

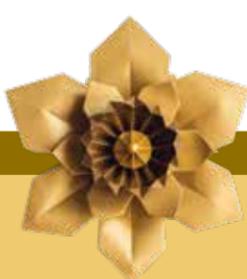


His Majesty Phra Bat Somdech Phra Paramindra
Maha Bhumibol Adulyadej Borommanathbobitra
at the Royal Crematorium, Sanam Luang Grounds
25th - 29th of October 2017



“My place in this world is being
among my people, that is,
all the Thai people.”





Royal Biography of the Great King

Born on Monday the 5th of December 1927 in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, HRH Phra Ong Chao Bhumibol Adulyadej was the youngest of three children of HRH Prince Mahidol of Songkla and his wife Mom Sangwal, later bestowed to be HRH Princess Srinagarindra, the Princess Mother. HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej was educated at Mater Dei School, Bangkok and continued his studies in Switzerland and eventually enrolled in the Faculty of Science at Lausanne University. But after ascending the throne following his brother, he decided to change his studies to political science and law, to equip himself with the knowledge he deemed necessary and appropriate for his role as Head of State.

His Majesty succeeded to the throne on Sunday the 9th of June 1946 according to the Law of Succession, becoming the 9th King of the Chakri Dynasty.

After completing his studies in Switzerland, His Majesty returned to Thailand where, on Friday the 28th of April 1950, he married Mom Rajawongse Sirikit Kitiyakara, who then was elevated to be Her Majesty Queen Sirikit.

Following traditional court practice, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej was crowned on Friday the 5th of May 1950, when he gave his first oath of accession, "We shall reign with righteousness for the benefit, and happiness of the Siamese people."

Their Majesties King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Queen Sirikit have 4 issue : Princess Ubolratana

His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Bordindradebayavarangkun

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn

His Majesty entered the monkhood from Monday the 13th of October to Monday the 5th of November 1956 according to Thai tradition. He was ordained at the Chapel Royal of the Grand Palace (the Temple of the Emerald Buddha) given the monastic name of "Bhumibalo Bhikku", and resided in Wat Bovornives.

His Majesty passed away on Thursday the 13th of October 2016 at the age of 89, having reigned for 70 years, the longest reign in Thai history.

Head of State

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej Borommanath-bobitra ascended the throne not long after World War II. Strengthening relations between Thailand and other nations in the international community was considered crucial. As Head of State, His Majesty accompanied by Her Majesty the Queen paid 31 state and official visits to countries in Asia, Europe, North America and Australia, between 1959 and 1967, including an extended visit to the United States of America and 13 European countries for 7 months in 1960. As His Majesty noted in a speech before departing on the extended journey:

"This foreign trip is in fact a state affair, part of the performance of my duties as the Head of State. . . . I shall convey to the peoples of those countries the Thai people's goodwill toward them, and I shall give my utmost effort to make Thailand known to them, and to create goodwill in them toward the Thai people."

These visits not only enhanced the close political, social and economic ties with those countries, but also provided His Majesty with the opportunity to view a number of new technologies which he later applied and adapted for the development of the country in the years to come.



Royal Projects to Assist His Subjects

From His Majesty's permanent return to Thailand in 1951 until the last days of his life, despite his illness, His Majesty tirelessly worked to help the Thai people. Through a combination of his own initiatives and expanding government programs to reach even the most remote areas of the country, His Majesty sought to improve the lives of the poor and underprivileged. For most of the population, still dependent on agriculture, His Majesty saw that sufficient water supply was critical to improving their lives. His Majesty, usually accompanied by Her Majesty the Queen, travelled through all terrains and conditions, even into conflict zones, often going by foot where there were no roads.

His Majesty worked to solve the people's problems in a broad range of fields: applying simple, practical solutions to agriculture, health, education, communications, water and soil management, rain making, energy supply, etc. Often using personal funds, His Majesty would study, test, and analyse an innovation before introducing it for farmers or others to use. Over the course of his reign, His Majesty initiated over 5,000 royal projects, many under the Coordinating Committee for Royal Development Projects, others through the Royal Project Foundation, the Chaipattana Foundation, and various government agencies. Based on his decades of experimentation and experience, His Majesty formulated the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and the New Theory of Agriculture. The success of his efforts has led many other countries to adopt His Majesty's approach and development model to solve poverty and environmental degradation and help people become self-reliant, taking practical steps that are appropriate to the social, economic, and geographical conditions of their locality.

Royal Initiatives towards Sustainable Development

Long before it became prevailing international practice, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej considered environmental sustainability to be at the heart of development. His royal initiatives linked forest regeneration with water supply and soil improvement, and these with agriculture and fisheries development. The cycle of water management, from erosion control and water conservation in the uplands, to water supply for rice and other lowland agriculture, and the replenishment of the coastal mangroves and ocean resources, were central to the nation's development. His Majesty saw that sustainable management of resources led to self-sufficiency, for individual farmers, as well as for the stable and continued economic and social development of the country.

"They say that a kingdom is like a pyramid: the king on top and the people below. But in this country it's upside down." (From an interview by His Majesty in 1982 for the National Geographic Magazine)

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej worked tirelessly to alleviate hardship and promote a better quality of life for all Thai citizens. He introduced appropriate technologies, using local materials and resources, practical and not costly, adaptable to a variety of environments and conditions, whether in Thailand or overseas. Several of his inventions have received international patents. His Majesty applied his development principles at the Royal Development Study Centres located in all the regions of the country, so people can learn by observing practical demonstrations and adapt whatever they find useful.

Worldwide Renown

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's works, his innovations and expertise, have been recognised not just in Thailand, but also throughout the world, honoured for his work and talent in the arts and music, in managing water and other natural resources, in education, science, and innovation.

His agricultural and other economic and social development work has been recognised internationally, as early as 1969 with the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award, and since then with the UNESCO Philae Medal, the UNEP Gold Medal of Distinction, the WHO Health-for-All Gold Medal, the FAO Agricola Medal, the International Rice Award Medal of IRRI, the UNDP Human Development Lifetime Achievement Award, the first Dr. Norman E. Borlaug Medallion by the World Food Programme, and the first recipient of the United Nations' Human Development Lifetime Achievement Award, among others.

The year 2006 was celebrated in Thailand as the 60th anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol's accession to the throne. The climax of this auspicious occasion was the gathering of royal guests from monarchies throughout the world, who came to join in the celebrations and express their best wishes to His Majesty. As representative of the royal guests gathered for the events, His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam addressed the royal banquet on the 13th June 2006, and noted that

"All these achievements have now been recognised by the international community. And we offer you our warmest congratulations on the Lifetime Achievement Award that has been conferred by the United Nations. Your Majesty, in recognising all these accomplishments some accounts of your reign have accorded you the title "The Great". We can all understand why. But for us who have come to honour you here, a simpler title expresses our feelings. It is a dear and very special title. "You are Our Friend and Our Most Respected colleague." You inspire us all and we, Your Majesty's peers and admirers, honour you most deeply for this."

Royal Funeral Ceremony

According to traditional Thai Buddhist cosmology described in the *Traiphum Phra Ruang* (or the Three Worlds – earth, heaven, and hell – of King Ruang) from the Sukhothai Era, Mount Meru stands at the centre of the universe. In Thai tradition, the king is both a *Dhammaraja*, or righteous king, according to Buddhist precepts, and a *Devaraja*, or divine king, an earthly incarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu as well as the gods Shiva and Brahma, and has descended from Mount Meru to protect and save the people from evil deeds.

The term used in Thai when a monarch or other high noble dies is "sawannakhot" which means "returns to heaven", and the royal funeral ceremony is an elaborate ritual Bhrama symbolising this return to the heaven above Mount Meru. The royal body is ceremoniously encased in a gold royal urn and placed in the Dusit Maha Prasat Hall inside the Grand Palace for further Buddhist rites. The "Phra Meru Mas" (or Golden Mount Meru) is constructed on the Sanam Luang, or Royal Ground, for the royal cremation. The funeral pyre is located inside the structure. Prior to the cremation, an elaborate chariot carries the gold funeral urn in a solemn procession around the Grand Palace to the Phra Meru Mas to be enclosed in a carved sandal wood urn for cremation. After the funeral, the Phra Meru Mas is dismantled, and its parts donated to temples or other charitable organisations.

Graceful Spired Phra Meru Mas

The Phra Meru Mas for His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej is built in the *Busabok* Thai architectural style. Traditionally the structures were made entirely of wood, some up to 80 to 100 meters in height. Today, steel structures replace much of the wood. The elaborate royal crematorium for His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej consists of 9 *Busaboks*, the tallest in the centre raised on a three-tiered square-shaped base with a staircase on each of the four sides, and known as the "Phra Meru Mas Kao Yod" (Nine-Spired Mount Meru). The nine spires also symbolise His Majesty as the 9th monarch in the Chakri Dynasty. Numerous artisans worked to decorate the structure according to Buddhist cosmology. Water gardens in the four corners represent the cosmic ocean around Mount Meru, and statues and paintings represent the divine beings in the surrounding lands. Included in the artwork and landscape are reminders of His Majesty's many works for the people, depicting dams, irrigation, and farms, as well as many other projects. Countless people have volunteered to join the royal funeral preparations, a testament to their love and devotion to their late monarch.

Other structures in the crematorium compound include a large main pavilion called the Phra Thinang Song Dhamma (royal pavilion to carry out Dhamma), where the royal family performs all the rituals for the funeral ceremony, and the Sala Luk Khun and Thap Kaset pavilions where members of the royal family and royal descendants, members of the diplomatic corps, high-ranking civil servants, representatives of the major religions practiced in Thailand, as well as members of the royal entourage are seated. Space is also set aside outside the crematorium compound for members of the general public, travelling from all corners of the country, to attend the royal cremation. Their beloved king and his kindness will be remembered forever.

Program for the Royal Funeral Ceremony of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej

Wednesday, the 25th of October 2017

17.00 Religious rites at the Dusit Maha Prasad Hall prior to leaving for the Phra Meru Mas

Attire: Full dress uniform with mourning band and sash: Order of the Crown of Thailand

Thursday, the 26th of October 2017

07.00 Procession to move the royal funerary urn to the royal crematorium at Sanam Luang Grounds

16.30 Royal Cremation Ceremony
Attire: Full dress uniform with mourning band and sash: Order of the Royal House of Chakri or Order of the White Elephant

22.00 Cremation
Attire: White Uniform with mourning band

Friday, the 27th of October 2017

08.00 Collection of the bone relics. Procession taking the reliquary urns and Pha-ob containing the royal ashes to the Grand Palace

Attire: Full dress uniform with mourning band and sash: Order of Chula Chom Klao

Saturday, the 28th of October 2017

17.30 Merit making ceremony for the royal bone relics at the Dusit Maha Prasad Hall
Attire: Full dress uniform with sash: Order of the Royal House of Chakri or Order of the White Elephant

Sunday, the 29th of October 2017

10.30 Offering of meal to monks at the Dusit Maha Prasad Hall. Enshrine the royal reliquary urn in the Phra Vimarn of the Chakri Maha Prasad Throne Hall

17.30 Transferring of the royal ashes to be kept at Wat Rajabopitra and Wat Bovornives
Attire: Full dress uniform with sash: Order of Chula Chom Klao

