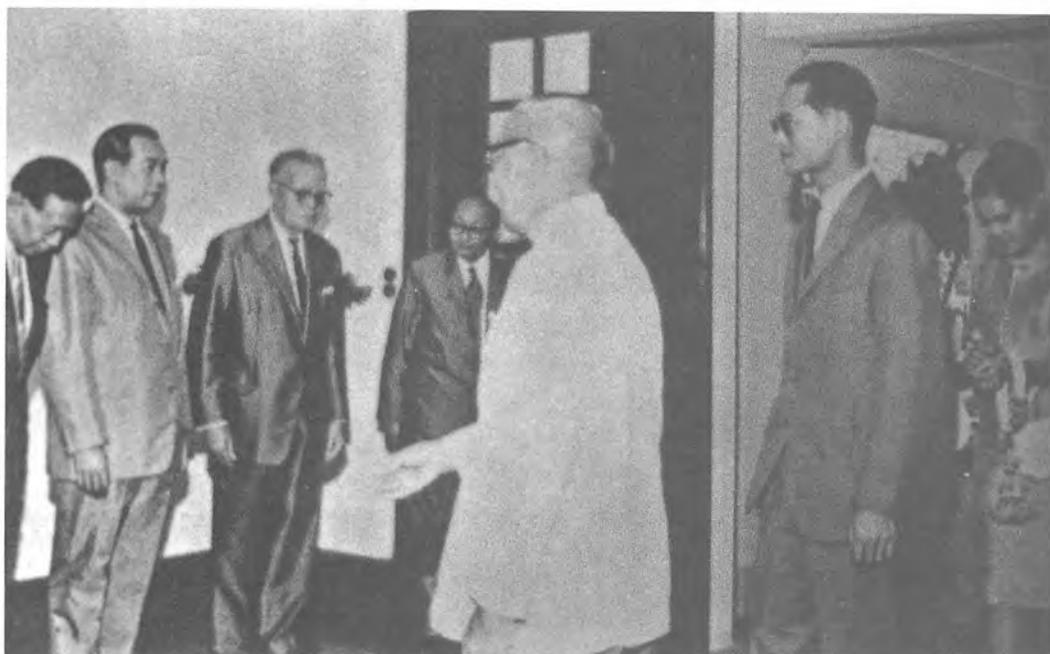


*A tribute to
His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej
on the completion of his sixth cycle*



Their Majesties the King and Queen visited the Siam Society for the 50th anniversary dinner on 10 March 1954

บรมราชาเคียรวาท

การทูลวิกรรทิตฉันท์

- ๑ คาบนี้ดลศุภวารมทวารสมัย
เกริกหล้าฉมาไทย ประเทศ
- ๑ เจ็ดสิบสองสิริชั้นษาพระอิเบศร
องค์ภูมิพลเกศ กษัตริย์
- ๑ ทวยไทยเทิดทศนัชและน้อมบวรอรรถ
ชัยมังคลาวัจน์ ถวาย
- ๑ แทบเบื่องบงกชบาทประกาศวจะและกาย
อีกทั้งมโนหมาย อุทิศ
- ๑ จงรักภักดีพระองค์พระทรงคุณะพิสิฐ
ตราบกาลจิงนิจ นิรันดร์
- ๑ ขอศรีไตรรัตนาและสาธุวสรรรพ์
เสกลสิทิตักดีอัน อุดม
- ๑ บันดาลดลจตุพิชมงคณนิยม
บรลสิทธีประสาทสม พระเจดน์
- ๑ จำเริญอายุพลึงและววรรณสุชะพิเศษ
เป็นมิงและขวัญเขต ไพท
- ๑ เป็นฉัตรทั้งศิระเกล้าประชานิกรใน
ไทยรัฐตลอดไป นิรันดร์
- ๑ เป็นดุดดวงสุริยาทิวากรสวรรค
สองหล้าศุภภาพรรณ พิไล
- ๑ เป็นหลักรัฐสมรรถก้อพละ ณ ใจ
ทวยราชฎรไทย สยาม
- ๑ ขอพากย์พร้องรุจิเรขประดุกุสุมงาม
อันเพียรพยายาม รจิต
- ๑ แทนความภักดี ณ ดวงหทัยชนสถิต
แหบบาทพระภูมิศร มิตลาย

ด้วยเกล้าด้วยกระหม่อม ขอเดชะ
ข้าพระพุทธเจ้า ศาสตราจารย์ ดร.ศักดิ์ศรี แย้มนัตดา
รจนาทูลเกล้าทูลกระหม่อมถวาย
ในนามสยามสมาคม

SELF-RELIANCE THEORY OF DEVELOPMENT*

One of His Majesty's most important Royal Initiatives is to enable the farmers to become self-sufficient. Activities carried out in many locales and provinces share the goal of building self-sufficiency.

In many vocational and agricultural development activities designed to help Thai farmers, His Majesty's demonstrations in social and community development are like footprints in which the people can follow assuredly. One of His Majesty's principles in community development is to "help develop rural self-sufficiency."

The increased ability of rural farmers to be self-reliant is a result of many of His Majesty's Rural Initiatives.

His Majesty's Methodology

- 1 Do not tell the people how to act because this may well not help them to be self-reliant. As His Majesty has observed,

"Advising is not ordering but presenting the theory of the activity for people to hear and to consider. If they like it they will do it but if not then never mind."

- 2 Stress self-reliance and self-sufficiency. His Majesty acts to motivate farmers to see the way to solve their own problems and to be self-sufficient without compulsion. Looking for ways to introduce cooperation by outside agencies is only a last resort. As His Majesty has observed:

"All people, whether city folk or rural folk, with much or little education have a free will. Their thoughts and satisfactions are their own. People do not like to be forced. In addition, they have

their own ways and customs and act in their own unique ways."

- 3 Stress people's participation. This important principle for Royal initiatives has been long emphasised by His Majesty in project implementation. On 31 December 1958, His Majesty spoke on this subject to the Thai people:

"Duties in successful administration include loving one's country, personal honesty, and harmonious cooperation of all the country's people. We hope that you will all try to make your contribution with a pure heart for the common good. This will lead to a people full of happiness which is the ultimate goal of us all."

- 4 Use democratic principles. When visiting rural people, His Majesty hears of the difficulties they face, such as in implementing Royal Initiatives. If the responsible officials cite technical difficulties, His Majesty listens impartially. If the officials who are in agreement feel that results might not be worth the money invested, His Majesty suggests changes to the project. This philosophy is shown clearly in his address at a Development Study Centre.

"This is a place where development workers can do what is called 'experimentation'. When this experimentation has been completed, others who are not specialists in that field can learn how they work and what they do."

* *Concepts and Theories of His Majesty the King on Development*. 1997. Bangkok: Royal Projects Development Board, et al. pp. 252-259.

His Majesty later added:

“Therefore, if anything fails at these Development Study centres, there will be no punishment. We will just learn that this activity is not productive”.

The above statements go to the heart of His Majesty’s philosophy. He listens and considers impartially in all of his activities.

- 5 Act in a locally-appropriate way. Projects should be environmentally, geographically, and culturally sensitive for every region of the country. Doing so accords with His Majesty’s guideline that abrupt changes can seriously affect values or endanger familiar ways of making a living by the local people. In His Majesty’s words:

Development must meet with local geographical conditions and local cultural conditions. Local cultural 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”.

- 6 Revitalise the community by building a structure based on essential production principles which lead to long term self-sufficiency. One such structure is water sources because they enable farmers mainly dependant on rainfed agriculture to produce crops the entire year. By so enabling the people to grow crops to live on the whole year, the community can get on its feet so that other basic projects can be implemented. Then, in a step by step process, they will be able to raise their standard of living, such as through building transportation routes. This gradual process of entering into dealings with the outside world can be called “an explosion from within”. On this, His Majesty said the following:

“National development must go in stages. The basics must first be provided, that is, having enough, enough to eat and to use, for the majority

of the people. Ways and materials that, although inexpensive, must be used in a technically correct fashion. Once the basics are in place, the standard of living can be increased higher and higher”.

The development method of building self-sufficiency to which His Majesty refers moves slowly but surely. Development should not be rushed because damage may result. His Majesty referred to this in a speech to Chulalongkorn University students on 11 July 1980.

“In creating prosperity, you should above all work slowly and cautiously. Work, check your work, and then correct it. Do not hurry out of a hunger to build something new for the sake of novelty. There is in fact nothing really new. Everything new arises out of the old and will itself become old later on”.

His Majesty spoke on the same topic to the graduates of Thammasat University on 26 July 1984, as follows:

“When the basics are firmly in place, more development work can be done. Do your work and then correct it, continually.”

- 7 Provide means to obtain and create information for rural people. His Majesty stresses that people should know more about making a living, such as through appropriate agricultural technology. His Majesty notes that rural people must have “examples of success” to be self-sufficient. He wants rural people to see and to learn about success stories. Then they can be spread throughout the country so that the people can observe examples of modern technology themselves. His Majesty made these remarks on this topic:

“Using modern technology, in theory, should yield productive results in terms of efficiency, economizing, and labour use. However, other aspects should be considered. In our country, problems can arise when farmers and labourers use technology on a large or sophisticated scale to make a living. These can include high investment requirements, unnecessary waste, or

serious unemployment. The results do not meet the established goals and are unacceptable over the long-term. Technology must be used cautiously and at an appropriate level for conditions in our country so that the people can make a living effectively and truly economically”.

- 8 Introduce appropriate agricultural technology for rural people to use systematically. The aim should be to introduce technological methods similar to what the people are using to produce their food so that this technology can be adopted and used effectively.

In doing this, His Majesty selects many different technological methods to achieve his goals. Of these, here are some examples.

- a Organizing groups to solve problems of rural communities is an important basis for developing self-reliance. Cooperatives, for example, have been organised in all the areas His Majesty visits. Projects arising out of these initiatives stress the need to motivate group organisation. Such groups facilitate solving community problems through joint action or enable the community to make a better living. Many successful cooperatives in Royal Initiatives have had their start in small-scale people’s groups. One such case is the Hup Krapong Cooperative which evolved out of a little vegetable growers community there.
- b Helping motivate community leaders to be development leaders is another of His Majesty’s methods. As appropriate, community leaders are selected because of their high ethical standards, their morality, compassion, and devotion to the local area. Through the practice of

mutual support, a characteristic of Thai society, leaders of sufficient means are motivated to help create projects in ways that the poorer neighbours can participate. In the end, this benefits the entire community. As His Majesty has stated:

“In doing all this work, everybody must be truly determined, energetic, diligent, empathetic, obliging, kind, and seeing the best in each other. Be fair and ethical as well as honest in thought and action. Make the common good and mutual security your foremost goal”.

- c Promoting the development of self-reliance must be done step by step. Progress does not come out of hurried actions. An important theme in His Majesty’s speeches is that communities must first achieve self-sufficiency in food production. Then other development work can be implemented such as producing food crops for commercial sales. His Majesty has spoken on the needs for marketing goods, particularly about the basic knowledge needed for doing simple agricultural business accounting. His Majesty gave a talk to the Royal Development Projects Board on 26 August 1988 at Sala Dusidalai, observing that:

“There is one area never considered in development, namely how village officials do the accounts regarding crop cultivation. If, after villagers grow crops and sell some for income, and use that income to buy necessities and goods for their making a living — this is an area about which nothing has been studied. After production and after sales, in the accounting of the income that must follow, villagers sometimes cannot do it so accurately”.

