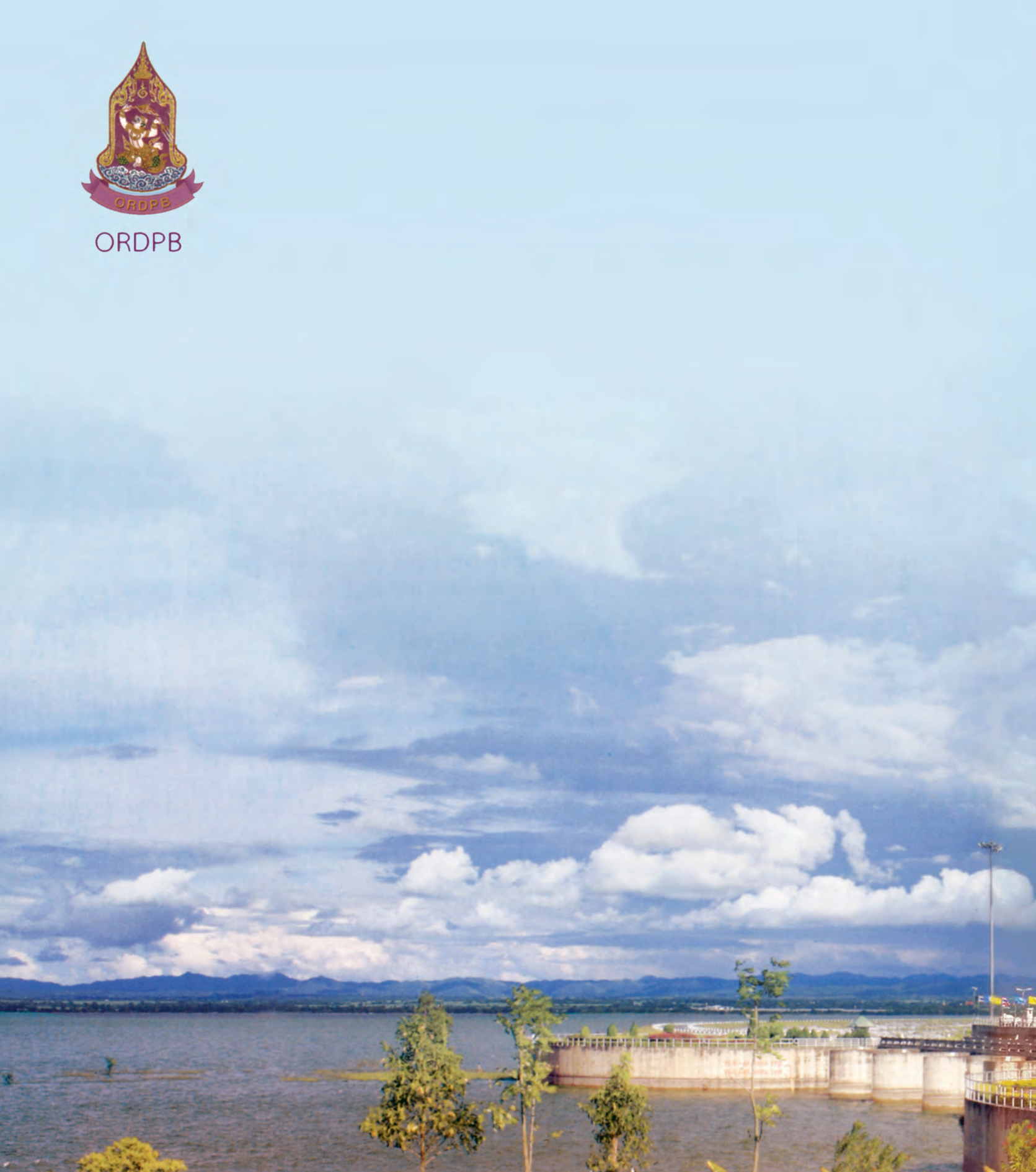






ORDPB



# *The Developer King*







**“...The word ‘Development’ means stability and progression. The development of the nation means creating security and prosperity for the nation. National development thus aims to make each individual’s life safe, prosperous and happy. Therefore, it can be concluded that every development is good as it creates happiness, prosperity and satisfaction of each individual nationwide...”**

*The Royal Speech  
Delivered at the Youth Training Centre at Bang Poon Village,  
Pathum Thani Province  
On 7 May 1970*

**“...For Sufficiency Economy, it is of importance to know the steps. Doing things too fast is not self-sufficient. On the other hand, doing things too slow is also not self-sufficient. There must be progress but the progress must not be at the expenses of others. This is Sufficiency Economy...”**

*The Royal Speech  
Given to the Audience of Well-Wishers  
On the Occasion of the Royal Birthday Anniversary  
At the Dusidalai Hall, Chitralada Villa  
on 4 December 2003*



## Forward

For 60 years since his accession to the throne on 9 June 1946, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand has upheld to the Ten Commandments of Kingship and adhered to his ideal in relentlessly devoting himself for the well-being of Thai people. He visited the people in every part of the country, no matter how underdeveloped and remote. He is one of the great kings in the world who sacrifices time and sweat on the work rendering the benefits for the nation and the people a great deal. His great benevolence revives every life everywhere. This has always been recognized by both Thai people as well as by other countries.

His Majesty determines to alleviate the difficulties that people encountered and bring forth good living conditions and happiness to them regardless of their status, religions and occupations. Many royal initiatives have been given as the guideline for livelihood development for the people to have enough to eat and to live as well as to be self-supporting. There are 4,100 royal development projects covering several areas such as water sources development, agricultural and occupational promotion, natural resources and environmental development, and livelihood development. Moreover, His Majesty initiated the establishment of six **“Royal Development Study Centres”** in all the regions throughout Thailand in order to be the place for study and experimentation in search for the models of success of various aspects for development before demonstrating and disseminating to the farmers and general public to be the guideline for making a living in their daily lives in order to upgrade their living standard and quality.

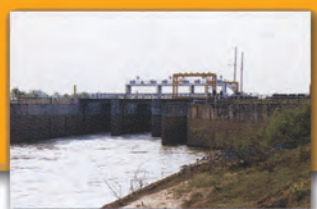
In addition, His Majesty graciously granted the Philosophy of “**Sufficiency Economy**” to be the guiding principle for pursuing appropriate conduct and way of life for the people of all sectors in order to survive amidst trends of development and unexpected changes in the globalization era. Every royal activity conducted consistently for a long time by His Majesty the King brings about great benefits to the people and the entire nation. This is why His Majesty is viewed internationally as “**the Developer King**” with the greatest achievement in human resource development. Due to the above mentioned reason, the Office of the Royal Development Projects Board (ORDPB) updated the information and republished the book *The Developer King* to publicize the royal activities and benevolence of His Majesty the King in providing principles and guidelines for the implementation of various aspects which render great happiness for the Thai people.

Office of the Royal Development Projects Board  
(ORDPB)





Pa Sak Jolasid Dam



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## Background of the Royal Development Projects

At the initial stage of his reign, His Majesty the King's benevolence to relieve the trouble of his subjects was mostly shown through the launching of medical and social welfare activities because the country's medical sector at that time was insufficient and public health services were not widely available like at present. The majority of the people particularly those living in the remote areas were deprived of public health services and educational opportunities while not yet becoming self-dependent. Due to this circumstance, the initial phase of His Majesty's



development works during 1950 to 1962 placed an emphasis on relief of the people's immediate trouble and response to the people's needs, the implementation of which did not appear in the form of comprehensive projects or activities like the current ones; for example,

- In 1950, tuberculosis was still prevalent in Thailand and killed a large number of the infected patients. Accordingly, on 6 April 1950, His Majesty once posed the question to Luang Pajungvejasart, then Director-General of Public Health:

*“...Khun Luang, is there any medicine that can cure this disease completely? If there is any shortage of this medicine, I shall provide it. I wish to see great progress made in Thai medical care”.*



Later in 1953, His Majesty graciously donated 500,000 Baht from his private funds for the construction of the “**Mahidol Memorial Building**” in Soavapha Compound, the Thai Red Cross Society. The building became a centre for the production of the B.C.G vaccine, which prevents tuberculosis.



- Between 1951 and 1952, there was a widespread incidence of polio disease in Thailand. To solve the problem, His Majesty donated a sum of 250,000 Baht through the Bureau of the Royal Household to set up the “**Polio Relief Support**” to counter against the disease. Then, in 1954, he again donated over 539,000 Baht from his Privy Purse for the construction of the “**Ananda Mahidol Building**” at Siriraj Hospital for the treatment of children and other polio victims.





- His Majesty initiated the production of films called “His Majesty’s Private Films” with the purpose of raising funds from donors and film viewers for public welfare activities such as constructing the Vajiralongkorn Building in the Thai Red Cross Society compound, and constructing the Medical Building at Bhumibol Adulyadej Hospital.

During the tuberculosis epidemic, a great amount of saline was desperately needed to cure this disease but the cost of imported saline was too high while the quality of domestic saline was not standardized such that patients who received it “allegedly went into shock.” His Majesty the King then initiated the conduct of study and research as well as advocated the production of a saline refining machine. As a result, the quality of the domestically-produced saline had been upgraded to meet the international standard.



### The Red Cross Vessel *Vejapah*

His Majesty’s development work which followed was the Royal Medical Unit set up from His Majesty’s private funds. The team has been providing mobile medical treatment on the Red Cross vessel *Vejapah* for the people residing along the banks of the rivers until now.



- In 1962, a destructive natural disaster heavily attacked Laem Talumpuk in Nakhon Si Thammarat Province of Thailand. This terrible destruction cost the people heavy losses of lives as well as assets. His Majesty thus initiated the establishment of



the “Rajprachanukroh Foundation under the Royal Patronage” (meaning the ‘Royal Foundation for Public Welfare’) to assist the affected victims. From then until present, the foundation has played a continual role in mitigating all types of disasters affecting the nation.

His Majesty’s benevolence displayed through these activities aimed to assist the less-fortunate and underprivileged people in the form of charity by providing or commissioning the allocation of many kinds of public welfare, mainly in order to solve the problems and address the needs of the people. This practice has become the foundation of the country’s social welfare philosophy, which instills profoundly in the hearts of the Thai people living in every corner of the country the concepts of mutual popular assistance in the face of hardship, as reflected in His Majesty’s speech:

*“...We cannot live happily alone if people around us suffer. We must share the trouble of others according to our energy and ability...”*









## From the Royal Initiatives to the Development Work for the People



The first initiative granted to help people began in 1951 when His Majesty the King authorized the Department of Fisheries to acquire the *Tilapia mosambica* fish from Penang through the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The fish were initially raised in the pond at the Ambara Villa. Then on 7 November 1953, His Majesty distributed the *Tilapia mosambica* fingerlings to village headmen and district leaders throughout the country for propagation and further distribution among rural people in order to provide them with an alternative source of protein and promote good health.

Immensely concerned with the people's well-being, His Majesty the King, in the early days of his reign, paid constant visits to every region of the country, particularly in remote and underdeveloped rural areas. It can be said that each year His Majesty stayed in countryside more than his palace in Bangkok. During the visits, His Majesty closely interviewed the people himself while observing the topographical conditions of the area in order to obtain first-hand data which would be guidelines before granting any initiatives for the implementation of the royal development projects.

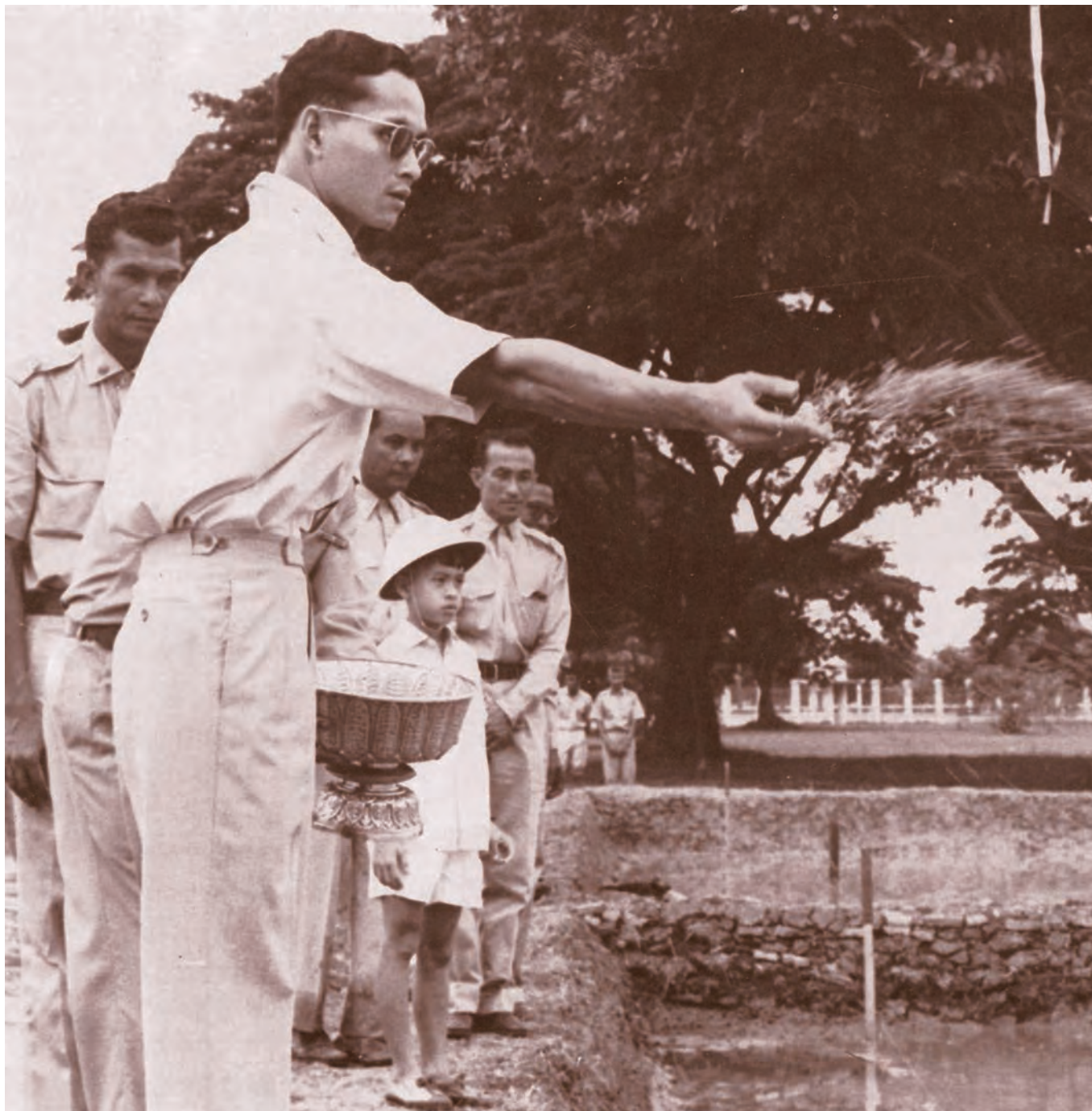


The first royal development project emerged in 1952 which directly emphasized rural development after His Majesty the King visited Huai Mongkhol Village in Hin Lek Fai Subdistrict (presently Thap Tai Subdistrict), Hua Hin District, Prachuap Khiri Khan Province and learned about the inconvenience in transportation. He then donated a number of bulldozers to the Naresuan Border Patrol Police Unit (Naresuan Military Camp), Hua Hin District, Prachuap Khiri Khan Province for constructing a road leading to Huai Mongkhol Village. This was to enable the villagers to easily commute and transport their farm produce for sale in the markets outside the village.



Then in 1953, His Majesty granted an initiative to construct Khao Tao Reservoir in Hua Hin District of Prachuap Khiri Khan Province. The reservoir which was completed and became in use in 1963 was the first royal development project concerning irrigation initiated by His Majesty the King with the intention of helping to relieve drought which has had an adverse effect on the people's livelihood. Later, in the following years, 4,100 royal development projects/activities have been established in all the regions of the country.







## Characteristics of the Royal Development Projects

In the initial stage, the royal development projects can be characterized by the two following features:

1. **The projects which are His Majesty's private study, research and implementation.** These projects are tantamount to equipping His Majesty with information and all-round knowledge for uses in solving the problems and for dissemination among farmers. These projects also enable him to seek correct development guidelines appropriate to the topographical and sociological conditions of the areas.

2. **The projects which are aimed at solving major problems facing the farmers.** Since Thai farmers are increasingly encountering problems and obstacles in their agricultural practices, His Majesty has stepped in to help tackle the ordeal based on his private projects. In the early phase, these projects which were supported by the concept of **integrated development** were limited only within the surrounding areas of his residences in the countryside. As the projects became evidently effective, they started expanding into agricultural communities on a wider scope.



The royal development projects which exist in a great number and variety can be classified as follows:

### 1) The Projects Initiated According to His Majesty's Wishes:

These are projects which His Majesty the King conducted study, experimentation and implementation himself inside and outside the palace compound based on the recommendations of field experts, using his private funds. Once the projects yield satisfactory results and prove truly beneficial for the Thai people, His Majesty will pass them on to the government for further implementation.

### 2) The Royal Projects:

Visiting the people in the remote areas of Northern Thailand, His Majesty has witnessed a wide scale of destruction of watershed forests owing to slash-and-burn activities and opium cultivation practiced by the hill tribe people as well as their low living standard. His Majesty thus gave initiatives to help uplift the well-being of the hill tribe people while convincing them to stop opium cultivation, deforestation, slash-and-burn activity, logging as well as smuggling of illegal merchandises and weapons. In this regards, His Majesty has provided assistance and advice on alternative sources of income by persuading them to replace the above-mentioned activities with cultivation of economic crops with high return, raising of animals for household consumption and activities that help improve the living standard in various aspects e.g. education, healthcare and general welfare in order to instill in them the awareness of being good Thai citizens.



His Majesty then initiated the setting up of the “**Royal Projects Foundation**” to serve as the central organization for this mission. Since the fruitful results could truly help improve their living despite the long years of operation, the hill tribe people expressed their affection and loyalty to Their Majesties by calling them the “**Royal Father**” and the “**Royal Mother**”. And therefore, the projects created by the Royal Parents are known as the “**Royal Projects**”.



### 3) The Projects under His Majesty’s Patronage:

These are projects in which His Majesty gives advice and guidelines to the private sector to implement using its own financial, technical and human resources. Most of the projects concern such activities as social welfare, community development, education and public health. Among the well-known projects are those of the Rajprachanukroh Foundation under the Royal Patronage and the Nern Din Daeng Cooperative Village Development Project at Thap Sakae District, Prachuap Khiri Khan Province.

### 4) The Royal Development Projects:

These are projects which His Majesty plans and advises the government agencies concerned including civil agencies, the police and the military to undertake study, planning and implementation. The operation of the projects are usually undertaken towards two orientations - technical-oriented projects such as the study, experimentation and research in search for development patterns; and problem-solving oriented projects such as preventive and mitigation projects and projects responsive to the demands of the people. At present, the royal development projects comply to (are operated under) the “**Regulation of the Office of the Prime Minister on the Royal Development Projects, B.E. 2534 (1991) and its amendment of B.E. 2546 (2003)**” and account for 4,100 projects/ activities situated in all the regions of the country.



## Procedures of the Implementation of the Royal Development Projects

Before giving initiatives of each royal development project, His Majesty the King always conducts a thorough and detailed study of information. The procedures of the implementation of the project are as follows:

**1) Study of information:** Before visiting a particular area, His Majesty studies the information from provided documents and maps in order to learn of the detailed conditions of the area.

**2) Gathering of on-site information:** When arriving at the site, His Majesty collects more information for facts and the latest data by:

2.1) interviewing the local people with regards to occupations, conditions of the villages, as well as topographical, climatic conditions and water sources;

2.2) conducting a survey of the designated location of the project to identify potential development;

2.3) discussing related matters with officials concerned. After studying the documents and the survey, His Majesty immediately meets with officials concerned to discuss the feasibility of the project while making a careful and thorough calculation of expected benefits and cost-effectiveness before giving initiatives to the relevant officials for further consideration.





**3) Study and drafting of project:** From His Majesty's initiatives, the Office of the Royal Development Projects Board (ORDPB) coordinates with the agencies concerned to make sure that they have detailed information for drafting a project plan consistent with His Majesty's initiatives.

To leave room for others to maneuver, His Majesty always insists that **his initiatives are only suggestions**. After his initiatives have been stated, the concerned government officials have the task of studying and analyzing them with careful consideration based on technical principles. If the proposed projects are regarded feasible in terms of benefits and cost-effectiveness, the government may follow suit. By contrast, if the projects do not seem suitable in whatever ways, the government is free to abandon them.



**4) Implementation:** Once the drafting of the project plan is completed, considered by the top management (through the chain of command) of the organization, approved and allocated the budget by the cabinet, the agencies concerned immediately proceeds with the project implementation. In this relation, the ORDPB functions as the central agency for coordination and support; for example, in the aspect of establishing a central unit which comprises representatives from the relevant parties to monitor and ensure the proper and efficient implementation of the projects.

**5) Monitoring and evaluation:** After a period of project implementation by the agency, the ORDPB undertakes a periodical monitoring and evaluation of the work performance. In addition, His Majesty the King returned to the project site every time he had a chance in order to monitor and observe the progress himself. If he encountered any problems or obstacles, he accordingly gave suggestions for the solutions.



## His Majesty the King's Approaches towards Development Work

The main aim of His Majesty's approaches towards development work is **to enable the people to have enough to live and to eat and to become self-reliant.** He upholds the concept of the Middle Path based on step-by-step development and balance of all matters. The development must also be consistent with the surrounding factors and adopt the natural means which are simple and applicable. The important principles include:



### Explosion from Within

Emphasizing human development, His Majesty frequently uses the phrase “**explosion from within,**” that is, to make individuals and families in the communities strong and ready first. When the people are ready, they will burst out with their inner readiness and then be exposed to the outside world. The progress or the outsiders should not be brought into a community which is not prepared or made ready. Many communities that are not quite ready and cannot adapt to the changes introduced from outside tend to face community failure.

### Holistic Approach

With the holistic or integrated approach, His Majesty attentively looks at matters in a comprehensive way. He realizes that all matters are dynamic and linked with one another including problems which may strike the people while relatively seeking for solutions. The “**New Theory Farming Practice**” that His Majesty introduced to the Thai people as an alternative for making a living is a marvelous example of this approach. It serves as a set of principles on the proper management of land and water sources, fundamental factors for doing agriculture, to create optimum benefits for Thai farmers who own an average land of 1.6 - 2.4 hectares (10 - 15 *rai*). As the “New Theory” concept supplies sufficient water for agriculture, the productivity will become greater. In this light,



the farmers should learn about the management methods and marketing as well as pooling their efforts in the form of groups to build up the community's strength in order to be ready for exposure to the outside world in a comprehensive manner. This devised land management encompasses the “New Theory” Phases I, II, and III.

## Systematic Study of Information

Before granting initiatives for implementing a project, His Majesty systematically studies detailed information from the primary sources such as documentations, maps as well as interviews with officials, academic and the local people. His purpose is to obtain correct information so that he can provide the right assistance in a rapid manner and consistent with the topographical conditions of the area.

## People Participation

As a democratic King, His Majesty believes in people participation. The approach allows the general public and the officials at all levels to openly express their voices concerning the issues in which a decision needed to be made and work together in the implementation of the royal development projects. In other words, for making a final decision, the people's opinions or demands must be taken into consideration as reflected in the royal speeches as follows:

*“...The most important thing is to be open-minded and strong-headed while wisely accepting other different views, even criticisms. Wisely listening to differed opinions truly mobilizes intelligence and diverse experiences in order to bring about successful and completed implementation and management.”*

*“...To help the people, we need to know the people and know what they want. We must apply our knowledge to help them...”*

In supporting the concept of participation, His Majesty has been applying the approach of “**public hearing**” in the administration and implementation of the royal development projects. His methodology is simple and straight-forward. Before suggesting an idea of a project, His Majesty will explain the people of all sectors including the leaders of the local communities the necessity and expected effects on them. When unanimous agreement is reached and all relevant agencies are ready, His Majesty then grants an initiative to start the project.



## Economy and Simplicity

His Majesty is economical testified from his personal lifestyle such as by the familiar photograph of his toothpaste that was totally used up. He also wears each piece of clothes for a long time while keeping fixing his shoes when they are torn apart. Adding to this, a representative from His Majesty's Personal Affairs Division said that "...Throughout the year, His Majesty acquires 12 pencils in total and uses one pencil a month until it becomes extremely short. However, he will be angry if anyone throws them away. He is very economical. For him, everything is valuable. Every Baht is spent with prudence. When commissioning us to work, he carefully does it."

In assisting the people, His Majesty employs the principle of "simplicity" which the farmers can implement on their own and which is consistent with the local conditions while requiring minimal investment and avoiding the use of complicated technology. His Majesty once said,

*"...In the matter of a forest growing by itself,...nothing has to be done...leaving the forest alone; the trees will grow by themselves...in order to save cost..."*

## Our Loss Is Our Gain

*"Our Loss Is Our Gain" means 'Our deficit constitutes our profit' or 'We incur a loss to reap a profit'... The country will progress, but the well-being and happiness of the people are a benefit that is difficult to be measured in terms of money."*

His Majesty's royal statement granted to the Thai people as quoted above implied the concept of "giving" and "sacrifice" which provide profits or gains which mean the well-being of the people that can concretely be witnessed. The concept was also stressed in an excerpt from His Majesty's royal statement bestowed upon the representatives of the Thai people who were granted an audience on the auspicious occasion of His Majesty's Birthday Anniversary on 4 December 1991, at the Dusidalai Hall, Chitralada Villa, Dusit Palace, as follows:





*“In the last three years, administrations of nations established on the basis of the so-called ideal government theories, have now crumbled down. Will Thailand crumble down? We can consider that Thailand has fared rather well until now... About 10 days ago, a visitor from a foreign land came to obtain some pointers on how to manage a country... But if we use a poor man’s method of administration, without being too dogmatic about theory, but with*

*the spirit of Unity in mind, that is, with mutual tolerance, we will have more stability... Those who stick closely to theory...when the textbook is closed, they don’t know what there is to be done. Finally, the textbook must be opened again, on the first page. Everything goes back to the first step, back to the drawing board. But if we use the poor man’s method, if we use mutual tolerance, the text book has no end; we will progress continuously, on and on... So I told him... that advice... “To lose is to have profit for us” or “The loss of ours is the profit of ours.” The distinguished economists will cry out, “Not so!”...So I elaborated that, in any venture, we are willing to put in money and efforts which may seem useless, but in the end, we may be able to reap the fruits either directly or indirectly. This is the very duty of the government...the government’s money;... which in fact, comes from the people’s money...If we want the people to be prosperous, we have to invest in the development projects, which will involve a budget of hundreds or many thousands of million. This means a loss of money, ...a debit using the government’s money...But if the project is a good one, the people will very soon get the benefit of it, the result of it. The people will enjoy a better standard of living. The people get the benefit...Nevertheless, if we look closer, we will see that, if the people enjoy a better standard of living and have a good income, the government will be able to levy more taxes easily...When they have more income, they should be willing to pay taxes so as to help the government implement more projects for the development of the country.... the country will progress... In that way, if everyone knows how to treasure unity and knows that Our Loss Is Our Gain, the country will progress...The well-being and happiness of the people are a benefit that is difficult to be measured in terms of money...”*





### Perseverance

In the early phase of project implementation, His Majesty was not quite ready and relied mainly on his personal funds. However, he was not desperate. Instead, he was patient and determined to succeed as reflected in his working on the composition of “Mahajanaka” which took him a long time to extract simple and easy-to-understand words and adapt them to the present time. The aim was to enable the readers to follow the footsteps of King Mahajanaka

who swims in an attempt to reach the river bank even though he does not see it. Without such perseverance, he would have fallen prey to crabs and fish and would not have met the angels who help him from drowning.

### Sufficiency Economy

“Sufficiency Economy” is a philosophy that His Majesty the King has expressed in his speech as a guideline for the Thai people to lead their lives for more than 30 years before the economic crisis by suggesting the use of “Middle Path” in leading one’s life. Even after that, His Majesty has emphasized a way to get through the crisis in order to maintain a stable and sustainable existence under the currents of globalization and changes.

“Sufficiency Economy” is a philosophy that stresses the middle path as the overriding principle for appropriate conduct and way of life of the entire populace. It applies to conduct and way of life at individual, family, and community levels. At the national level, the philosophy is consistent with a balanced development strategy and excesses that may arise as a result of globalization. “Sufficiency” means moderation and due consideration in all modes of conduct, and incorporates the need for sufficient protection from internal and external shocks. To achieve this, the prudent application of knowledge is essential. In particular, great care is needed in the application of theories and technical know-how and in planning and implementation. At the same time, it is essential to strengthen the moral fibre of the nation so that everyone, particularly public officials, academics, business people, and financiers adhere first and foremost to the principles of honesty and integrity. A balanced approach combining patience, perseverance, diligence, wisdom, and prudence is indispensable to cope appropriately with critical challenges arising from extensive and rapid socio-economic, environmental, and cultural change occurring as a result of globalization.



## Do not be too dogmatic about theory

According to His Majesty, the development should compromise and **come to terms** with the natural and social environment of the community rather than adhering to the rigid academic or technical principles that might be inappropriate locally.

## Using Nature to Cure Nature

His Majesty the King understands nature and wishes for his people to be close to nature. He has a profound vision for handling the problems of natural resources. According to His Majesty, to cure nature we need help from nature itself. For example, to deal with the deteriorated forests, he suggested the concept of “**reforestation without planting**” which is the method to allow nature to restore itself by natural means. Similarly, the concept of “**three kinds of forest**” which have four uses including general-purpose wood and construction wood, fruit trees and trees for firewood with the fourth use being the enhancement of soil moisture suggests that His Majesty truly understands the symbiosis between nature and man. This symbiosis enables human beings to co-exist with forest in a sustainable way.

## Planting of Forests in the People’s Hearts

This principle addresses the problem rising from human’s need to survive which is the overuse and over-consumption of natural resources for their own advantage. This thus causes damages to the environment and imbalance. Therefore, to restore the natural balance, the awareness of the affection for forests should be first instilled in the people’s hearts as shown in an excerpt of His Majesty’s statement.

*“Forest officials should plant trees in the hearts of the people. Then, those people will plant trees on the land and care for the trees themselves.”*

## Giving

For this principle, His Majesty follows the concept of “**making offerings to monks**” which has a deeper meaning as “**giving for giving**” --- giving without biases and giving without expectation of anything in returns. Once His Majesty said,





*“...Do you know why the Domino Theory stopped in Thailand? Why doesn't it follow the prediction the American Theory? After attacking Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, why did it stop here? The answer is because our society is the society of giving...”*

### Happiness

His Majesty always feels happy when helping his people. Once he said, *“...For working with me, I have nothing to offer except the joint happiness in doing good things for others...”*

### Know How to Treasure Unity

His Majesty has continuously gave a speech concerning, **“know how to treasure unity”** which has become a valuable and meaningful guideline for daily conduct that can be adapted to any time and period.

**To know:** to be aware of the meaning of Unity

**To treasure:** to appreciate, treasure or value Unity

**Unity:** Everyone must know how to treasure Unity; that is, everybody must know how to compromise, even though the solution does not seem to be absolutely right; that is, it does not seem to be theoretically acceptable. We must cooperate within our organizations or groups. This will enhance the power for successfully handling the problems.

In the Commemoration of the Celebrations on the Auspicious Occasion of His Majesty the King's Eightieth Birthday Anniversary 5 December 2007, His Majesty said about **“Unity”** in an excerpt as follows.

*“...The country will achieve stability and normalcy when the main institutions and all Thai people treasure unity and join hands in performing duties. Everyone has the conscience about his responsibilities and determination to complete them. This is also categorized as unity which is the national unity. Once everybody in the country posses the sense of unity, benefits and happiness shall happen readily for the individuals and the public. Also, our nation will be able to maintain the state of normalcy and stability while maintaining the development...”*





## Principles of the Royal Development Projects

In implementing the royal development projects in accordance with His Majesty's initiatives and objectives of the master plan, the following major principles should be taken into consideration:

### 1. Tackling the Immediate Problems

His Majesty the King always emphasizes that his projects aim at solving the immediate problems facing the nation as quoted:

*"...If you have a headache, you won't be able to think about anything...In that case, you have to take care of the headache first...That is not the real situation to the problem but you have to get rid of the headache first so that you will be in a condition where you are able to think...In solving problems from macrocosm, one has to pull down everything. I don't agree with this. An example can be seen in a house in a dilapidated state...its many parts are in ruins and it is not worth repairing...The whole house has to be demolished...but then where are we going to live...our dwelling place is gone. Repair has to be made bit by bit; the whole structure should not be pulled down."*

Examples of the projects which focus on handling the immediate problems in an emergency are the development work in the areas within Lahan Sai District, Buri Ram Province on the Thai-Cambodian border which was underdeveloped and under communist control making it inaccessible for government assistance. After the royal development projects reached the area, the security problem decreased and finally resolved. The Flood Management for Bangkok and Metropolitan Areas Project (The *Kaem Ling* Project) exemplifies very well the current case of coping with the immediate problem approach which has a long-term effect.



## 2. Development according to Steps, Necessity and Economy

His Majesty the King emphasizes development work which aims to strengthen the community to the self-supporting level in order to equip the community with a strong foundation prior to future progress. He uses the word “**explosion from within**” which means the community and village must be strengthened before being exposed to the outside world. The progress from outside should not be brought into a community which is not prepared or made ready. His Majesty wishes to assist his subjects as necessary and appropriate with their status in order to enable them to be self-reliant and to comfortably cope with the outside world as quoted:



*“...Development of the nation must be carried out in stages, starting with the laying of the foundation by ensuring the majority of the people with their basic necessities through the use of economical means and equipment in accordance with theoretical principles. Once reasonably firm foundation has been laid and in effect, higher levels of economic growth and development should next be promoted. If we were to concentrate only on fast economic progress*





*without allowing the plan of operation to harmonize with the conditions of the country and the people, an imbalance in various aspects would be caused and may bring about failure in the end, as witness the serious economic crises currently faced by many a developed country...”*

*“...It is highly important to encourage and help people in earning their living and supporting themselves with adequate means, because those who are gainfully employed and self-supporting are capable of contributing definitely towards higher levels of development. As regards the concept of gradual progress with caution and economy, it is to be followed if only in order to prevent failure and ensure certain and complete success...”*



### 3. Self-supporting

Another important principle of the royal development projects is that the Thai people should be encouraged to get along with their society and be “self-supporting”.

Being “self-supporting” means the ability to lead a life freely, sustainably and comprehensively coupled with the ability to adapt to the changes in time in order to achieve appropriateness, consistency and balance. Self-supporting can happen both at the individual and the community levels. In connection with the principle of self-supporting, His Majesty once stated:

*“...Understanding of the situation facing those whom we want to help is most important. Helping them to acquire the basic needs of life is the most effective*

*means of assistance. Therefore, before giving assistance in each case each time, we must take account of their wants and needs. We must understand the situation they are encountering and decide the means and extent to which they can be helped. Another thing, we should attach to the important principle that we help them in order to enable them to help themselves...”*



The examples of the royal development projects which are based on the principle of **sufficiency** in order to solve the poverty crisis of Thai farmers include the Rice Bank Project, Cattle Bank Project and “**Hup Kraphong**” Land Management and Development Project at Cha-Am District, Phetchaburi Province. These projects are aimed at providing farmers with land to live and cultivate, and encouraging them to form cooperatives in order to solve the occupational as well as other problems in the communities. Furthermore, the recent royal development projects are all intended to enable the Thai people to be self-reliant since they are supporting projects which allow the people to conduct their occupations productively and effectively. Examples of these projects include the New Theory farming, water sources development, agricultural training and training on supplementary occupation and related techniques.

#### 4. Topographical and Sociological Approach

Development according to His Majesty the King’s initiative must be consistent with the problems of each specific region and take into account the topographical as well as sociological factors of the locality due to differences in the area conditions, the way of life as well as culture and tradition. His Majesty used the words “**Topography and Sociology**” because he takes into consideration both topographical and sociological characteristics of each region.



Modern technology which is not applicable should not be imposed on the farmers. For example, they should not be encouraged to cultivate crops on the mountains or on arid soil which are wrong methods. His Majesty always guides us that every work implementation must be in line with the topographical and sociological characteristics of each region as quoted in an excerpt from his speech given to the graduates of Kasetsart University at the Graduation Ceremony on 18 July 1974:

*“...Development must meet with local topographical and sociological conditions. Local sociological conditions mean the attitudes of the people cannot be forced; go in and see what they really want and explain to them the principles of our development. This will be the most beneficial...”*



## 5. Simplicity and Economy

In implementing the development work and assisting his subjects, His Majesty the King employs the principle of “nature cures nature” which is applicable but simple, economical and locally-available without having to rely on heavy investment or complicated technology. Mr. Sumet Tantivejkul, former Secretary-General of the Royal Development Projects Board stated:

“His Majesty’s methods of solving problems are always simple and based on natural means. If the matter concerns the people’s way of living, His Majesty will think of himself as being a farmer and seek solutions to the problems from the point of view of a farmer. He often says, ‘Never impose on the farmers what they cannot apply.’ Sometimes His Majesty’s methods are too simple for us to imagine. He said, ‘I will use evils to fight against evils.’ For instance, in the case of water pollution, he suggested the use of water hyacinth and that actually worked. Like in Makkasan swamp, the polluted water has greatly improved in its quality.”

## 6. Promotion of Modern and Appropriate Knowledge and Technology

His Majesty the King believes that appropriate knowledge and technology which the farmers lack and need should be promoted. That is the knowledge for making a living and modern technology for agriculture. His Majesty stresses the necessity of having “**a Model of Success**” to show to the farmers. Because of his wish to allow the farmers the opportunity to observe the model of success and apply it to their occupations, His Majesty initiated the establishment of six “**Royal Development Study Centres**” (RDSCs) throughout the country. The centres serve to conduct study, experimentation, and research on modern knowledge and technology which the farmers can **understand** and **apply** in their real life. Moreover, the methodology used in these centres is **inexpensive** and suitable for the environment and occupations of the local people. When the study and research yield successful results, they will further be disseminated among the farmers. His Majesty wishes that these demonstration models of success be spread all over the country and seriously applied in order to achieve favourable results.









## 7. Sustainable Conservation and Development of Natural Resources

His Majesty the King is immensely interested in conservation and improvement of deteriorated natural resources because the development of the country in the past years emphasized the economic growth resulting in high and fast-growing economic status. The economic structure of Thailand has geared towards an industry-oriented and service-oriented production system. This caused overuse and misuse of the natural resources. Since the destroyed natural resources are not rehabilitated to their original conditions, they are increasingly deteriorating. His Majesty thus gave guidelines for the development and rehabilitation of the natural resources which directly benefit the country's agricultural development. His Majesty favours sustainable development and conservation of the natural resources, coupled with the rehabilitation of the deteriorated natural resources to be the foundation for the country's overall development in the long run. He is considerably interested in the improvement of various kinds of natural resources such as forests, land, water sources and aquatic animals so that they may be in a condition which optimizes the efficiency of production.

Consequently, many projects were implemented. These projects included the Watershed Area Conservation Project; the Forest Loves Water Project; the Wildlife Conservation Project; the Deteriorated Land Development Project; the Royal-initiated Development and Promotion of the Utilization of the Vetiver Grass Project; the Waste Water Treatment Projects in Bangkok and other major cities based on the use of hyacinth, "Good Water Chases Bad" Theory and the Chaipattana Aerator; as well as the Royal-initiated Laem Phak Bia Environmental Study, Research, and Development Project. The intention is to restore and develop the natural resources back to its original state together with equipping the villagers with knowledge to use limited natural resources economically, appropriately in the technical term and for optimum long-term benefits which ultimately leads to sustainable development.





## Administration of the Royal Development Projects

The government is very well aware of His Majesty the King's development works in various aspects for the well-being of his subjects, particularly those who live in remote, rural and underdeveloped areas. In fact, the royal development projects play a crucial role in complementing the government's policy. The results of the royal development projects not only uplift the people's well-being but also contribute to the nation as a whole with respect to economic progress and security.

However, the implementation of the royal development projects in the past lacked cohesiveness and had weaknesses because each agency carried out the work on its own without coordinating with other agencies concerned. Therefore, in order to serve and implement the royal initiatives in a consistent and cohesive manner and render the optimal benefits as targeted, the Thai government under the leadership of General Prem Tinnasulananda set up an integrated administrative system in 1981.

## Royal Development Projects Board

In setting up the integrated administrative system, the government issued “**the Regulation of the Office of the Prime Minister on the Royal Development Projects, B.E. 2524 (1981)**” which became effective on 9 September 1981. The regulation led to the establishment of the Coordinating Committee for Royal Development Projects which later became the “**Royal Development Projects Board**” or “**RDPB**” as an organization at the national level with the responsibility of operating the royal development projects. The Regulation of the Office of the Prime Minister on the Royal Development Projects was amended several times. In the latest amendment, which resulted in the Regulation of the Office of the Prime Minister on the Royal Development Projects (Second Issue) B.E. 2546 (2003) effective from 27 June 2003, the components of the Royal Development Projects Board were adjusted to enable the implementation of the royal development projects to be more effective as follows:

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 1) Prime Minister   | Chairperson |
| 2) Privy Councillor   | Advisor     |
| 3) Permanent-Secretary of the Prime Minister’s Office                                     | Committee   |
| 4) Permanent-Secretary of Ministry of Finance   | Committee   |
| 5) Permanent-Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives                        | Committee   |
| 6) Permanent-Secretary of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment                   | Committee   |
| 7) Permanent-Secretary of Ministry of Interior  | Committee   |
| 8) Permanent-Secretary of Ministry of Science and Technology                              | Committee   |
| 9) His Majesty’s Principal Private Secretary  | Committee   |
| 10) Secretary-General to the Prime Minister   | Committee   |
| 11) Secretary-General of the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board | Committee   |



- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 12) Director of the Bureau of the Budget  | Committee                         |
| 13) Supreme Commander, Royal Thai Armed Forces  | Committee                         |
| 14) Commander-In-Chief, Royal Thai Army   | Committee                         |
| 15) His Majesty's Deputy Principal Private Secretary                                      | Committee                         |
| 16) Secretary-General of the Royal Development Projects Board                             | Committee and Secretary           |
| 17) Deputy Secretary-General of the Royal Development Projects Board                      | Committee and Assistant Secretary |
| 18) Advisor on Project Coordination of the Office of the Royal Development Projects Board | Committee and Assistant Secretary |
| 19) An official from the Office of His Majesty's Principal Private Secretary              | Committee and Assistant Secretary |

### Main Responsibilities

The Royal Development Projects Board has the major task of directing, monitoring and coordinating the operation of government agencies and state enterprises concerning the royal development projects. It also considers and approves projects, plans and activities as well as expenditures to be used in the operation of the projects. Moreover, it appoints committees, subcommittees, and working teams to appropriately serve the operation of the projects. All of these tasks are supported by **the Office of the Royal Development Projects Board (ORDPB)** which functions as the secretariat to the board.

### The Office of the Royal Development Projects Board

The Office of the Royal Development Projects Board was originally an agency within the Economic Preparedness Planning Division under the Office of National Economic and Social Development Board. It was then known as the Secretariat Office of the Coordinating Committee for Royal Development Projects before being called the Office of the Royal Development Projects Board.



Later, when the development scope of the royal development projects had expanded, the cabinet agreed on 3 March 1992 to separate the Office of Royal Development Projects Board from the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board by lifting its status to a department within the Office of the Prime Minister directly under the Prime Minister. Then on 27 August 1993, His Majesty enacted the establishment of the Office of the Royal Development Projects Board which became effective from 7 September of the same year.

Then on 3 October 2002, His Majesty the King approved Section 21 Article 46 (4) of the B.E. 2545 (2002) Act for the Amendment of Ministries and Departments which made the Office of the Royal Development Projects Board a department not under the Office of the Prime Minister, but under the direct supervision of the Prime Minister. And recently, on 4 April 2008, the Ministerial Regulation on the Organization of the Office of the Royal Development Projects Board, B.E. 2551 (2008) designates that the ORDPB is to function as the central agency in collecting and processing the royal initiatives for the coordination of the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the royal development projects in order to enable public sector, private sector and the general public to work together effectively and efficiently to achieve the happiness of the people and the stability of the country. The roles and responsibilities of the office as follows:

1. To follow in the royal processions to collect the royal initiatives; to observe, study, analyze and formulate plans and projects according to royal initiatives as well as consider and advise on budget allocation for the implementation of the royal development projects.
2. To coordinate between government agencies, state enterprises and the private sector both inside and outside the country that deal with the royal development projects.
3. To monitor and evaluate the results of the royal development projects.
4. To function as secretariat to the Royal Development Projects Board.
5. To perform technical works, organization of the information technology system and public relations activities related with the royal development projects.



6. To perform other tasks as assigned by His Majesty the King, the cabinet or the Royal Development Projects Board or as indicated in the Regulation of the Office of the Prime Minister regarding the royal development projects.

7. To perform other tasks as indicated by the laws to be under the authorization of the Office of the Royal Development Projects Board or assigned by the Prime Minister or the Cabinet.





The Royal-initiated Area Development Project at Bang Nara River Basin



## Royal Development Projects at Present

According to the Regulation of the Office of the Prime Minister on the Royal Development Projects, the “**Royal Development Projects**” mean projects, plans or activities that government agencies or state enterprises implement in response to the royal initiatives. Since the beginning until the year 2011, there are 4,100 projects/activities with the Office of the Royal Development Projects Board (ORDPB) serving as the central coordinating agency from 1981 onwards. The projects are classified into eight categories from water sources development, natural resources and environment, agriculture, occupational promotion, transport and communications, public health, social welfare and others. Among them, those concerning water sources development (70.73%) outnumbered the others, followed by social welfare (9.07%), integration projects and others (5.64%), occupational promotion (4.68%), agriculture (4.00%), natural resources and the environment (3.22%), transport and communications (1.85%) and public health (0.81%), respectively.

### Royal Development Projects as of September 2014

Category	Region					Total
	North	Central	North Eastern	South	N/A	
1. Water Sources	1,191	502	808	601	-	3,102
2. Agriculture	46	49	44	27	-	166
3. Environment	54	41	39	32	2	168
4. Occupational promotion	88	34	118	87	-	327
5. Public health	14	15	9	7	10	55
6. Transport and Communications	17	22	19	21	-	79
7. Social welfare / Education	201	74	53	63	4	395
8. Integration projects and others	100	59	52	30	3	244
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,711</b>	<b>796</b>	<b>1,142</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>4,536</b>

The budget for the implementation of 4,536 Royal Development Projects in 2014 is 2,325,690,192 Baht.



# Water Sources Management According to the Royal Initiatives



The management for the ultimate utilization of water: from the first drops until they reach the sea

1. The Royal Rain: solving the water shortage
2. Check dams: retaining soil moisture
3. Pa Sak Jolasid Dam: storing water
4. The New Theory: land and water management in the agricultural land
5. The Monkey Cheek Project: protecting flooding
6. The Laem Phak Bia Project: treating wastewater before releasing it into the sea

## Water Sources Development

His Majesty the King is greatly interested in the matters related with water sources development. He considers that water plays a significant role for the survival of human beings, animals and plants because water constitutes a part of the living things. Without water, life cannot survive as illustrated by his speech given at Chitralada Villa on 17 March 1986:

*“...The main principle is that there must be water for consumption and agricultural purposes since life is there. With water, man can survive. Without water, he cannot. Without electricity, man can survive. But with electricity but without water, man cannot survive...”*

His Majesty is well aware of the trouble facing the majority of the people who are engaged in agriculture but often lack sufficient water for crop cultivation and household use during the dry season. On the contrary, during the wet season, many areas are affected by floods which cause damages to plants and the people’s assets. Moreover, water in many communities in the cities is usually contaminated to the point that it can no longer be utilized. Out of these concerns, His Majesty kindly gave his initiatives based on the following principles and methods:

1) The development of water sources must be appropriate to the local topographical conditions.

2) The projects for the development of water sources must be appropriate to the conditions of the natural source of water in the locality.

3) The development of water sources must be appropriate to the sociological conditions of the local areas. It must focus on helping the people in the rural areas who are desperately underprivileged. It must also avoid causing trouble to one group of people while contributing benefits to another group of people no matter how cost-effective it might be. Regarding this work, His Majesty insists that the problem of land allocation should be solved in such ways that it will benefit all parties. Those who lose land should be properly assisted so as to encourage them to positively accept the decision of the government and allow the government to make use of the land without having to purchase additional land. He also wishes that the local people cooperate with the officials and with one another in the community in looking after and maintaining the provided constructions.





The projects on the development of water sources are intended to help relieve the people's trouble related with water to the extent that they serve the people's basic needs. They can be divided into five categories as follows:

1) for cultivation and consumption e.g. the making of artificial rain, the construction of reservoirs and dykes, the dredging of canals and swamps etc.

2) for relief of flooding e.g. the construction of embankments and diversion canals, the improvement of water channels, the draining of water from basin areas, the implementation of Flood Management in Bangkok and Metropolitan Areas Project (The Monkey Cheek Project) etc.

3) for water quality improvement e.g. the mitigation of the intrusion of seawater which damages agricultural areas, the use of good quality water to dilute polluted water in canals in Bangkok and the metropolitan areas, the use of water hyacinth and aerating machine to treat wastewater, the treatment of wastewater using various methods at the Royal-initiated Laem Phak Bia Environmental Study, Research and Development Project, etc.

4) for conservation of watershed areas e.g. the construction of check dams etc.

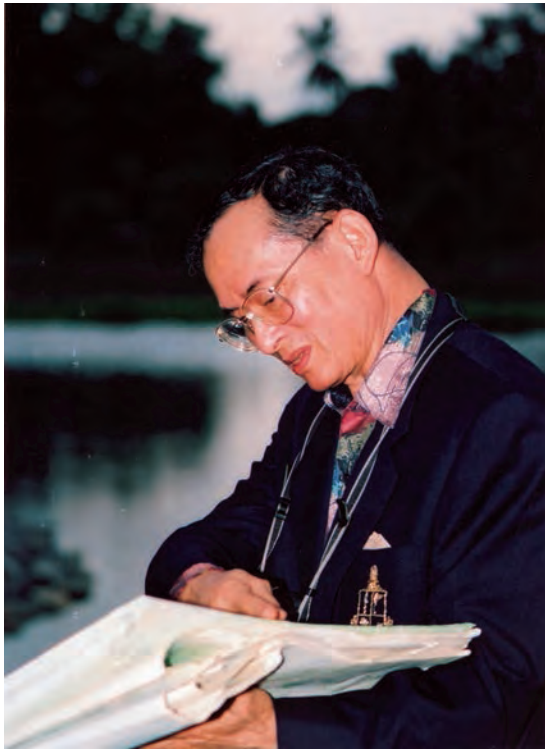
5) for electricity generation

Most of the projects on the development of water sources are targeted at agriculture and household consumption although they may have different minor objectives to ensure the worthwhile and optimal use of water. Examples include the Pa Sak Jolasid Dam Project, the Royal-initiated Pak Phanang River Basin Area Development Project, the Khun Dan Prakarnchon Dam Project etc. These projects have created benefits for the people by pulling them out of poverty and uplifting their living standard to the level of **“having enough to live and to eat”** and eventually to the state of **“having surplus”**.

The benefits from the projects on development of water sources are:

1. Bringing maximum water supply to the cultivated areas enabling the crop cultivation to take place twice a year during the rainy season and the dry season. Farmers are able to grow a second crop leading to increase of production and their income.





2. Helping to relieve flooding in major cities and communities; for example, the lower area of the Chao Phraya river basin, Bangkok Metropolis and its environs, Hat Yai District of Songkhla Province and Nong Yai District of Chumphon Province. This helps reduce damage to the country's economy both in relation to the private and public sectors.

3. Providing clean water supply for the people for sufficient consumption throughout the year as well as for raising animals.

4. Providing fish breeding site for the farmers where a reservoir is constructed. The fish supply can serve as food for consumption within the family as well as a source of supplementary income for the farmers in the nearby villages.

5. Providing moisture in the soil, allowing the forests to stay green throughout the year and establishing 'wet fire break' which forms a protective strip against forest fires all over the watershed areas, thus contributing to fertility of the natural resources and the ecological system. For this purpose, check dams, together with water distribution system, are constructed at different levels along the streams to spread moisture to the areas on the banks of the streams.

6. Generating hydro-electricity for household uses which in turns provides an alternative energy important for the country's development both at present and in the future.

7. Supporting the industrial sector in the river basins which contributes to the expansion of the economy in the areas as well as the improvement of the water quality.

8. Providing a site for tourism and recreational purpose which leads to creation of jobs and increase of the people's income.



It can be said that His Majesty takes into consideration every aspect and each step of the process concerning water sources development as Mr. Pramote Maiklad, then Inspector-General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, was quoted in the weekly newspaper Prachachart Turakij, 5 - 10 October 1995:

“...His Majesty will seek to find more water supply when there is water shortage; to reduce water when there is flooding and to find treatment methods when the water is polluted. His Majesty is aware of the problems in details...”

Examples of important projects pertaining to the development of water sources include:

#### The Flood Management in Bangkok and Metropolitan Areas Project (the *Kaem Ling* Project or the Monkey Cheek Project)

*“...When I was five years old, we had monkeys and we gave them bananas. They would munch, munch, munch, and then kept the food in their monkey cheeks. It follows that this “Monkey Cheek Project” actually originated way back when I was five years old. Five years old, that is, 63 years ago. The monkeys of that time, the ancient monkeys, already had monkey cheeks. They munched and stored their food in their cheeks. When flood waters come down, and we have no “Monkey Cheek Project”, that flood would inundate all over the place, the same way it did this year, all over the central plains. We have to make a “Monkey Cheek” as a retention area to keep that water...”*

*His Majesty’s royal speech granted on 4 December 1995*

The *Kaem Ling* Project is the Royal Development Project that deals with solving flooding problems in Bangkok and metropolitan areas by excavating the canals along the coastal areas both in the west and the east of the Chao Phraya River to serve as big storage reservoirs or “*Kaem Ling*” (Monkey Cheek) and draining floodwaters away by natural means such as gravity flow or tidal flow. At present, the *Kaem Ling* Project has extended to cover other areas namely the Nong Yai Area Development Project (Nong Yai-Natural *Kaem Ling*), Chumphon Province and the Project to Relieve Food Problems in the Khlong U Ta Phao River Basin, Hat Yai, Songkhla Province.





Pa Sak Jolasid Dam





### Pa Sak Jolasid Dam

*“...Originally, the Pa Sak dam was planned for a capacity of 1,350 million cubic metres. But after some modifications, it was left with about 750 million. Considering the figures given here, the Pa Sak Jolasid reservoir will undoubtedly be able to cope with the needs of water consumption; there will be no water shortage.”*



The Pa Sak Jolasid Dam was constructed to store water for agriculture in the dry season and to prevent and reduce the flooding problems in the rainy season in the area of the Pa Sak river basin and in the lower area of the Chao Phraya river basin. Besides, the dam is capable of solving the wastewater problems in Bangkok and big cities in the Central Region. Moreover, the dam serves as a breeding site for fish as well as a tourist site for visitors.



Khun Dan Prakarnchon Dam

### Khun Dan Prakarnchon Dam, Nakhon Nayok Province

*“...This project involves the construction of two dams. One of them is on the Pa Sak River; the other on the Nakhon Nayok River. These two together will provide adequate water supply for the water demands of Bangkok and neighboring areas in the central plains of this country.”*



*“...This project is feasible, though costly. But if we implement it at once, in five to six years, we will be safe. If we don't do it now, in five or six years, the cost will rise two or three times. In the end, we will have to postpone it further; and when we postpone it further, it will never be done. We will surely suffer a lack of water. The country will become a desert. And we have nowhere else to go...”*

Khun Dan Prakarnchon Dam or the Royal-initiated Tha Dan Canal Dam Project was established to reduce the damage from flooding within the plain area of Nakhon Nayok Province that regularly occurs. In addition, the project will supply water for agriculture and adequate daily consumption, and importantly, help solve the problem of acidic soil that is a crucial obstacle for the people to do cultivation.

### The Royal-initiated Pak Phanang River Basin Development Project, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province

*“...Building a regulator at the river mouth about three kilometres from Pak Phanang District is considered to be a means of solving all the problems. This means, it is the important key of the project with the ability to solve the problems ranging from drought, flooding, to intrusion of salty water. It can also provide the people with water supply for consumption and agricultural purposes. If there is no problem concerning land, the regulator can be built fast because the irrigation people already had enough experiences at Bang Nara. In this case, there will be no*





*differences. The construction period is estimated to be three years. Although this one single regulator will not solve all the problems, which requires further construction or extension projects, it however serves as the start of the solutions to all the problems. From this, everything can be done, and separate projects can be established...”*



The Royal-initiated Pak Phanang River Basin Development Project was launched not only to prevent the intrusion of salty water but also to supply fresh water for the people by functioning as a fresh-water storage reservoir to support agricultural uses and daily consumption, to prevent the flooding and water pollution, to rehabilitate the degraded natural resources as well as to support the people’s occupations. Moreover, the project offers solutions for solving the conflicts between shrimp farmers and rice farmers, and in turn, promotes the harmonious co-existence among the people and nature.



### The Royal-initiated Nam Kam River Basin Area Development, Sakon Nakhon and Nakhon Phanom Provinces

The zigzag drawing or the sketch of the Royal-initiated Nam Kam River Basin Area Development Project was graciously drawn by His Majesty the King while His Majesty was on board a plane on 22 November 1992. According to the picture, His Majesty identified the head of the waterway as the location of Nong Han, the largest fresh-water storage reservoir in the Northeastern Region while the chopped spots along the body of the waterway that extends towards the Mae Khong River are regulators for storing water for consumption during the dry season. After its construction, His Majesty estimated that the dam would be able to retain 49 million cubic meters of water which could not only irrigate more than 16,000 hectares (100,000 *rai*) of agricultural lands on the both sides of the watercourse, but also supply water for the villagers for household consumption, agriculture, and animal raising.





## Wastewater (The Chaipattana Aerator)

The Chaipattana Aerator is a mechanical aerator invented by His Majesty to be a device for treating wastewater. During operation, the machine adds oxygen to the polluted water, coupled with the application of the natural means by using the water hyacinth to filter and treat the wastewater.



## Treatment of Wastewater

His Majesty the King has initiated the study of wastewater treatment and garbage disposal in the community based on the natural means and the use of proper technology; the study on the patterns of environmental rehabilitation, the comprehensive reuse of the treated wastes as well as the study on the impacts and advantages from wastewater treatment and garbage disposal as being implemented at the Royal-initiated Laem Phak Bia Environmental Study, Research, and Development Project, Phetchaburi Province.









## Natural Resources and the Environment

The environmental problem is as important as the development problem which exists in every country in the world. The more the country is developed, the more the environmental deterioration and pollution accumulate and increase and increase in intensity. Thailand faces this problem because the past economic growth whereby the natural resources were used without appropriate planning and management. Consequently, the existing natural resources have been deteriorating.

Most of the royal development projects concern replenishment and improvement of the natural resources and the environment such as development and conservation of soil, water and forest. The details of the projects can be summarized as follows:

### 1. Development and Conservation of Soil

During the past 30 years, increase of production and the farmers' income arises from expansion of land for cultivation rather than from increase of production per land unit. Until the present, it is estimated that the land suitable for cultivation has almost been used up. The people then seek compensation by migrating and encroaching upon the reserved forests causing the forests to be destroyed in a far greater number. Moreover, the use of land without caution, care and maintenance results in deterioration of the soil with respect to both chemical and physical elements. If not urgently resolved, these problems can impose further adverse effects on the general development of the country.

The implementation of the royal development projects focuses on optimizing the use of the natural resources while restoring the productivity of the deteriorated resources in the long run. One example of such projects is the Soil Acidity Acceleration and Amelioration Project at the Pikun Thong Royal Development Study Centre, Narathiwat Province, about which His Majesty suggested as follows:





*“...Conduct an experiment in which the soil is made strongly acidic through drainage. Then study ways to combat the acidity. The results can be used to solve the problems faced by the Narathiwat people in this regard. Tests should be carried out for two years and the crop to be used should be rice...”*

*“...Flooded lands are useless. If we make them emerge from water, if drainage is provided, enormous use might be made of them by the people in making a living...”*

His Majesty’s initiatives in solving the soil problem include that concerning deteriorated soil, soil lacking quality and shortage of land for cultivation which are summarized below:

1.1 encouraging the farmers to be aware of proper techniques in soil and water conservation and improvement which can be easily applicable for the farmers. His Majesty addressed that:

*“...Improvement of soil should concentrate on conservation of the topsoil which contains rich nutrients. It should not be ploughed or stripped off. The existing perennial trees should be preserved to help maintain the moisture in the soil...”*

This results in His Majesty’s initiative of the establishment of the Khao Hin Sorn Royal Development Study Centre. The centre aims to conduct study and research on establishing the soil and water conservation system. It also intends to serve as the model of soil erosion control and to promote propagation of plant species for soil nourishment and conservation. Similarly, the Pikun Thong Royal Development Study Centre has the major objective to conduct study on the peat soil which is high in acidity. There are also demonstration plots where the farmers can observe the techniques for the improvement of different types of soil such as acid soil, saline soil and sandy soil. The purpose is to restore the deteriorated soils back to their productive conditions.







Moreover, on 22 June 1991, His Majesty the King gave for the first time his initiative concerning the vetiver grass to **Mr. Sumet Tantivejkul**, Secretary-General of the Royal Development Projects Board at that time. His Majesty suggested that the cultivation of the vetiver grass should be experimented for control of soil erosion and maintenance of moisture in the soil since this method is simple, inexpensive and importantly, applicable for the farmers with easy maintenance. His Majesty has continued to give initiatives regarding the various uses of the vetiver grass on 20 additional occasions. For instance, on 25 July 1997, His Majesty graciously delivered a royal speech concerning vetiver grass to the graduates of Kasetsart University as stated in the following excerpt:

*“...vetiver grass must be planted closely to form a living wall on contours suitable to the topography of the area. On highlands, for example, it should be planted as contour hedgerows across the slope and gullies; on the plain, it should be planted on the rims of the plot or along furrows of the ridges, alternating with field crops; in catchment areas, it should be planted on the contour as hedgerows above the area. Vetiver planted according to the above simple methods will prevent erosion of top soil, conserve soil moisture, retain sediments and toxic substances, not permitting them to flow down into water vessels; this will provide considerable benefit to soil and water conservation as well as improve soil and forest rehabilitation..”*

However, His Majesty always emphasizes that the whole process of land development should be participated by farmers who can benefit from it.

**1.2 promoting land allocation and reform.** The deserted land should be developed and allocated to the landless farmers in the form of cooperative village. The farmers are given rights to use the land but not to possess the land. Basic facilities should be provided as appropriate. In addition, land suitable for cultivation should be allocated to the hill-tribe people, encouraging them to settle down at a particular location and make a living without having to destroy the forests.







In managing this, His Majesty the King relies on the principle that there should be a well-organized plan based on the use of maps and aerial photos right from the beginning. The allocation of land should be managed in the irrigated areas. Concerned with the serious effects of the land problems on the farmers, His Majesty the King initiates the “New Theory” as stated in a royal speech below:

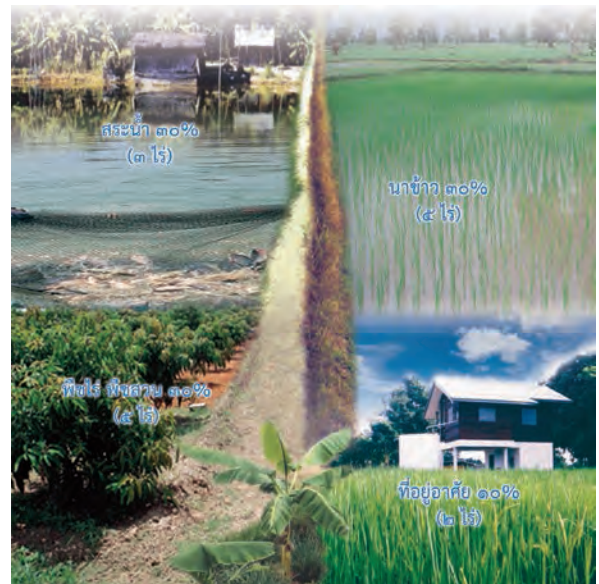
*“...The New Theory... is one way to enable the people to have enough food; they won't be rich but they will have sufficient food and won't go hungry...”*





The “New Theory” is a practice for managing a small piece of land by dividing land into portions and implementing integrated farming. It can be said that the “New Theory” is a set of principles on the proper management of land and water resources to create optimum benefits for farmers and to enable them to become self-supporting. The “New Theory” concept requires dividing the land into four parts which are:

- First 30% for rice farming
- Second 30 % for field crops and horticulture
- Third 30% for pond area for agricultural uses and raising fish
- Last 10 % for housing and comprehensive growing of garden crops which enables the farmers to have food for consumption all year round







## 2. Development and Conservation of Water Sources

Recognizing that the majority of his subjects are engaged in agriculture and rely on rainwater, His Majesty the King places special attention on development and conservation of water sources which was the driving force behind the establishment of the Huai Hong Khrai Royal Development Study Centre at Doi Saket District, Chiang Mai Province. The centre aims to conduct research on appropriate patterns of development of watershed areas for economic benefits as well as various development patterns which enable the people to be self-reliant without having to destroy nature. The centre serves as the model

where interested people can obtain knowledge and technology for applying to their occupations while encouraging them to conserve watersheds and develop forests simultaneously. Finally, moisture will occur and the problem of water shortage will be minimized. Relatively, His Majesty initiated the construction of check dams at the Huai Hong Khrai Royal Development Study Centre, as appeared in an excerpt from His Majesty's statement quoted below:

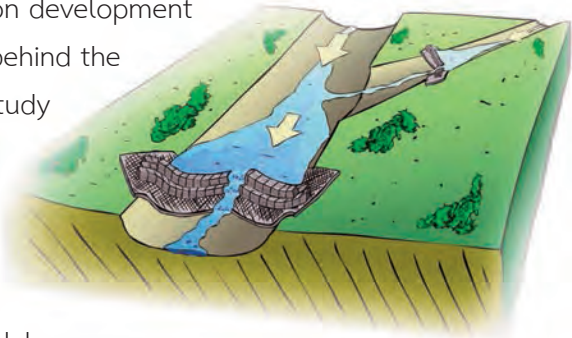
*"...Low-cost weirs should be built, using cheap and locally available materials, for example, gravel in wire mesh, to block a water channel or stream at intervals in order to retain some water and silt. The retained water will seep into the ground, spreading moisture along both sides of the stream. In time, the area will grow capable of sustaining trees that are variously fire retardant, fast-growing, and non-deciduous, so that the watershed area becomes increasingly lush and green..."*

His Majesty classified check dam into two categories:

*"...There are two types of check dams. One provides and maintains moisture, the other prevents sand from flowing into the main reservoir..."*

In other words, the first type is a watershed dam, or moisture-retaining dam. The second type is a silt-collecting dam.

In building a check dam, His Majesty added the following details:





*“...Check dams that prevent sand from flowing into the main reservoir need to be carefully made and deep enough to be able to collect a large amount of sand. If the water is shallow, the sand flows over into the main reservoir. If the check dam is for retaining moisture, there is no need to dig deep, so long as the dam holds water and lets it percolate into the ground. But the sand-collecting type must be deep and designed in such a way that incoming water does not push away the sand...”*

His Majesty provided further advice on building check dams to contribute to an optimal hydrologic cycle in the forest:

*“...A site should be identified on which to construct a watershed dam as high and close to the hilltop as possible. Such a dam would need another design so that it can hold quite a large volume of water for two months. The ability to reserve water this long after the rainy season ensures adequate water to sustain and nurture, on a regular and continuous basis, the seedlings of hardy and fast-growing trees used for replacement planting in dry forests. This allows water to be distributed around the dams until the seedlings are well established...”*

### 3. Development and Conservation of Forest Resources

Forests are the natural resources which contribute both direct and indirect benefits to mankind. Forests regulate the climate, protect watersheds, plant species and wildlife as well as serve as a recreational area. Human beings can make use of forests in various ways: collecting forest products, industry, felling trees for household uses and wood processing. However, rapid increase in the country’s population results in deforestation in an attempt to clear land for cultivation and



illegal logging for processing in industry and making charcoal. Moreover the rush of some projects such as road and dam construction leads to merciless cutting of trees without consideration for the value of conservation of forest resources. Consequently, the forest areas decrease and some parts intensely deteriorate.

His Majesty the King is aware of the value of forest resources especially in their relation to drought and flooding, which are now facing the nation, caused by forest destruction. His Majesty is determined to rehabilitate, improve and restore the forests to their fertile conditions. Following his initiatives, many projects on forest development and restoration are established throughout the country, especially the one aiming at maintaining the watershed areas for protection against flooding and absorbing the water to feed rivers and streams. In this regard, His Majesty suggested several theories as follows:



- **Reforestation without Planting:** An example of this theory is provided at the Royal-initiated Khao Cha-ngum Deteriorated Soil Rehabilitation Study Project, Ratchaburi Province. The project demonstrates His Majesty’s initiative concerning the rehabilitation of forests based on the principle of natural cycle which is simple and cost-saving as well as supporting the natural cycle of the forest. Under this principle, His Majesty suggests three following methods:

*“...When a suitable location has been found, just leave that forest as it is. Don’t do anything. The area will grow into a full fertile forest by itself without one tree being planted...”*

*“...Don’t harass the forests or bother the trees. Just protect them, so that they can grow by themselves...”*

*“...In degraded Shorea forests, nothing needs to be done, because the stumps will sprout new shoots. Although their shape won’t be good, the trees can grow to a good size...”*

- **3 Forests, 4 Benefits:** This theory was implemented at the Huai Sai Royal Development Study Centre, Phetchaburi Province, and the Huai Hong Khrai Royal Development Study Centre, Chiang Mai Province.



*“...Now everyone might already understand what three forests are. But one must also understand that three forests provide four benefits. This important fourth benefit is the conservation of soil and watersheds...”*

The three forests to be planted should be one part for timber, one for fruits and one for firewood, all of which would yield benefits to the people in a symbiotic manner. Besides, the fourth benefit is the conservation of soil and water.

- **Mangrove Forests:** This theory demonstrates His Majesty’s initiative regarding conservation and rehabilitation of the ecosystem of coastal areas and the Gulf of Thailand which were encroached upon and devastated. According to this theory, mangrove trees are planted relying on the motion of tides for their growth. The trees form a wall to protect the coastal areas from wind and erosion. Besides, they serve as a habitat for aquatic animals which helps to restore the balance and abundance of the ecological system.





## Agriculture

*“...The prosperity of the country relies on ensuring that the prosperity of agriculture is given top priority...”*

The royal address stated above clearly reflects the importance of agriculture for the Thai nation and its people. Agriculture has been the basic occupation of the Thai people dating back many generations with the approximate two thirds of the nation’s workforce engaged in agriculture. The development of agriculture has always been an important aim of the development of the nation.

The important royal initiatives regarding the development of agricultural production involve research and experimentation of new plant varieties including economic plants such as mulberry and para rubber, plants for soil improvement and herbal plants; study of insects and pests; as well as development of livestock such as cattle, goat, and sheep, including fish and poultry. The principle is that the promoted knowledge and technology

should be simple, inexpensive and applicable for farmers. Significantly, they must be suitable for the social and environmental conditions of the local areas. This is due to His Majesty's major concern for the people to enable self-reliant especially in terms of food such as rice, vegetables and fruits.

Another important concept is to keep the farmers from having to depend solely on agricultural products because they are vulnerable to fluctuations of market prices and unstable natural conditions. Thus, His Majesty promotes integrated farming among the farmers to reduce risks from having to depend solely on a single crop while enabling them to be self-supporting for all year round. Moreover, the farmers must be able to live on supplementary income such as from household industry like that encouraged by the SUPPORT (Supplementary Occupations and Related Techniques) Foundation under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit. The projects promoted by the SUPPORT Foundation urge the farmers to produce handicraft works using readily available materials in the community in order to earn extra income.







Furthermore, since His Majesty believes that development and rehabilitation of the natural resources has a direct impact on agricultural development, he focuses on their development and conservation to build a foundation for the long-term and sustainable development of the country. He is interested in replenishing and improving the conditions of various resources such as forests, land and water sources in order to allow them to be restored to their natural conditions for the utmost benefits.

From the above objectives, His Majesty's initiatives are based on the following principles:

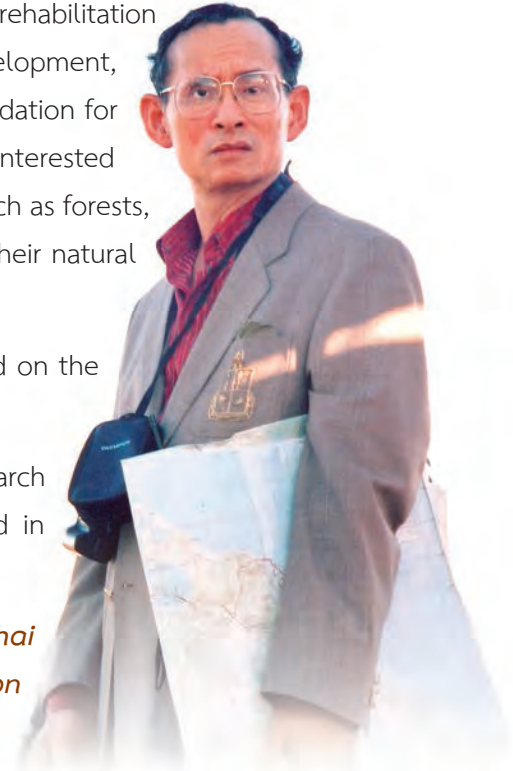
Firstly, effective agricultural development requires real research and experimentation as well as gradual practices as elaborated in His Majesty's speech:

*“...Agriculture which concerns the livelihood of the Thai farmers should emphasize real practice, rather than relying on textbooks...”*

In this connection, it is widely known that His Majesty the King has allocated parts of his Chitralada Villa compound to be stations for conducting research and experiments in all fields of agriculture since 1962.

Regarding research and experimentation, His Majesty the King stresses that they should take place both before and after production. Before production, the points of consideration should include suitability between plants and soil as well as the demand of the markets. After production, they should cover consistency of the markets, the quality of the products and the farmer's basic knowledge of accounting and agricultural marketing which will enable them to earn a living from self-supporting type of enterprise. His Majesty deems that the collective force of the farmers is crucial in contributing to the success of such enterprise.

However, concerning the increase of effectiveness of production, His Majesty sees the importance in the long-term development of the quality of life of the farmers. He wishes that the Thai farmers can gradually improve their well-being and lead a happy life by not rushing for acquisition of material wealth. The farmers should be concerned more about producing enough food for consumption. This can be obviously seen in the following quotation from his speech:





*“...It is not necessary to promote agricultural production only in terms of quantity because this may be a waste of production costs and destroy the soil quality. In fact, we should examine the state of agricultural market including some form of price regulation to prevent the farmers from being affected by their fluctuations...”*

Another principle is to make optimal use of nature. For example, deserted land should be used and alternatives to obtain benefits from the natural products should be sought. For example, on one occasion His Majesty the King suggested that sealing wax be produced from rain trees which grow along the highway to the Klai Kangwol Palace. He stated:

*“...It derives from the idea of making use of the rain tree to provide employment for the farmers and thereby encourage them to form into groups...”*



Making use of nature is also associated with **cost-saving**. His Majesty stresses the necessity of reducing the expenses of the farmers as much as possible by relying mainly on nature. His techniques range from using cattle rather than machinery to plough the fields and using crop rotation system especially legumes in order to decrease the costs of fertilizers to applying natural fertilizers in place of chemical fertilizers which are expensive and impose long-term effects on the soil quality and conditions. In this relation, His Majesty supports **sustainable agriculture**. He suggests producing biogas to be used both as fertilizer and fuel. Importantly, he encourages the people to earn extra income from supplementary occupations or non-agricultural activities.

Agricultural projects under His Majesty the King’s initiatives comprise different types of work. In general, these projects concern study, research and experimentation of plant and animal species suitable for the nature of the local areas. Most of the projects are being implemented in the Royal Development Study Centres and the successful results have been disseminated to the public by means of training. These projects also embrace the





promotion work such as the Promotion of Rice Cultivation on Terraces Project, Sri Sakhon District, Narathiwat Province; the Integrated Development Project, Ayutthaya Province; the Royal-initiated Wat Mongkol Chaipattana Area Development Project, Saraburi Province; the Royal-initiated New Theory Demonstration Project at Daen Samakkhee village, Khao Wong District, Kalasin Province, etc.

The royal development projects regarding agriculture which are spread throughout the country have significantly upgraded the well-being of the Thai farmers since they aim to solve the major problems in the agricultural sector. In particular, they provide the farmers with greater opportunities to gain access to modern agricultural knowledge and techniques than previously. The farmers are also able to observe and learn from the models of success in various locations which can be applied on their own lands. The development of the farmers and the country's agricultural sector is not only an end in itself but also a means for the overall development of the country.

## Occupational Promotion

All of the royal development projects have the “people” as the main target of implementation. Once the projects have reached their objectives, occupational promotion activities will then be extended among the people in the nearby areas particularly through the Royal Development Study Centres which serve as the centre of study, research and experimentation of development models suitable for the environment and occupations of the local people who can seriously apply. The people living in the surrounding villages are the first target group to obtain the benefits.



There are numerous royal development projects which directly concern occupational promotion with the aims to encourage the people to earn supplementary income to raise their families and thus, to become self-supporting. These projects include the Agricultural Technology Transfer and Training Programme for the surrounding villages of the centres, the Promotion of Supplementary Occupations and Related Techniques of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit of Thailand







(SUPPORT) Projects, the Small Palm Oil Industry Promotion Project in Krabi and Narathiwat Provinces, the Fruit and Flower Propagation Development Service Centre Project at Rai Village of Chiang Mai Province, the Phufa Project in Nan Province and many others. The ultimate aim of the projects is for the villagers in the target areas to apply knowledge and skills in order to increase their income.

**The Promotion of Supplementary Occupations and Related Techniques (SUPPORT) Project:** Her Majesty Queen Sirikit graciously started the project in 1972 when she accompanied His Majesty the King on a royal visit to Nakhon Phanom Province where the people were poor but had a highly unique art and culture. Her Majesty observed that the locally made tie-dye silk, called ‘**Mudmee**’, is a very exquisite work of art, that had been used only among the villagers and consequently had not been widely recognized. Her Majesty Queen Sirikit then graciously gave an initiative that **farming villagers could derive extra income from locally made silk if interest in mudmee cloth could be stirred in the mind of city-dwellers.**

Her Majesty began her work by launching a fund raising project to encourage widespread ‘Mudmee’ weaving as well as to promote silkworm culture to ensure a supply of raw materials for silk production. At present, tens of thousands of people earn a living from weaving ‘Mudmee’ and other types of silk under the auspices of Her Majesty the Queen’s initiative.

Recognizing the value of art heritage of the nation, Her Majesty also granted initiatives to revive other works of art in various regions such as the delicate basketry made of a local vine called “**Yan Lipao**” in the South of Thailand and “**golden ware and silver ware**”, produced by local artisans, native to the North. These initiatives led to the establishment of the “**Foundation for the Promotion of Supplementary Occupations and Related Techniques of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit of Thailand**” (SUPPORT Foundation) on 21 July 1976 with the purpose of assisting the low-income farmers to have higher supplementary income which is sufficient for carrying out their lives and families. At present, there are over 200 SUPPORT centres established throughout the country.



In implementing the SUPPORT projects, Her Majesty selected members of the poor landless families that have many children all over the country to receive training in various SUPPORT training centres such as the Chitralada SUPPORT Training Centre which is the largest that conducts the training courses in exclusive handicrafts, namely nielloware, silverware, cloth weaving, etc. In addition, Her Majesty personally leads the use of the



handicraft products such as silk clothes and handicraft works as a model for people to follow her style as a new trend. Thus, it is a familiar sight to see Her Majesty dressed in Thai-style hand-woven clothes on various occasions. Her Majesty even helps promote the popularity and sale of Thai handicrafts in other corners of the world such as in Europe, Japan and the United States of America the markets of which have increasingly expanded.

**The Royal-initiated Dairy Farm Project, Sakon Nakhon Province:** This is one of the projects on occupational promotion and development which was set up in 1990. Initially, the project organized training course for 18 farmers. As a result, in 1994, each farmer had earned an increased income of 1,068 Baht per month while some of whom earned the maximum income up to 6,193 Baht which was higher than the amount that could be expected by farmers at that time.

**The Upper Huai Bang Sai River Basin Area Development Project, Mukdahan Province:** This project which started in 1994 concerns the comprehensive development of land. It comprises such activities as promotion of rice cultivation, training on para rubber trees tapping, fish culture in earth ponds, development of weaving techniques and product designs, training for various occupational groups based on the farmers' skills, training on cloth weaving and designing of different cloth patterns, training on making of artificial flowers from para rubber leaves, training on making products from para rubber as well as training on hand sewing. The project has provided the farmers with more enhanced skills and more diverse job opportunities which consequently created jobs and revenue for the overall population as well as instilled in them the knowledge about management in the form of agricultural cooperative.

## Social Welfare

“Social welfare” means living in a secure and peaceful manner, having enough to eat and to live as well





as enjoying the uplifted standard of living and better quality of life with improved health. The royal development projects concerning public welfare provide assistance to the farmers in terms of general livelihood and occupational support primarily to help relieve the people's plight and satisfy the people's needs as reflected in the following royal speech:

*“...We cannot live happily alone if people around us suffer. We must share the trouble of others according to our energy and ability...”*



Examples of this type of project are:

**The Royal-initiated Huai Ongkod Project, Kanchanaburi Province:** The project was born out of His Majesty's initiative concerning land management by allocating each farmer a piece of land for residence and agricultural activities. The project also provides the fundamental infrastructure such as roads, electricity, schools, and hospitals, together with occupational training courses for the villagers. The goals of the project are to help improve the people's well-being and provide means of making a living which coincide with the development and rehabilitation of the forests to their original rich condition.

**The Demonstration Farm Project, Ang Thong Province:** In 2006, Ang Thong Province was affected by a serious flood leaving the people's residences and agricultural areas inundated for months. As a result, the people had to face trouble of lacking shelters and foods, and illnesses. In this regard, Her Majesty gave an initiative as stated,

*“...A piece of land, higher than flood level and near Ang Thong Province, should be used to build a huge multi-purpose hall to serve as the shelter for the homeless flood victims...”*

In response to Her Majesty's initiative, the Ang Thong Provincial Office and concerned agencies designated a settlement area for the flood victims and launched the Demonstration Farm Project at It Village in Mueang Ang Thong District of Ang Thong Province. The aim of the project is to assist the victims and the community by providing labour hiring, production site of safe food, learning centre and training centre for agricultural occupations in the aspects of crop cultivation, animal husbandry raising and fishery. The approach has helped the people who suffer to achieve self-dependence and ability to sustain their lives in the society.

**Rajprachanukroh Foundation:** In 1962, the upper southern provinces of Thailand were attacked by a disastrous storm which caused no less than 600 people dead, hundreds injured and thousands homeless. When the news of the catastrophe reached the attention of His Majesty the King, he was among the first to move into action. He immediately made a nationwide appeal through the media. The appeal for public assistance met with tremendous response and donations flowed in to Chitralada Villa. So much money was given that there was enough left over at the end to form working capital for a relief foundation, named the “**Rajprachanukroh Foundation.**” The foundation aims to relieve victims of natural or man-made disasters such as storms, floods, fires or major accidents.



## Transport and Communications

The royal development projects concerning transportation, communication, and technology mainly involve the improvement of roads such as those in the urban areas such as in Bangkok in the rural and underdeveloped areas to support convenient traveling and transport of products to sell outside the community. The first royal development project concerning transportation was the project to construct a road leading to Huai Mongkol Villlage in Hin Lek Fai Subdistrict of Prachuap Khiri Khan Province in 1952. To date, the royal development projects on transportation such as the Boromrajajonani Flyover and the Rama VIII Bridge, which was graciously initiated by His Majesty as a means for solving the traffic congestion problem affecting the people living in Bangkok and the metropolitan areas, has benefited the whole nation both in social and economical aspects. This is reflected in an excerpt from His Majesty the King’s speech granted on 22 March 1993:

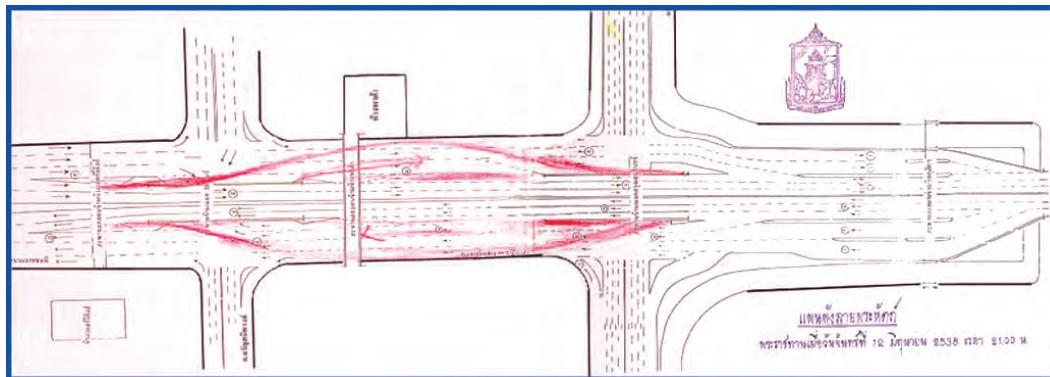
*“...For traffic, the most important tool is the road. There should be suitable roads with proper traffic control equipment and regulations. This does not concern legal aspects, or political science. It is not the responsibility of the police or the court. But it concerns engineering. The engineering should be improved. That means roads must be well constructed and harmonious. This is the hardest homework because Bangkok had been built for 200 years...”*

His Majesty also mentioned about this problem in his speech given to Ambassadors and Consul Generals of Thailand to foreign countries on 17 August 1995, as stated:



*“...This problem of traffic jam is complicated. What I want to say is that the people are afflicted and waste two to ten hours on the roads. This results in the decrease of their working efficiency...”*

**The Royal-initiated Boromrajajonani Flyover:** While visiting the Late Princess Mother at Siriraj Hospital, His Majesty the King observed each day a long distance of heavy traffic congestion at the Arun Amarin Road and Charan Sanitwongse Road Intersection. He thus gave an initiative stating that *the new frontage road linking with the bridge should be built as the so-called Boromrajajonani Flyover which starts from Somdej Phra Pinklao Bridge Intersection to Chimplee Elevated Road*. The initiative has helped shorten the driving time between Somdej Phra Pinklao Bridge and Taling Chan area. Moreover, His Majesty suggested that a bridge over Chao Phraya River which extended from the flyover be built to ease both inbound and outbound traffic between Bangkok side and Thonburi side. The vehicles no longer had to pass through Rajdamnoen Avenue and this particularly helped lessen the traffic congestion around Koh Rattanakosin area. The bridge was royally named the **“Rama VIII Bridge”** in memory of King Ananda Mahidol, the Eighth King of the Royal House of Chakri.





## Public Health

His Majesty the King also considers the work concerning public health important as can be seen in the fact that the early royal development projects stressed public health. His Majesty believes that good physical health will lead to good mental health which will render positive impacts on social and economic development of the country as stated in the following excerpt from His Majesty's address:

*“...Good physical health is a factor supporting economic progress and social security of the country because it leads to good mental health. Physical and mental fitness enable the individual to effectively serve the nation while refraining from imposing burdens on the nation. That means we should support, not delay the development of the country...”*

During the royal visits to the rural areas, His Majesty the King commissioned the accompanying medical team to provide medical checkup for the villagers and found that a large number of population are deprived of adequate health care services. His Majesty then initiated the Royal Medical Unit Project in 1967. Later the project has extended in its scope and can be divided according to its characteristics into two categories as follows:

**1. Treatment from the Royal Medical Unit** which consists of

1.1 His Majesty's private doctors and the medical team which accompany His Majesty during the royal visits

1.2 The Royal Medical Unit and officials from the Royal Medical Division, Bureau of the Royal Household



1.3 The Royal-sponsored Volunteer Medical Unit which comprises volunteer doctors from various fields from the following agencies

- 1.3.1 Volunteer Surgical Team from the Royal College of Surgeons of Thailand
- 1.3.2 Volunteer Surgical Team from King Mongkut Hospital
- 1.3.3 Volunteer Surgical Team from Siriraj Hospital
- 1.3.4 Team of ear, nose and throat and allergy specialists
- 1.3.5 Mobile Dental Unit from the Medical Department of the Royal Thai Army
- 1.3.6 Ophthalmic Medical Team

The medical team will be assigned their job in different locations as follows:

- at hospitals in the provinces where the palaces are situated such as Sakon Nakhon Hospital, Narathiwat Hospital and Kawilla Army Camp Hospital in Chiang Mai Province;
- in villages during the royal visits.

## 2. Training of Village Doctors According to His Majesty's Initiatives

His Majesty the King initiated the project in which volunteer villagers are selected to receive training as “village doctors” starting in Chiang Mai Province in 1982. The objective is to equip the trainees with the medical knowledge for assisting the people in their locality. The training focuses on basic health care; for example, first aid, simple preventive medication, nutrition (especially for mothers and children), and techniques of making contacts with the government's medical officials from the local health centres or provincial hospitals. Trainers came from various agencies both in the civil and military sectors. The venues for the training are hospitals in the provinces where the palaces are located including Sakon Nakhon Hospital, Narathiwat Hospital and Kawilla Army Camp Hospital in Chiang Mai Province.





The Royal Medical Unit Project which involves the treatment from the Royal Medical Team and the training for village doctors helps solve the health problem of the people in the remote areas where the regular services of the government hardly reach and the local people lack the knowledge important for keeping themselves healthy. The Royal Medical Unit provides the people with the opportunity to be properly taken care of and treated free of charge. With the training of village doctors programme, the people are able to acquire the modern knowledge on prevention

and cure of symptoms. Moreover, they learn how to contact and coordinate with the government agencies in the case of need for treatment beyond their capacity and knowledge. Both activities promote the long-term solution to the problem. The advantages of the Royal Medical Unit Project can be summarized below:

**1. Health:** The project can directly help cure many of hundreds of thousands of cases each year. Almost all of the patients receiving treatment from the mobile medical unit are poor rural people engaged in agriculture, which constitute the majority of the country's population. They might be patients already admitted in the hospitals or the villagers coming for check-ups at the units which are accompanying the royal visits.

**2. Economic:** Sickness has an adverse impact on the people, most of whom are engaged in agriculture, which requires physical strength. Therefore, with physical fitness, the people can cope with tough work in the fields which, in turn, affects the overall economy of the country.

His Majesty's benevolence concerning the medical services extended to the Thai people clearly shows that His Majesty never forsakes the people and is determined to lead them to a healthy state and well-being.

*“...I would like you to look after the students and people who live in remote areas. I will take care of all the necessary expenses and will provide you with a mobile unit to go out to isolated villages and hamlets...”*









## Other Important Projects

Other types of royal development projects involve the projects apart from the above mentioned seven categories. Many projects are still operational until the present days, particularly the Royal Development Study Centres Project which involves six centres and which are crucially important and have created numerous benefits for the people of all sectors. The details of the other important royal development projects are described below.

### Royal Development Study Centres

In implementing the royal development projects, the development work must follow steps beginning with the strengthening of the community which consequently encourages the people to become self-supporting. At the same time, the environment should be conserved and developed. Modern knowledge and technology should be promoted and disseminated among the people. However, the development should be undertaken in ways consistent with the topographical and sociological conditions of the local areas which are different in terms of the nature of the problems concerned. This is expressed in His Majesty's speech quoted below:

*“...Development must take account of the local environment in terms of the physical environment, the sociological environment and the cultural environment. By the local sociological environment, we mean certain characteristics and ways of thinking which we cannot force people to change. We can only suggest. We cannot go in to help people by trying to make them the same as us. However, if we go in and find out what the people really want and then fully explain how they can best achieve their aims, the principles of development can be fully applied.”*

Accordingly, His Majesty initiated the establishment of the six “Royal Development Study Centres” in all the regions of the country based on the following guidelines and objectives.





## Guidelines and Objectives of the Royal Development Study Centres

*“...The Centres are demonstrations of integrated development work which means everything and every aspect to earn a living. The people will be able to observe the models of modern knowledge and technology which can be effectively applied to their occupation...”*

*“...On the other hand, the Centres are intended to be the venue for study and research according to different areas because in each particular area there are different characteristics...”*

*“...Various agencies concerned with every aspect of the people’s life can exchange idea, work together and coordinate to have the work done. Normally, each agency has its own independent centre with no other agencies involved. However, the Royal Development Study Centres gather in one place officials and experts from every department and division in various fields; agricultural, social and related educational promotion. This means the people can obtain different fields of knowledge at the same time. It is like two poles. One is the officials who work together in one place. The other is the general public who acquire benefits...”*

According to His Majesty’s speech above, granted on 11 September 1983, the guidelines and objectives of the Royal Development Study Centres can be summarized as follows:

1. To conduct study, research and experiment in search of guidelines and development methods appropriate to the different conditions of each area or region. The centres can be compared to the “model of success” for the people not only in the surrounding areas, but in other areas as well.

2. To serve as a centre for exchange of experiences among academics, development workers and the people. The successful results of the study, research and experimentation conducted in the centres should be effectively applied in real life. The centres should integrate theory with practice and should be the source of knowledge for the people. They also serve as venues for the exchange of experiences and guidelines to solving problems among three groups: academics, development workers and the general public.





3. To serve as a centre of integrated development patterns. Each centre is a good example of a multidisciplinary concept which produces maximum benefits for a specific area. It represents the model which demonstrates how an area can be most effectively developed. The development patterns focus on using not exclusively one field of development activity but rather on integration of a variety of development activities which complement one another. Moreover, this integration includes not only the knowledge but also the systematic operation and administration.



4. To build and reinforce close coordination in project planning, implementation and management among different government agencies within an inter-sectoral framework. It is important because the Thai bureaucracy is facing the problem of lack of fruitful coordination which causes inefficiency in work. The operation guidelines of the royal development projects focus on coordination of work and plan as well as management between different agencies to render the works effective.





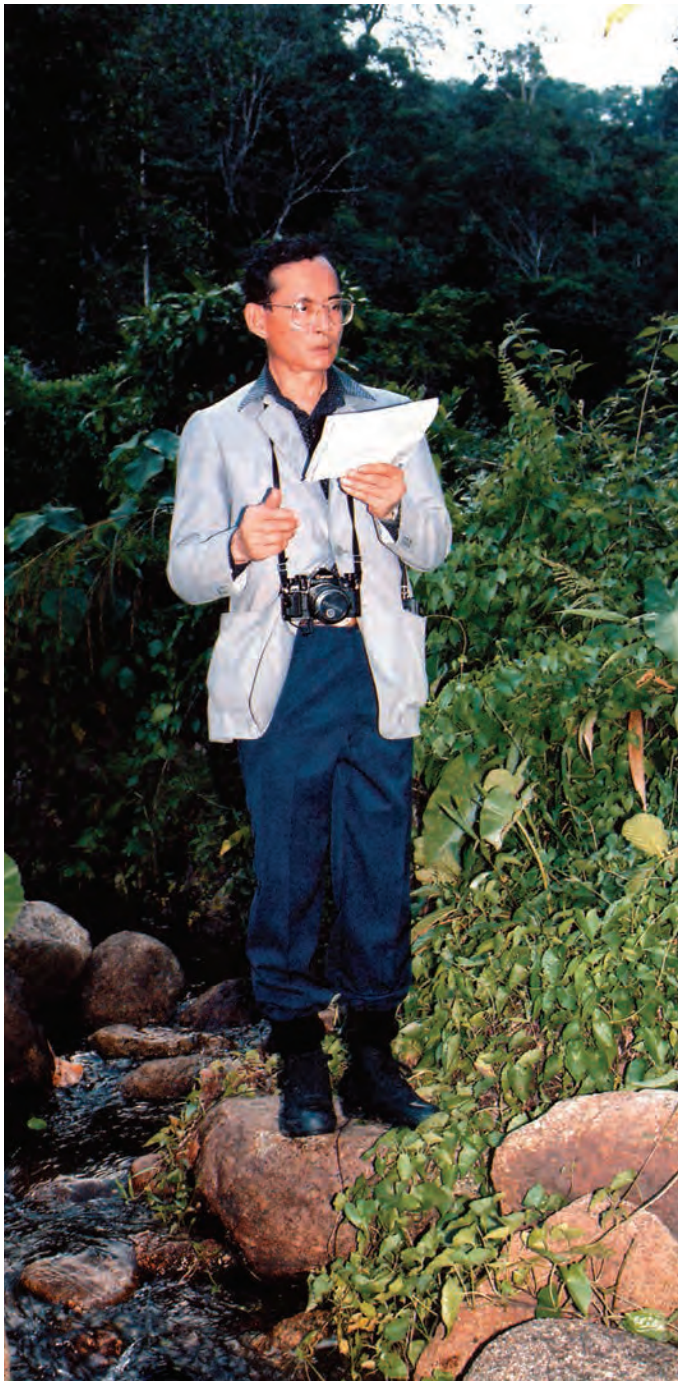
5. To function as a centre that provides a complete or **one-stop service** that shows research, experimentation and demonstration of the operational success in every field: agriculture, livestock, fishery as well as social development and handicrafts in the form of a “**living natural museum**”. People can come to see everything in one place and therefore obtain knowledge with convenience, rapidity and assurance that it will be efficiently applied to attain the maximum benefits possible.

The results of the study are not only displayed in the demonstration plots of each centre but also disseminated among the targeted group of people. The first target consists of the people living in the “**surrounding villages**”, formerly called the satellite villages. There are about 13 - 33 surrounding villages around each centre. The methods of dissemination vary according to the social and cultural characteristics of the areas. Some farmers come to the centre to attend training courses such as on cultivation and propagation of crops, animal husbandry and fishery. Sometimes the officials from the centre go out to suggest techniques to the farmers. In other cases, the farmers arrange a study visit of the centre both individually and collectively.

When the extension work in the surrounding villages produces satisfactory results to a certain level, these villages will become the model which the farmers in other villages come to observe. In this way, the extension work of the centre will expand to a wider range of the population.

There are altogether six Royal Development Study Centres situated in every region of the country with each representing the characteristics of the local areas. However, since there may be minor details in each region which deserve study, the “**centre branches**” are established to conduct study on specific aspects of the conditions of the local areas, the results of which will be disseminated to the farmers for application on their own land.





Moreover, with successful achievements and changes undertaken in the past years, several Royal Development Study Centres have turned into a touristic destination side by side a knowledge centre.

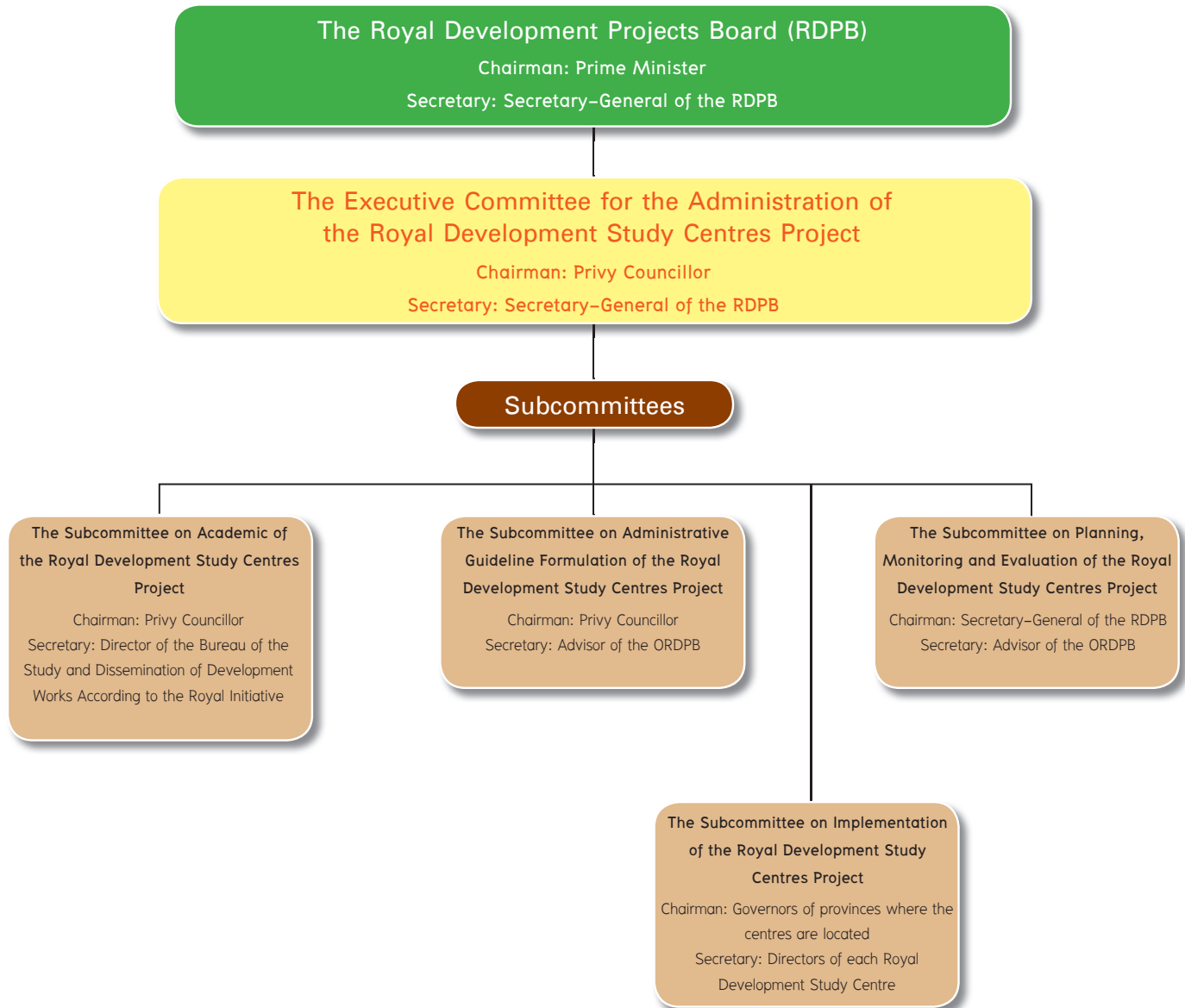
## Administration and Operation of the Royal Development Study Centres

In order to enable the administration and operation of the Royal Development Study Centres to comprehensively and effectively serve the royal initiatives in a unified and consistent manner, the Royal Development Projects Board agreed to dissolve all of the existing executive committees and subcommittees and replaced them with a new set of “**the Executive Committee for the Administration of the Royal Development Study Centres Projects**”.

The new executive committee is chaired by a Privy Councillor with two other councillors serving as vice chairmen. The members of the committee consist of the Secretary-General of RDPB, representatives from 19 agencies involved and governors of 6 provinces where the centres are located while the Deputy Secretary-General of RDPB serves as both a committee member and a secretary. The committee which has 32 members is assigned with the tasks to set the objectives, formulate the policies and shape the target of work implementation. They also set guidelines for operation, control, monitoring and



## The Administration Structure of the Royal Development Study Centres





facilitation of project implementation so as to be in accordance with the master plan and the royal initiatives. Moreover, the committee gives suggestions on solutions and obstacles in the operation. They also have the right to appoint any subcommittee or working teams for work implementation.



The six Royal Development Study Centres are similar in that they exist in order to conduct study, research and experimentation on the agricultural knowledge which can be applied by the farmers to upgrade their well-being. However, the centres are different in terms of the focus of study which varies according to the nature of the particular problems concerned. The details on the characteristics of each centre can be summarized as follows:



1. **Khao Hin Sorn Royal Development Study Centre** was founded on 8 August 1979, at Phanom Sarakham District in Chachoengsao Province. This area was formerly affected by forest encroachment, cultivation of corn and cassava, and erosion of topsoil caused by water and wind, all of which led to soil degradation. Hence, the centre focuses attention on conducting study, research and experimentation on land development to ensure its fertility by means of land and water sources development, forest rehabilitation as well as promotion of agricultural knowledge on the planning of crop cultivation and animal husbandry among the farmers in an attempt to increase production. The Land Development Department serves as the major coordinating agency. There are now 15 surrounding villages and two centre branches which are:



- **Ban Sang Development Service Centre, Ban Sang District, Prachin Buri Province:** conducting various agricultural activities such as rice cultivation and non-chemical vegetable cultivation, etc.
- **Cha-Ngok Mountain Area Development Project, Mueang District, Nakhon Nayok Province:** involving the comprehensive development project with model paddy fields and integrated farming plots for demonstrating among the farmers and the interested people.



2. Kung Krabaen Bay Royal Development Study Centre was founded on 28 December 1981, at Tha Mai District in Chanthaburi Province on the eastern coast of Thailand. Because this part of the coastal area was made up of saline soil and also faced the problem of the deterioration of the mangrove forest, the local people could not perform any fishery activities. Consequently, the centre focuses attention on conducting study and research on development and improvement of fishery and propagation of marine life in the coastal areas, together with integrated farming practice. The activities of the centre also include the development of the utilization and conservation of the coastal natural resources in an attempt to bring about ecological balance. The aim is to enable the farmers to increase their production for self-sufficiency in the long run. The Department of Fisheries takes care of the coordination work. Currently, there are 33 surrounding villages serving as models for other farmers in the neighbouring areas to improve their career and productivity of their lands.



3. Pikun Thong Royal Development Study Centre was founded on 6 January 1982, at Mueang District in Narathiwat Province. Formerly, the area in this region was made up of swamp land which contained poor quality acidic soil that could not be used for agriculture. Thus, the centre focuses attention on conducting study and research on peat soil and development of organic soil to ensure its optimal benefits in agriculture as well as promoting occupational development in several fields such as agriculture, animal husbandry and agro-industry which are suitable for the area. There is also the promotion of community participation to sustainably conserve and preserve the ecological system. These all are implemented with the aim of helping the farmers to become self-reliant.



The Land Development Department is the central agency for coordination. Currently there are 13 surrounding villages and four centre branches which are:





- The Para Rubber Plantation Project in the Area of Daksin Palace, Khao Tan Yong Village, Mueang District, Narathiwat Province: demonstrating cultivation of good rice variety and inter-crops on para rubber plantation.
- Pi-nae-mudor Village Development Project, Jor Ai Rong District, Narathiwat Province: demonstrating the effective utilization of land and water supply.
- Munoh Agricultural Livestock and Agricultural Village Project, Tak Bai District, Narathiwat Province: demonstrating land and water resources management in swampy areas for livestock and agriculture.
- Khok-It Khok-Nai and Yuyo Villages Areas Development Project, Tak Bai District, Narathiwat Province: improving acidic soil areas by applying the successful results of the study at the centre in the form of the “New Theory” farming practice and soil nourishing so that the soil would become usable.

#### 4. Puparn Royal Development Study

Centre was founded on 25 November 1982, at Ban Na Nok Khao, Huai Yang Subdistrict, Mueang District, Sakon Nakhon Province. The Northeastern part of Thailand always faces the problems of soil deterioration, water shortage,



forest encroachment in order to make a living, causing the destruction of the ecological system, as well as the lack of technical knowledge on agriculture. The centre, therefore, focuses attention on conducting study and research on various aspects of agricultural development as deemed appropriate to serve as examples for the people. The centre’s activities include development of forestry through irrigation system, cultivation of economic





crops which can increase the farmers' income, promotion of animal husbandry such as *Meishan* pig farming and local poultry farming, and integrated fish raising. The Royal Irrigation Department is responsible for coordination in the area. There are now 22 surrounding villages and three centre branches which are:

- **The Royal-initiated Upper Bang Sai River Basin Area Development Project, Dong Luang District, Mukdahan Province:** involving comprehensive area development in all aspects including agriculture, handicraft making, natural resources conservation and water sources development.

- **The Royal-initiated Kam River Basin Area Development Project, Sakon Nakhon and Nakhon Phanom Provinces:** solving the problems of the farmers living along the banks of Kam River, which are: flooding in agricultural areas during the rainy season and water shortage for supporting agricultural activities and consumption during the dry season.

- **Lam Payang Upper River Basin Area Development Project, Khao Wong District, Kalasin Province:** implementing study, experimentation and demonstration of agricultural development according to the “New Theory” farming practice in order for the farmers to see the results and be able to make a sustainable living.





5. **Huai Hong Khrai Royal Development Study Centre** was established on 11 December 1982, at Doi Saket District in Chiang Mai Province. Formerly, there had been severe deforestation which caused drought and forest fires. The centre, therefore, focuses attention on conducting study

and research on various development patterns such as forest development by cultivating three types of trees for four benefits, which are economic, fruit and firewood. Besides, there is also the fourth benefit, which is the conservation of soil and water to increase moisture. There is also the conservation of watershed areas by using water from the irrigation system, from rains and from check dams to maintain moisture as well as by establishing wet fire breaks. The study also emphasizes the use of various development patterns to enable farmers to rely on themselves without having to destroy the environment. The Royal Irrigation Department is the major coordinating agency. At present, there are 18 surrounding villages and six centre branches which are:

- **The Royal-initiated Fruit and Flower Propagation Development Service Centre Project at Rai Village, Hang Dong District, Chiang Mai Province:** involving occupational training and promotion for the local people by propagating and distributing flower and fruit trees.
- **The Royal-initiated Ping Sub-River Basin Integrated Development Project, Hod and Chom Thong Districts, Chiang Mai Province and Ban Hong District, Lamphun Province:** developing water sources and constructing check dams in watershed areas to nourish forests and supply water for agricultural activities and consumption.

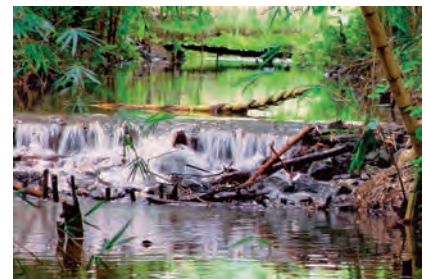


- **The Royal-initiated Khun Mae Kuang Forest Area Development Project, Doi Saket District, Chiang Mai Province:** demonstrating systematic management of water basin together with provision of land for the local people, and reforestation in the destroyed areas in an attempt to restore watersheds.

- **The Royal-initiated Huai Lan Area Development Project, San Kamphaeng District, Chiang Mai Province:** distributing water supply to agricultural areas and establishing forest and fishery stations.

- **Doi Tung (Implementation Site) Development Project, Mae Fa Luang District, Chiang Rai Province:** reviving the deteriorated areas and solving poverty and health problems of the local people, with an aim to reduce drug problem in the areas.

- **The Royal-initiated Mae Ao River Basin Area Development Project, Pa Sang District, Lamphun Province:** conserving the forests through preventative measures and forest fires control, replanting and restoring forests, promoting the planting of trees for timber to increase the farmers' incomes, and clearly marking the conserved forest zones within the project areas.



6. **Huai Sai Royal Development Study Centre**, established on 5 April 1983, is situated within the compound of Mrigadayavan Palace at Cha-am District in Phetchaburi Province. Formerly, this area was fertile. Then deforestation occurred, together with people practicing wrong agricultural methods which rely on the use of chemical substances. This caused adverse effects on soil and water. The topsoil was eroded and became no longer





productive, resulting in a rapid change in the area conditions. The centre thus focuses attention on conducting studies and research on methods to develop deteriorated forests, control forest fires by means of wet fire breaks, develop water sources to increase moisture in the area, conduct a study on agricultural development programme with the emphasis on means to seek participation from farmers in planting, rehabilitating and maintaining forests while at the same time obtaining income and benefits from them. In addition, the activities of the Centre include the raising and propagation of wildlife, in

particular hog deer, so that they could thrive in the forest as before. The Border Patrol Police Bureau of the Office of the Royal Thai Police plays the coordinating role in the area. At present, there are 29 surrounding villages and a centre branch which is:

- **The Royal-initiated Cha-ngum Mountain Deteriorated Soil Rehabilitation Project, Photharam District, Ratchaburi Province:** involving the soil development work with the method of reforestation without planting and utilization of vetiver grass to increase soil moisture.

## Achievements

The six Royal Development Study Centres, which been in operation for over 30 years, are similar in their work implementation, which can be divided into three phases as follows:







**First Phase:** The initial phase of the operation of the Royal Development Study Centres was characterized by construction of infrastructure such as roads, reservoirs, water distributing system, electricity and buildings to support study, research and experimentation. At this stage, the Royal Development Study Centres were not known among the farmers and the general public. However, according to the results of monitoring and evaluation by the Office of the Royal Development Projects Board, this phase created job opportunities for the farmers, especially those in the surrounding villages, enabling them to earn higher income and enjoy higher standard of living.



**Second Phase:** This is the period of study and experimentation conducted by officials from various agencies concerned according to their responsibilities; for example, soil improvement by the Land Development Department; cultivation of field and horticultural crops and rice cultivation by the Department of Agriculture; study and development of forestry by the Royal Forest Department; promotion of integrated farming by the Department of Agricultural Extension; animal husbandry by the Department of Livestock Development; raising of aquatic animals by the Department of Fisheries as well as occupational promotion works. As a result of the approach of drawing officials from different agencies to implement His Majesty's initiatives, these officials have the opportunity to train to coordinate and implement the work with efficiency. At the same time, the farmers living in the surrounding villages are hired to provide labour in the centres which enables them not only to earn extra income but also to acquire knowledge useful for both occupation and general aspects of everyday life.

**Third Phase:** This phase focuses on dissemination and promotion of the results of study, research and experimentation or the “**model of success**” in the centres among farmers to be applied to their occupations and everyday life. These results, which are proved to be effective, economical, simple and applicable became obvious since 1988 and are disseminated using the following methods:

1) On-site display. The farmers, the general public, as well as state authorities can always get access to the knowledge in the centres which is displayed in the demonstration plots in the form of a “**living natural museum**”. There are officials to brief on the projects and answer the questions posed by the visitors. Each centre provides “**comprehensive service**” or “**one-stop service**” in which the interested people can observe a variety of techniques and knowledge all at one time and in one place without a waste of time.

2) Training. Each centre organizes training courses on the agricultural knowledge suitable for the topographical and sociological conditions of the local areas. These courses involve both theory and practice and offer technical and practical sessions. Interested people can apply for whatever courses at any time. At present, the common training course organized at all the RDSCs is the New Theory farming practice.

3) Extension work. The officials concerned with the extension work or community development will disseminate the knowledge acquired through the study and experimentation among the farmers. Emphasis is placed on the needs of the farmers. The centres support the farmers in each aspect of whichever occupations they are interested, including academic knowledge, information and production resources. The farmers living in the surrounding villages of the centres and the nearby villages are the first group to benefit from the extension work.



These days, the RDSCs stress and give importance to the extension work by promoting the people’s occupations in a concrete fashion. During the past years, the achievements of the RDSCs in all of the three phases have attracted more than 14,000 trainees and almost 1,000,000 visitors, the numbers of which continue to rise. These people come from all sectors of the population, from all walks of life and from many different countries ranging from farmers, students, government officials to foreign visitors and royal guests. The achievements have been accepted by a wide range of target groups because the knowledge can be applied in their occupations and real life, thus helping to upgrade the well-being of the people and raising their economic status.



Moreover, the satisfactory results are recognized by people from other countries because they can be adapted and applied to the specific problems of certain countries, particularly those with the same topographical conditions as Thailand such as the Lao People’s Democratic Republic. In the Lao PDR, His Majesty the King of Thailand suggested the establishment of “Huai Sonn-Huai Soie Agricultural Development and Service Centre (km 22)” based on the pattern of the Royal Development Study Centres in Thailand. In addition, there are many other countries which adapt His Majesty’s initiatives to suit their conditions. This in turn helps spread the achievements of the centres to a wider range of people.



The Royal-initiated Laem Phak Bia Environmental Study, Research and Development Project, Phetchaburi Province

*“...Another important problem concerns the environment. The matter of pollution and garbage has been studied. Solutions are not difficult. There is technology to do the job. It can be done in Thailand. We can introduce the technology into Thailand from abroad, or foreign companies may be hired to do the work. I am thinking of doing so, but still have to find the location for this...”*



This royal speech gave rise to the “Royal-initiated Laem Phak Bia Environmental Study, Research and Development Project” in Phetchaburi Province. The aims of the project are to study and research the ways to dispose garbage and the means to treat polluted water while rehabilitating the environment. His Majesty is well aware that the environmental problems have provoked numerous impacts and have increasingly accumulated. The way of living of the people has been seriously affected by crises resulting from severe and rapid deterioration of the environment.



## Conclusion

For the 60 consecutive years of hard work since His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's accession to the throne, it is widely recognized that His Majesty has had a long vision and relentlessly devoted himself both intellectually and physically performing the royal duties to help develop and mitigate the trouble which the people of all sectors face. His Majesty has worked hard to collect both broad and in-depth information of all aspects from various sources such as documentation, maps and interviews with the local people and concerned officials. By traveling all over the country, no matter how remote and underdeveloped, His Majesty the King became aware of and profoundly understand every aspect of the topographical and sociological conditions of the country and the people.

From the collected information, His Majesty gives initiatives to the officials concerned to implement in the form of the “**Royal Development Projects**”. The purpose is to turn the people's plight into well-being and happiness.

With his foresight, His Majesty stresses that the development guidelines should proceed gradually according to necessity and targeting “**human resources**”. The aims



are for the people to “**have enough to live and to eat, and to be self-reliant**” Preliminarily, the royal development projects focused on the people’s health. His Majesty donated his private funds to construct a health care building, to acquire a boat to provide mobile medical service, to set up the mobile medical unit to offer treatment in the rural areas, to establish funds and foundations to provide assistance to the troubled people. This is because His Majesty realizes that human beings must be physically fit before being able to think and act as His Majesty stated:

*“...if people are in bad health, it is impossible for the country to be developed since the nation’s most important resource is human or the populace...”*

The ensuing projects were characterized by preparation of the infrastructure such as roads and water resources which are the important fundamental factors necessary for the people’s living, especially those engaged in agriculture, the main occupation of the rural people, as stated in his speech on 9 July 1964:

*“...our economy has traditionally been based upon agriculture. The national income which has contributed to creating prosperity to the country has been derived mainly from agricultural productivity. It can therefore be said that the nation’s prosperity relies to a large extent on ensuring the prosperity of agriculture...”*

However, his vision did not stop there. Once the facilities were well-established, His Majesty gave attention to the development and promotion of the people’s occupations. This is obvious in his initiative concerning the establishment of six Royal Development Study Centres in all the regions of Thailand. Each centre aims to serve as a site of study and experimentation for modern agricultural techniques consistent with the topographical and sociological conditions of the areas. He insists that the technology should be simple and inexpensive, and the results should be demonstrated in the form of a “**Living Natural Museum**”. Interested people can visit the centres at any time to acquire the knowledge and should apply the knowledge to enable themselves to become self-reliant in a sustainable manner.

In terms of development and conservation of the environment, His Majesty has continuously been interested in. This can be seen in His Majesty’s consideration regarding the significance of the



environment with all of his projects ranging from construction of roads, development of forests, development of water sources, to improvement of soil. He supports the concept of solving the problem by using nature to cure nature in order to promote the effective and sustainable use of the natural resources. The royal initiatives in this regard have contributed considerable benefits to mankind in the relief of the global warming problem.

In terms of social development, conservation and development of the environment are also taken into consideration by placing emphasis on the completion of the cycle of development involving both human being and the environment. For example, permanent communities are set up by allocating land to the farmers on which they can legally live and cultivate without having to destroy the forests for encroachment activities. There is also extension work to promote and offer occupational opportunities consistent with the sociological conditions of the areas and to bring together farmers in the form of cooperatives. In addition, various government agencies work together in an integrated manner in order to bring about sustainable development of man, society and the natural resources.

The achievements of the royal development projects place a significance on the development of “**human**” in order to enable people to have enough to live and to eat according to the philosophy of Sufficiency Economy. People are encouraged to become “**self-supporting**” in a secure manner based on the principles of “**sustainable development**”. The obvious evidence is people having a secure residence surrounded by improved communities and environmental conditions, engaging in occupations which offer an income enough for raising a family as well as enjoying a higher standard of living. The results have risen from His Majesty’s continuous dedication for the betterment of his people so much that he has been recognized as the “**Developer King**”. For his unceasing dedication to the improvement of the lives of his subjects, the Office of the Royal Development Projects Board humbly places His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand in the highest respect and wishes His Majesty a long life.



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