



His Majesty King Vajiravudh
The Great Monarch Elevating Thailand
to a Civilized Nation

จงรักภักดี

“Love the King and honor Him with all your heart.

Love the Country and do your duties right from the start.

Love Buddhism and the three jewels; and your integrity the same.

Love and maintain your dignity; the world will glorify your name.”



His Majesty King Vajiravudh composed the poem *Siammanusti*
on Saturday April 27, 1918 at Chitralada Villa Royal Residence
for volunteer soldiers joining World War I in Europe.



**His Majesty King Vajiravudh
The Great Monarch Elevating Thailand
to a Civilized Nation**



Biography of
His Majesty King Vajiravudh

On the Occasion Their Majesty the King and Queen Presided over the Inauguration
Ceremony of the Statue of His Majesty King Vajiravudh
at SCG's Head Office in Bang Sue District, Bangkok
Sunday March 20, 2022





His Majesty King Vajiravudh

The Great Monarch Elevating Thailand to a Civilized Nation

Published by

SCG

First published: May, 2022

1,700 copies

National Library of Thailand Cataloging in Publication Data

*His Majesty King Vajiravudh: The Great Monarch Elevating
Thailand to a Civilized Nation.* Bangkok: SCG, 2022. 196 pages.

1. His Majesty King Vajiravudh I. Title

923.1593

ISBN 978-616-91929-1-6

Consultants

Professor Emeritus Kasem Watanachai, M.D.

Thanphuying Putrie Viravaidya

Mr. Churporn Rangavara

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chachapon Jayaphorn

หน่วยราชการในพระองค์ ๙๐๔



ที่ พว.๐๒๐๒.๒/๑๔๗๕๐

สำนักพระราชวัง
พระที่นั่งอัมพรสถาน เขตดุสิต
กรุงเทพฯ ๑๐๓๐๐

๒ พฤศจิกายน ๒๕๖๔

เรื่อง ขอพระราชทานพระบรมราชานุญาตเชิญพระบรมฉายาลักษณ์ ภาพพระราชกรณียกิจ พระปรมาภิไธยวชิราวุธ ปรี ตรีปาปะเจ้าพระองค์ พระราชหัตถเลขา บทพระราชนิพนธ์ และพระบรมราชโองการ

เรียน กรรมการผู้จัดการใหญ่บริษัทปูนซิเมนต์ไทย จำกัด (มหาชน)

อ้างถึง หนังสือ บริษัทปูนซิเมนต์ไทย จำกัด (มหาชน) ที่ น.ลป. ๑๗๐/๒๕๖๔ ลงวันที่ ๒๐ ตุลาคม ๒๕๖๔

ตามหนังสือที่อ้างถึง บริษัทปูนซิเมนต์ไทย จำกัด (มหาชน) ขอพระราชทานพระบรมราชานุญาตเชิญ ภาพพระราชกรณียกิจของพระบาทสมเด็จพระจุลจอมเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว พระบรมฉายาลักษณ์ ภาพพระราชกรณียกิจ พระปรมาภิไธยวชิราวุธ ปรี ตรีปาปะเจ้าพระองค์ พระราชหัตถเลขา บทพระราชนิพนธ์ และพระบรมราชโองการ ของพระบาทสมเด็จพระมงกุฎเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว ไปพิมพ์ในหนังสือ "พระบาทสมเด็จพระมงกุฎเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว พระผู้ทรงนำไทยสู่ความเป็นอารยะ" จำนวน ๑,๐๐๐ เล่ม เพื่อมอบเป็นที่ระลึกในพิธีเปิดพระบรมราชานุสาวรีย์ พระบาทสมเด็จพระมงกุฎเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว ณ บริษัทปูนซิเมนต์ไทย จำกัด (มหาชน) เขตบางซื่อ กรุงเทพมหานคร ความละเอียดแจ้งแล้ว นั้น

ได้มีความกราบบังคมทูลพระกรุณาทูลเกล้าทูลกระหม่อมขอขงจุฬีพระบาทแล้ว พระราชทานพระบรมราชานุญาต ตามที่ขอพระมหากรุณา

จึงเรียนมาเพื่อทราบ

ขอแสดงความนับถือ

พลอากาศเอก

(ลลิตย์พงษ์ สุขวิมล)

ราชเลขานุการในพระองค์พระบาทสมเด็จพระเจ้าอยู่หัว

กองพระราชภารกิจในพระองค์ ๙๐๔

กรมมหาดเล็ก ๙๐๔

โทร. ๐ ๒๓๕๖ ๐๘๑๐, ๐ ๒๓๕๖ ๐๘๔๔

โทรสาร ๐ ๒๓๕๖ ๐๘๑๑

The Permission Request Letter for the Publication
of His Majesty King Vajiravudh's Biography, Portraits,
and Photographs of the Royal Activities

Contents

The Construction of the Statue of His Majesty King Vajiravudh	8
A Commemorative Book of Gratitude	23
Forward	27
Brief Biography of His Majesty King Vajiravudh	31
Economic Development and Accumulation of Capital	34
• Water Management for Agriculture, the Backbone of the Thai Economy	38
• Promoting Access to Finance for People’s Better Lives	39
• Promoting People’s Saving Habit for the Future	40
• Saving a Thai Bank from Crisis with the Focus on Thai People’s Interest	42
• Conducting Research to Add Value to Domestic Resources to Achieve Sustainable Economy	44
• Planning with Data and Statistics to Elevate the Thai Economy	45
• Developing Transport and Communications to Connect the Kingdom	46
• Establishment of a Large-scale Industrial Enterprise to Enhance the Potential of the Thai People	49
Developing a Generation of Competent and Ethical People to Help Drive the Country toward Prosperity	59
• Developing Institutions of Higher Education to Propel the Country’s Development	63
• Promoting Vocational Education to Create Careers and Develop the Nation	68
• Building Schools instead of a Royal Monastery	69
• Promoting Elementary Education among Thai Youths	74
• Setting up Prachaban Schools to Promote Education Nationwide	76
• The Promotion of the Private School Act to Administer Private Schools	77
• Creating the Wild Tiger Corps to Build a New Generation of People to Defend the Nation	79
• Founding of Scouting to Nurture a New Generation of Young People with Discipline and Social Contribution	83

Developing Society to Achieve Sustainability to Rival the Modern Nations of the World	87
• Establishment of King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital	91
• Setting up the Queen Saovabha Memorial Institute	94
• Expanding Healthcare Services to Vajira Hospital	95
• Laying Foundation for Democracy	97
• Glorifying Thai Culture, Integrating Western Culture, and Inculcating Values into Thai Society	101
• Cultural Heritages That Pass on till This day	106
Strengthening National Security and Creating International Recognition	113
• Organizing Military Force for Defense of the Nation	116
• Strengthening Thai Navy	118
• Establishment of the Royal Thai Air Force	120
• Building a Place to Serve as a Stronghold for National Defense	122
• Leading Thailand to Join the League of Civilized Nations	126
• Ingenious Policy in Holding Two Coronation Ceremonies	128
• Entering World War I	129
• Support for the Durham Light Infantry Regiment	132
• Gradual Revisions of Unequal Treaties in International Law	134
Epilogue	137
• Milestone Events in the Life and Reign of His Majesty King Vajiravudh	141
• From His Majesty’s Forward-looking Vision in the Early Days to Become SCG, a Leading Conglomerate in ASEAN Committed to Driving Innovation for Tomorrow	173
• CPAC Ultra Crete Solution: Innovative High-performance Technology for the Construction of the Concrete Bridge and Commemorative Statue Plaza	188



The Construction of the Statue of His Majesty King Vajiravudh
Founder of Siam Cement Co., Ltd,
which later became
Siam Cement Public Company Limited (SCG)

His Majesty King Vajiravudh decreed the establishment of Siam Cement Co.,Ltd, Thailand's first cement manufacturer, in 1913. Since its founding, the Company has grown continually and contributed to the country's development as per the intention of its founding father. Today, SCG has evolved into one of ASEAN's leading conglomerates.

To epitomize a sense of gratitude of SCG employees toward His Majesty and to commemorate the King's dedication to the national development, SCG has requested a royal permission to build a statue of His Majesty King Vajiravudh as well as commemorative plaza to be used for ceremonies and activities in tribute to His Majesty at the premise of SCG Head Office. Not only does the location elevate the grandeur of the royal statue, it also provides easy public access for people coming to pay tribute to the statue.

The royal statue is enshrined among the three buildings in the complex, which is the spiritual center of all SCG staff. It serves as a background augmenting the splendor of the statue, which faces SCG's main entrance and the Bang Sue Grand Station, a major rail hub in Southeast Asia, with the eyes filled with kindness just as the royal benevolence His Majesty had always bestowed upon Thai people.

The Statue of His Majesty King Vajiravudh enshrined at SCG is in Regal Vestments, wearing the Great Crown of Victory and seated on the Budtan Kanchana Singhasana Throne, the first seated statue of King Vajiravudh in Thailand. The statue was sculpted and molded by master artists from Office of Traditional Arts, the Fine Arts Department under close supervision and guidance of experts in every step of sculpting and molding to ascertain that the royal statue was meticulously and exquisitely built to honor His Majesty. The process started in late 2019, and His Majesty the King graciously officiated the unveiling of the royal statue.

✦ Schedule ✦

**Their Majesties the King and Queen preside over
the ceremonial unveiling of a statue of His Majesty King Vajiravudh**

at SCG's Head Office in Bang Sue District, Bangkok

Sunday March 20, 2022

.....

His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen arrive at SCG with the Company's Board of Directors, management, and employees in attendance to pay homage to Their Majesties.

- † Their Majesties proceed to the pavilion and light candles and joss sticks to worship the Triple Gems.
- † SCG's Directors present programs to Their Majesties the King and Queen.
- † Mr. Roongrote Rangsiyopash, SCG's President & CEO, reports on the objectives of building the statue of His Majesty King Vajiravudh and invites His Majesty the King to officiate the unveiling of the royal statue.
- † His Majesty the King proceeds to the Commemorative Statue Plaza.
- His Majesty pushes a button to unveil the statue.
- His Majesty sprays holy water and anoints an inscription at the pedestal.
- His Majesty places flower trays and lights royal ceremonial items.
- † Her Majesty the Queen places flower trays and lights royal ceremonial items.
- † Their Majesties return to the pavilion to perform religious rites which includes the offering of alms and necessities to monks.
- † Mr. Roongrote Rangsiyopash calls upon 30 persons to receive a memento from His Majesty.
- † SCG's Directors present gifts to Their Majesties.
- † Their Majesties proceed to pay homage to a Buddha image and bid farewell to the monks.
- † Their Majesties proceed to each plant a queen's crape myrtle tree.
- † Their Majesties lay homage-paying flower garlands in front of a portrait of King Vajiravudh at the hall of SCG's 100th Year Building.
- † Their Majesties view a video on the founding of SCG as well as an exhibition of SCG's innovative products, services, solutions, and socially-beneficial activities.
- † Their Majesties sign the visitor's book.
- † Their Majesties take a group photo with SCG's Board of Directors and management.
- † Their Majesties depart for the Amporn Sathan Residential Hall at Dusit Palace.

The Ceremonial Unveiling of a Statue of His Majesty King Vajiravudh

.....

Their Majesties the King and Queen graciously presided over the ceremonial unveiling of a statue of His Majesty King Vajiravudh at SCG on Sunday March 20, 2022 at 18:19 hours with Somdet Phra Ariyavongsagatanana, the Supreme Patriarch, officiating at the religious ceremonies.

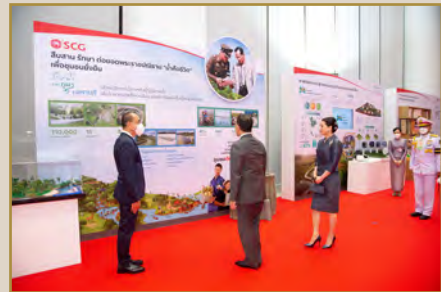














Sculptor of the Statue

Mr. Paradorn Cherdchoo

Sculptor, Senior Professional Level

The Office of Traditional Arts of the Fine Arts Department

Sculptors of Decorative Motifs on the Throne and Flower Trays

1. Mr. Puttipong Charoensuksai

The Office of Traditional Arts of the Fine Arts Department

2. Mr. Nakharin Srimek

The Office of Traditional Arts of the Fine Arts Department

3. Mr. Kasemsan Kumya

Volunteer

Consultant for Statue Pedestal Design

Mr. Wongkwan Uttama

Department of Fine Arts

Moldmaker

Mr. Thanaporn Nardwanitchayakul

Managing Director of Doosabuy Art Company Limited

Founder

Mr. Somboon Bangkhan

Managing Director of Somboon Fineart Company Limited

Consultants

1. Mr. Chin Prasong

National Artist for Visual Arts

2. Mr. Somkuan Oumtrakul

Former Director of the Office of Traditional Arts

3. Mr. Somchai Suppalakumphaiporn

Former Senior Art Technician

4. Mr. Prasopsuk Ratmai

Chief of the Sculpture Unit at the Office of Traditional Arts

**Ceremonial Transportation of a Statue of
His Majesty King Vajiravudh
to SCG's Head Office in Bang Sue District**

.....

Mr. Roongrote Rangsiyopash, SCG's President & CEO, together with Mr. Cholanat Yanaranop, Director, presided over the ceremonial transportation of a statue of His Majesty King Vajiravudh to SCG's Head Office in Bang Sue District on Friday November 19, 2021. SCG employees were in attendance.



Ceremonial Installation of a Statue of His Majesty King Vajiravudh on the Pedestal

.....

Air Chief Marshal Satitpong Sukvimol, Private Secretary to His Majesty the King, presided over the ceremonial installation of a statue of His Majesty King Vajiravudh. Somdet Phra Ariyavongsaganana, the Supreme Patriarch, officiated at a religious ceremony, while Phra Maha Raja Guru Bidhi Sri Visudhigun, the Chief of the Royal Brahmin, performed Brahmin rites. Also present at the ceremony held on Saturday November 20, 2021 were SCG's Board of Directors, management, and employees.



Ceremony paying homage to His Majesty King Vajiravudh on King Vajiravudh Memorial Day

.....

Mr. Roongrote Rangsiyopash, SCG's President & CEO, presided over a ceremony paying homage to His Majesty King Vajiravudh and laid flower garlands as a tribute before the statue of His Majesty King Vajiravudh on King Vajiravudh Memorial Day (falling on November 25 each year) to commemorate the passing of the sixth monarch under the Chakri dynasty. SCG's Board of Directors, management, and employees were also present at the ceremony held at SCG's Head Office in Bang Sue District.





A Commemorative Book of Gratitude: The Purpose of Publication

Siam Cement Public Company Limited (SCG) has been granted royal permission to construct a statue of King Vajiravudh to commemorate His Majesty the King and to symbolize the gratitude of us all at SCG for His Majesty's establishment of Siam Cement in 1913.

To extol the King's ingenuity and intuition as well as commemorate His Majesty's divine grace for his diligence and dedication to reforming the country throughout his reign, it is of great importance that his works that helped shape and transform Thailand in achieving modernity and prosperity, empowering the country to take its place among the modern nations of the world be compiled from various reliable sources. His Majesty's unparalleled intuition left a legacy of reforms that even today have continued to profoundly benefit the Thai people. The purpose of publication also extends to praising His Majesty as our role model and following in the royal footsteps in contributing to society and the nation as a whole. The book also incorporates information on the various efforts taken by SCG to build on His Majesty's intention to develop the country since its founding and up to the present day.

King Vajiravudh had shown a strong determination and willpower to elevate Thailand to the next league of modern nations with pride and dignity in the international arena. His Majesty resolved to propel the country to achieve social, economic, and political stability and, most importantly, enable each and every Thai to live happily and harmoniously under royal protection in a sustainable manner.

His Majesty's determination and vision had been instilled from childhood, learning from his highly beloved and revered father, King Chulalongkorn, who provided an "exemplary model" to follow, and enabling King Vajiravudh to see the world through the eyes of a great scholar. Backed by his education and training from multiple nations, the King was equipped with the means to reform Thailand in the areas of economy, transportation, education, public utility and public facilities, military defense along with preserving Thai culture as the "root" of prosperity by using the arts to build nationalism and gain international recognition.

Despite a relatively short period of 15 years, His Majesty's reign marked an important chapter in Thai history that manifested the relentless dedication of a great monarch with royal grace and an expansive and forward-looking vision as regards the nation's advancement.

Chief among His Majesty's work is the establishment of Siam Cement, the kingdom's first large manufacturing enterprise dedicated to fully utilizing local raw materials and reducing reliance on imports. The endeavor had laid solid groundwork for the operation of an industrial conglomerate, producing materials for use in the construction of public infrastructure that linked up the whole country. SCG, thereby, can be said to have contributed to raising the quality of life of Thai people since its early days. Though many years have passed, SCG has pledged to create innovations to accommodate a higher quality life and contribute to socially-beneficial activities to promote people's sense of well-being.

“Somdet Phra Maha Thirarat Chao” or the Great Scholarly Monarch of the Kingdom is the honorific title which reflects His Majesty's ingenuity as evidenced by his subjects throughout the decades. Despite the King's literary talents as etched in the fond memory of many people and for which the United Nations for Education, Scientific, and Culture Organization (UNESCO) honored him as one of the world's great personalities in culture, King Vajiravudh had always been a beacon, shining his light in many other aspects of development. His Majesty's utmost determination was to lead Thailand in joining the ranks of prosperous and progressive countries in the global arena, all to bring benefits and sustainable happiness to the Thai people.



Forward

During the past century, western imperialism expanded rapidly throughout Southeast Asia. While much of the region endured colonial rule, Thailand managed to escape direct annexation and preserve its independence amid the threats of Western powers who believed they were more superior and civilized. However, as the imperialist powers set out to exploit the wealth and resources of its colonies or the nations which it indirectly controlled, Thailand inevitably came under political and economic domination of certain Western powers that exercised much power and authority over its affairs.

To fend off these threats, the Kings of the Chakri dynasty resorted to many means but to little avail as Thailand was a small nation with no military might or leverage like the other great powers. This resulted in several territorial concessions and a string of treaties that spared the country from colonial subjugation.

One of the policies that Thai monarchs long upheld was the promotion of Thai culture and wisdom together with knowledge of the western world. The Kings provided full educational support for Thai royalty as well as courtiers and commoners. A number of students had been sent to study abroad to broaden their knowledge and experience in various disciplines, elevating their competence to international standards so as to use the knowledge gained to help develop the country.

King Vajiravudh wearing khruai over Regal Vestments and the Crown-Headress for the Great Kathin Ceremony seated on the Budtan Kanchana Singhasana at the Royal Coronation Ceremony.

In 1893, Prince Vajiravudh, a son of King Chulalongkorn, left Thailand for his education in England at the age of 12. He studied a wide range of subjects including military education, the discipline he excelled in and found most intriguing. However, following his appointment to the Crown Prince, King Vajiravudh decided to change his direction from military-centric education to focus on social education to benefit his future rule.

His Majesty stayed eight years in Europe, studying inside and outside the classroom to gain insights into state administration, economy, and society. He also represented King Chulalongkorn at various functions to establish rapport with various European countries with the ultimate goals to use the knowledge and connections to contribute to the progress of Thailand.

Realizing the mounting European threat closing in on the nation, King Chulalongkorn mandated that the Crown Prince return to Thailand after graduation, traveling via several great powers around the world including the United States, the land of democracy and freedom, and Japan, which had embarked on its era of restoration and modernization and risen as a military power, to observe their progressing affairs. These experiences culminated in the strategy underlining the King's multifarious duties aiming to modernize Thailand, enabling it to rise to the ranks of modern nations and fend off exploitation. His Majesty's intentions were manifested clearly in a letter to his younger brother, His Highness Prince Chakrabongse, after he ascended the throne. He wrote:

“I hope to live long enough to see that Siam has entered and been honored in the Family of Nations as an equal in every sense of the word.”*

Throughout the 15-year reign, King Vajiravudh had shown relentless diligence and dedication to realizing his goals to drive Thailand to achieve advancement like the western countries in economic development, citizen quality development, social and cultural development, national security, and gaining respect on the global stage.

It is highly remarkable that much of His Majesty the King’s great intention to “spearhead” advancement in all dimensions came into fruition during a relatively short reign of His Majesty, which was considered the dawn of the modernization era. Many reforms have been maintained or carried on by the successive reigning kings to contribute to the sustainable happiness of the Thai people. It is advisable that we study and understand His Majesty’s initiatives and multifarious duties to appreciate how His Majesty the King transformed Thailand from being a small country in Asia into a nation with unprecedented prominence and dignity on the international scale.

* King Vajiravudh Memorial Foundation under Royal Patronage. *Program for Permanent Exhibition entitled Phra Barom Racha Pra Tasanee Phra Bat Somdet Phra Mongkut Klao Chao Yu Hua.* Page 27.



King Chulalongkorn, Queen Saovabha Phongsri, and Crown Prince Vajiravudh at the East Wing of the Chakri Maha Prasat Hall upon the Crown Prince's return to Thailand on January 29, 1902.

Brief Biography of His Majesty King Vajiravudh

His Majesty King Vajiravudh was the sixth monarch of the Chakri dynasty. He was born on Saturday January 1, 1880 (The Thai new year formerly began on 1 April) to His Majesty King Chulalongkorn and Her Majesty Queen Saovabha Phongsri. In his boyhood, the young Prince was educated in the royal palace before he was sent by his father for further education in England when he was twelve. After completing his education spanning diverse disciplines, Prince Vajiravudh returned to Thailand, traveling via several countries which gained him valuable experience for use in advancing the kingdom.

Following his return to Thailand, the Crown Prince had rendered services to King Chulalongkorn in numerous areas for over ten years. He was also appointed Regent of Siam when King Chulalongkorn visited Europe for the second time.

When King Chulalongkorn passed away on October 23, 1910, Crown Prince Vajiravudh was crowned the sixth monarch under the Chakri dynasty. The royal prodigy performed multifarious duties encompassing state administration, military, education, public health, foreign affairs, and literature and poetry. His Majesty wrote over a thousand pieces of prose and poetry and was given the honorific title “Somdet Phra Maha Thirarat Chao” after his passing.

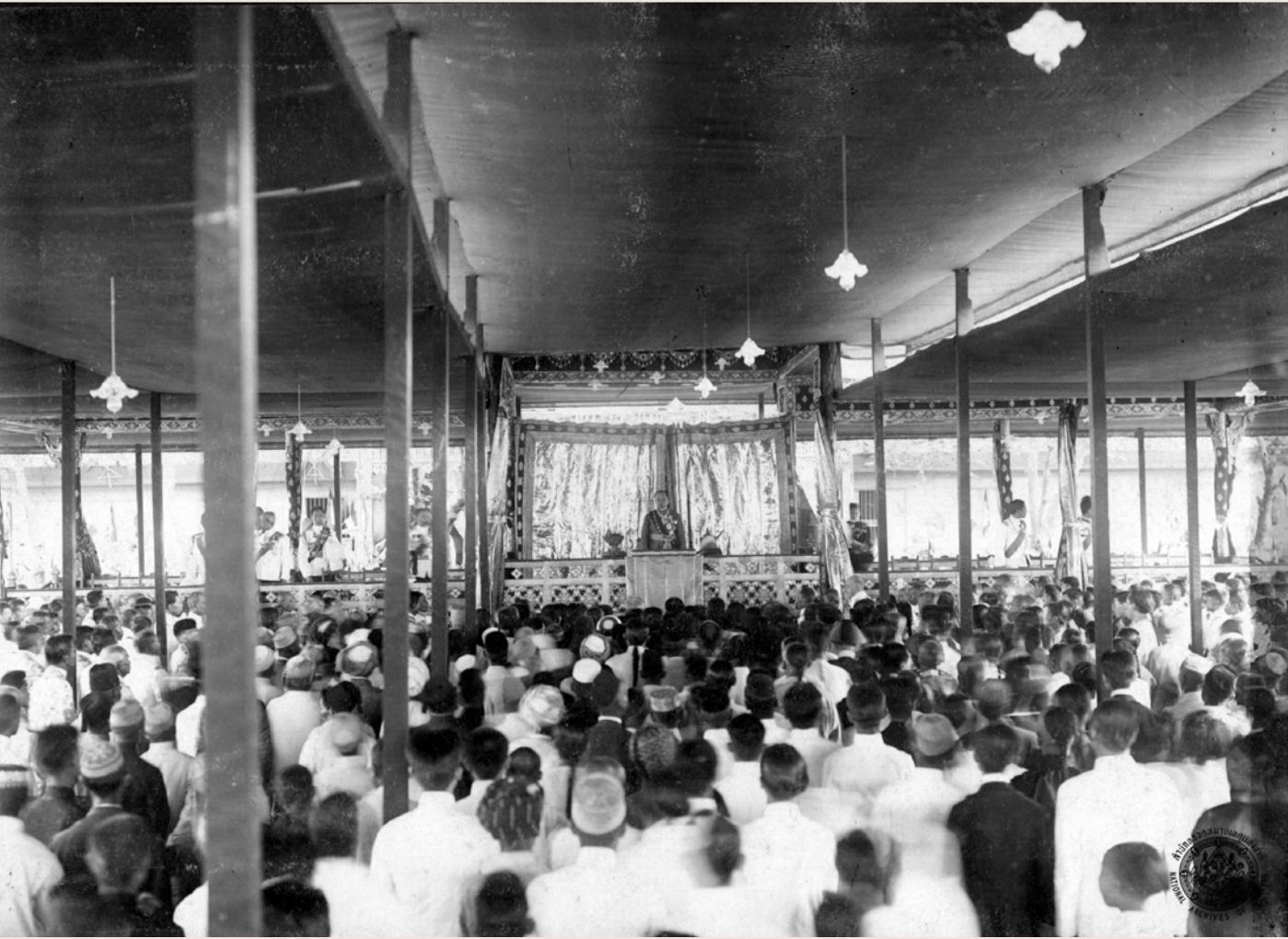
King Vajiravudh had only one “royal heir”, a daughter with Princess Consort Suvadhana, Princess Bejaratana Rajasuda, who was born on Tuesday November 24, 1925 when His Majesty fell ill with infection of the intestines and abdominal sepsis and shortly passed away on November 26, 1925 at the age of 46 after reigning for 15 years.

In 1981, the United Nations for Education, Scientific, and Culture Organization (UNESCO) honored King Vajiravudh as one of the world’s great personalities in culture for being a philosopher, writer, poet, and prolific play writer. His Majesty’s distinguished literary talents have shone through his diverse range of literary works, reflecting the distinctive qualities of an exceptional thinker, writer, and reader. The honorific title “Somdet Phra Maha Thirarat Chao” was given by the Thai people to honor and serve as a lasting memorial for His Majesty’s great ingenuity and his demonstrated contributions to the advancement of the kingdom.



Crown Prince Vajiravudh in a special Lieutenant's uniform of the King's Own Bodyguards (Mahat Lek Rajawallop), wearing the Most Illustrious Order of the Royal House of Chakri.

Economic Development
and
Accumulation of Capital



King Vajiravudh granting an audience at the Royal Coronation Ceremony in 1911.



King Vajiravudh took great interest in modernizing the Thai economy along western lines with the goals of enabling his subjects to lead a happy life and enjoy a good and sustainable quality of life.

During the last century, the expansive imperialist powers had forced Thailand to sign several unequal treaties since the reign of King Mongkut, which restricted the setting of duty on imports, the country's main source of revenue. On a positive side, however, the ratified treaties, which liberalized foreign trade in Thailand, had contributed to economic expansion and a shift away from sustenance agricultural production and toward production for export.

In the reign of King Vajiravudh, which saw the dawn of national economic reform, His Majesty continually carried on the intentions of the former monarchs by developing agriculture which has predominantly shaped the livelihoods of most Thai people. The King's policies extended to expanding the transportation system to accommodate the steadily-growing population, and supporting adding value to resources through materials processing to transform them into finished products. Added to this were establishing a large industrial enterprise to reduce the country's reliance on imports, and setting up an organization dedicated to analyzing economic and trade data for formulating future economic plans. This ran concurrent with inculcating in people the habits of saving and careful spending while instructing them to avoid gambling and all vices which hindered development.

Water Management for Agriculture, the Backbone of the Thai Economy

Rice had long been a vital economic crop of Thailand. Prior to the ratification of the Bowring Treaty, rice exports came under control for being the nation's vital military supply. Later, the practice of subsistence rice production shifted toward production for export on a global scale. Unfortunately, rice production might be impacted by inconsistent weather patterns such as droughts or floods, which in turn, had adverse effects on the country's economy.

Water is vital to human sustenance and their daily life activities. Realizing the important role of water resource in uplifting the quality of life for people, King Vajiravudh established Krom Thod Nam or the Barrages Department responsible for irrigation works. His Majesty also mandated the implementation of the South Pasak Irrigation Project to construct a large-scale barrage across the Pasak River at Tha Luang Subdistrict, Tha Rua District, Ayutthaya Province, using cutting-edge technology. The system efficiently irrigated over 680,000 rais of field. Commencing construction in 1914 and completed in 1923, the South Pasak Irrigation Project was the first and largest irrigation project in Thailand and one of the most advanced in Asia. It has spawned scores of irrigation projects across Thailand to manage water, accommodating the expanding production for household consumption and for sale both locally and overseas.

Promoting Access to Finance for People's Better Lives

The “cooperative” as an economic and social innovation was first established during the reign of King Vajiravudh. As Thailand increasingly opened up to foreign trade, a shift from subsistence to commercial production necessitated the needs for more funding for the production expansion and necessities of livelihoods.

In the early days, the main goal of the agricultural cooperative was to issue low interest loans to farmers who had no access to the funds or loans provided by commercial banks and resorted to borrowing money from money lenders. Their situations could be exacerbated by poor crop yields as a result of inconsistent climate patterns which caused the farmers' debts to increase and many other problems. The cooperative was thus set up in response to His Majesty the King's policy. Providing loans to members only, loan officers who were also cooperative members and familiar with the borrower would chiefly consider the borrower's purpose and urgency not just collateral, unlike other commercial banks. Also taken into consideration were the borrower's diligence, perseverance, and integrity in their work.

Since its founding, the cooperative operation has been constantly supported. In addition, farmers are encouraged to record income and expenses as a means to keep track of cost and profit in response to the market situation. It is hoped that the cooperative members have knowledge to run their business to achieve maximum profits with generosity and ethics.

Promoting People's Saving Habit for the Future

King Vajiravudh established the first savings office following His Majesty's shrewd policy, and it has evolved into the Government Savings Bank today. The King's idea of such a savings bank came to him when His Majesty was studying in England. Having seen such banks in operation there, His Majesty set sights on setting up savings services in Thailand. After returning to Thailand, he established a savings office in 1907. The King encouraged court officers to deposit their salaries as a means to foster a savings habit. His experimental project paved the way for the founding of a savings bank to promote savings. The bank also solved the problem of people having no safe place to keep their savings, forcing some to squirrel money away in secret locations and risk the money going missing. Others simply did not trust the banks as some commercial banks in the early days during the reign of King Chulalongkorn lacked transparency due to a dearth of modern rules and regulations to oversee their operations. Aside from the possibility of money going missing by keeping it at home, some people might squander away the hard earned money on themselves or gambling, a bad habit of many Thai people.

The problems faced by people prompted King Vajiravudh to issue the Savings Office Act B.E. 2456 (1913), formally setting up the Savings Office to provide a place to safeguard people's savings with reasonable returns for the depositors and enable them to learn to save money for the future. His Majesty also kindly provided seed money to generate income to pay for interest on deposits in the early days.

Moreover, His Majesty mandated the Royal Treasury Minister to give up *Huay* (Lottery) *Kor Khor* and *Bonbia* (Chinese gambling) in 1916 and expand the Savings Office Branches to different administrative *monthons* nationwide. This ran concurrent with educating people on saving and its benefits, mainly targeting “youths” with the goal of developing a new generation of young people imbued with the habit of thrift, saving, and careful spending as well as knowledge of the banking system.

The King’s economic reform bore great fruit. In 1946, the Government Savings Bank Act B.E. 2489 (1946) was issued, upgrading the Savings Office to the “Government Savings Bank”. The bank has played a key role in promoting the country’s savings and served as a platform for the government to introduce numerous measures to drive the Thai economy throughout the years.

Saving a Thai Bank from Crisis with the Focus on Thai People's Interest

His Majesty King Vajiravudh was well aware of the importance of the stability and progress of the banking system on the nation's economic development and intended to support the banks owned by Thai people. This was because most foreign commercial banks tended to put their nation's benefits above all else, frequently placing Thai customers at a disadvantage.

Siam Kammajon Bank, or Siam Commercial Bank as it is known today, was the first Thai commercial bank established during King Chulalongkorn's reign to cater to the economic growth brought about by the dramatic expansion of the ocean trade routes of the West. First founded as the "Book Club", the project met with such an enormous success that King Chulalongkorn granted royal approval for it to officially operate as a commercial bank in 1906 under the name the Siam Kammajon Bank Capital Limited.

Siam Kammajon Bank later faced a huge crisis. Foreseeing the potential repercussions of the problem on all sides of business and people, His Majesty graciously took a bold step to contain financial stability risks by granting permission to the Office of the Privy Purse to buy shares in the bank worth over 1,634,000 baht, an enormous amount of money at that time.

As the largest shareholder, the Office of the Privy Purse gained greater control in determining the credit policy to benefit Thai people even more, especially lending money to credit cooperatives dedicated to providing low interest loans to farmers.

Since then, Siam Commercial Bank has continued to develop and grow alongside the nation's economy with an unwavering commitment to be a leading financial institution providing a comprehensive range of financial products and services.



The Siam Kammajon Bank opened its first branch in Talad Noi in 1908.

Conducting Research to Add Value to Domestic Resources to Achieve Sustainable Economy

In the reign of King Vajiravudh, a new unit called “Sala Yaktat” was set up in response to His Majesty’s intention to advance commerce and economy. The King set out policy to carry out research and scientific activities to benefit social and economic development out of the vision that commercial production could contribute to the country’s economic advancement in the forms of exporting products to earn revenue or reducing reliance on imports.

Founded in 1917, Sala Yaktat (later upgraded to the Assay Office) was entrusted with conducting scientific activities as requested by the government and private sectors. One of its key missions was to drive industrial innovations, using local resources such as indigenous plants and ores as raw materials. The goal was to develop commercial commodities to make possible advances into industrial production. Aside from adding economic value to local resources, the endeavor created more job opportunities outside farming in tandem with the country’s economic reform. More importantly, carrying out such scientific activities domestically was more advantageous than outsourcing abroad.

The services provided to both government and private agencies had gained Sala Yaktat a solid reputation and wide acceptance, leading to steady business expansion. However, the dull economy later undermined the role of Sala Yaktat and finally brought it to a close due to a shortage of government budget. His Majesty’s initiative regardless laid the foundations for current agencies involved with the statistics, research, and formulation of national economic and social development plans.

Planning with Data and Statistics to Elevate the Thai Economy

One of King Vajiravudh's greatest economic contributions was the establishment of the Council on Commerce to promote Thai commerce in 1920, and it was later elevated to the Ministry of Commerce.

The Council on Commerce functioned as a central office charged with planning and coordinating with different agencies to expand agricultural and industrial manufacturing bases. Its responsibilities also extended to analyzing and forecasting market demand, both locally and overseas, coordinating market expansion for Thai products, and suggesting investment options for the private sector.

In line with His Majesty the King's policy to promote the country's economy, the Department of Commerce and Statistics Prophecy under the Royal Treasury Ministry was set up in 1914 to disseminate information about trading trends, commodity prices, products in demand and their production sources. It was also entrusted with overseeing Siam Commercial Maritime Company Limited and promoting Thai commerce in the international marketplace. Later in 1920, the Department of Commerce and Statistics Prophecy was upgraded to a "Ministry" named the Council on Commerce or the Ministry of Commerce in the present day.

Developing Transport and Communications to Connect the Kingdom

His Majesty King Vajiravudh opined that the nation's successful economic reform rested with putting in place a comprehensive and efficient transport system as it helped facilitate moving resources from different regions for use in production at lower costs, while, at the same time, expanding the market on a broader scale. This enabled people to earn more income and upgrade the quality of life for themselves and their families.

Given the various modes of transport and communications, the coordination of planning is an important strategy for transport and communications development. Early in his reign, His Majesty mandated that all powers and communication-related agencies be consolidated under one ministry named the "Ministry of Communications" (later the Ministry of Transport). Following careful study, a communications policy was formulated with the focus on designing modes of transport and communications that complemented rather than overlapped with each other and avoided spending the limited budget on unnecessary things.

Back then, much of Thailand's transport and communications policy was geared toward railway construction to maximize savings and efficiency as rail transport was more cost-effective than road transport. His Majesty commanded the extension of the Northern, Southern, and Northeastern rail lines to carry on King Chulalongkorn's initiatives as well as constructing the new Eastern line.



King Vajiravudh granting an audience to groups of people on the occasion of His Majesty mandating the extension of every railway line in the country.

The King also commanded the construction of **“Rama VI Bridge”**, the first bridge to link the Eastern and Western rail lines across the Chao Phraya River. Hua Lampong railway station was later established as a railway hub to facilitate command and interchange. In addition, the operation of the Thai railway was transferred to the Thai people.

The continuing development of transport and communications system led to significant trade expansion and brought distant towns closer together, fostering the affection, solidarity, and unity of the Thai people.

The railway and road transport development was in tune with His Majesty’s policy to promote tourism in Thailand. It was the first chapter to allow people to get to know each other and to learn the anthropology and sociology of each locality as the foundations of the national state, and to formulate strategies to develop competence of the Thai people in modern society.



The East Asiatic Company's riverside port warehouse carrying imported commodities for the construction of infrastructure.



Establishment of a Large-scale Industrial Enterprise to Enhance the Potential of the Thai People

During the early period of King Vajiravudh's reign, the Thai economy relied mainly on agriculture. There were few industrial plants, most of which were simple processing plants or small production facilities such as rice mills, sawmills, steel nail mills, soap factories, brickworks, infirmaries, and tanneries, among others. His Majesty later defined development strategies to advance Thailand into becoming a modern nation like other western countries and to minimize its reliance on imports. The move was considered a social innovation since the reforms in most Asian countries back then were driven by the imperialist powers. As the only independent sovereign in Southeast Asia, His Majesty deemed it imperative the kingdom construct large infrastructure such as roads, railways, bridges, and dams on its own initiative rather than being forced to by external factors.

Not only did such large infrastructure contribute to people's better quality of life, it brought distant provinces closer together and strengthened the state administration. His Majesty the King foresaw that the needs for the future construction of housing, commercial buildings, and government facilities like in civilized nations would generate huge demand for concrete.

During that time, cement had to be imported, giving the seller the ability to dictate prices and supplies, which jeopardized the nation's development plan. With almost all the materials necessary for its own cement industry, the King mandated the establishment of a cement company in Thailand to reduce reliance on imports and provide opportunities for Thai people to gain knowledge and expertise in a large-scale industrial enterprise.

However, it was no easy task at that time to set into motion a large-scale manufacturing enterprise. The liberalization of foreign trade as a result of the previous treaty which fixed the import duty at three percent allowed foreign rivals with better production know-how to dominate the local market. It was almost certain that a new venture was to face intense competition and a daunting array of disadvantages including the needs for substantial capital and insufficient skilled production workforce as well as advanced technology and certain raw materials that needed to be imported.

His Majesty King Vajiravudh assigned Chao Phya Yomaraj (Pan Sukhum) the task of establishing a cement company. When it was found feasible to use the locally secured marl for production, Chao Phya Yomaraj (Pan Sukhum) sent an official letter asking the King's permission for the establishment of a company and commission of the Privy Purse as a consultant on shareholding.

His Majesty graciously granted the permission and ordered that the Privy Purse purchase 50 percent of the shares of the company with capital of one million baht.

๑๖

สมเด็จพระพุทธโฆษาจารย์

สมเด็จพระพุทธโฆษาจารย์
วัดบวรนิเวศราชวรวิหาร
กรุงเทพฯ

ถึงเจ้าพนักงาน

ได้รับจดหมายว่าตั้งกรรมการ
ตั้งรับกำลังเมฆสี และรับงานวิจัยของกรม
ศึกษาธิการ กิ่งกรมศึกษาธิการ กิ่ง
ศึกษาธิการ มหามหาวิทยาลัยราชภัฏ
สงขลา ให้ไปหาซื้อปูนซีเมนต์
ใช้ก่อสร้างโรงเรียน กิ่งศึกษาธิการ
สงขลา รับสั่งให้ไปหาซื้อปูนซีเมนต์
ใช้ก่อสร้างโรงเรียน กิ่งศึกษาธิการ
สงขลา

ขอรับไปส่งจดหมายขอเจ้าพนักงาน

มีคำสั่งให้ไปหาซื้อปูนซีเมนต์
ใช้ก่อสร้างโรงเรียน กิ่งศึกษาธิการ
สงขลา รับสั่งให้ไปหาซื้อปูนซีเมนต์
ใช้ก่อสร้างโรงเรียน กิ่งศึกษาธิการ
สงขลา

King Vajiravudh's letter to Chao Phya Yomraj (Pan Sukhum) regarding the establishment of Siam Cement Co.,Ltd.

The purchase was made using the King's personal funds to show his support for the new venture of Thai people which played a key role in the country's development.

In his official letter to the King, Chao Phya Yomaraj (Pan Sukhum) suggested that 25 percent of the company's shares be offered to foreign shareholders to acquire the much needed know-how in production technology and national trade. After being officially registered under the name Siam Cement Co., Ltd on December 8, 1913, the company prescribed one article stipulating that three-fourths of the shares must always be held by Thais in alignment with His Majesty King Vajiravudh's policy to ensure Thai ownership. The policy has been maintained to this day.

As Thailand's first cement company and the first in the region not under the imperialist system, Siam Cement Co.,Ltd encountered multiple challenges in its operations. However, blessed with the King's graciousness, the company managed to stay the course and continue to develop and grow steadily. Over the years, Siam Cement has been relentless in development, having diversified into different businesses amid numerous challenges and crises. The achievements are testament to the company's determination and business prowess that have propelled SCG to emerge as ASEAN's leading industrial conglomerate with an unwavering commitment to treasure, preserve, and build on the noble intention of King Vajiravudh, the founding father of SCG.

Currently, SCG comprises three core business units: Cement-Building Materials Business, Chemicals Business, and Packaging Business. The Company pledges to become a market leader in the ASEAN region by creating a broad spectrum of innovative products, services, and solutions that address the diverse application needs of customers. The Company is committed to conducting business with adherence to ethics in line with the ESG (Environment, Social, Governance) approach to achieve sustainability. This runs concurrent with driving business to contribute to the sustainable advancement of the communities where SCG operates under the motto **“Passion For Better”**.

Additionally, King Vajiravudh had made many other contributions to the nation’s economic development. Central to this was a change in the system of weights and measures which had direct impacts on agriculture and trade.

In the past, non-standard weighing and measuring tools for rice and other farm outputs used in different locations had long given opportunities for merchants to take advantage of farmers. To solve the issue, His Majesty promulgated the adoption of the international metric system of weights and measures. Meanwhile, Thai units of measurement were standardized to the metric measurement, and all tools and equipment were certified to the same weights and measures standards.

His Majesty's initiative to hold the region's **first international trade fair** in tandem with his policy to promote Thai exports and in celebration of the 15th anniversary of His Majesty the King's accession to the throne attested to His Majesty's forward-looking vision to ensure the celebration contributed to the Thai people's well-being. As part of the King's policy to promote the local trade, His Majesty donated a 360-rai plot of land, which was his private property, to build "**Lumphini**" for use as the venue for the "**Siamrat Phiphitthaphan**" international trade fair in Thailand and Asia.

His Majesty King Vajiravudh wished the trade fair would attract more foreigners to visit Thailand and learn more about Thai commodities. The fair was originally scheduled to open on January 23, 1925 and continue for 100 days. Unfortunately, during the preparation, the King fell ill and passed away. The Siamrat Phiphitthaphan Trade Fair was finally cancelled. Lumphini, which His Majesty intended to turn into a public park after the trade fair, nevertheless, became the first public park in Thailand as per the King's wishes.



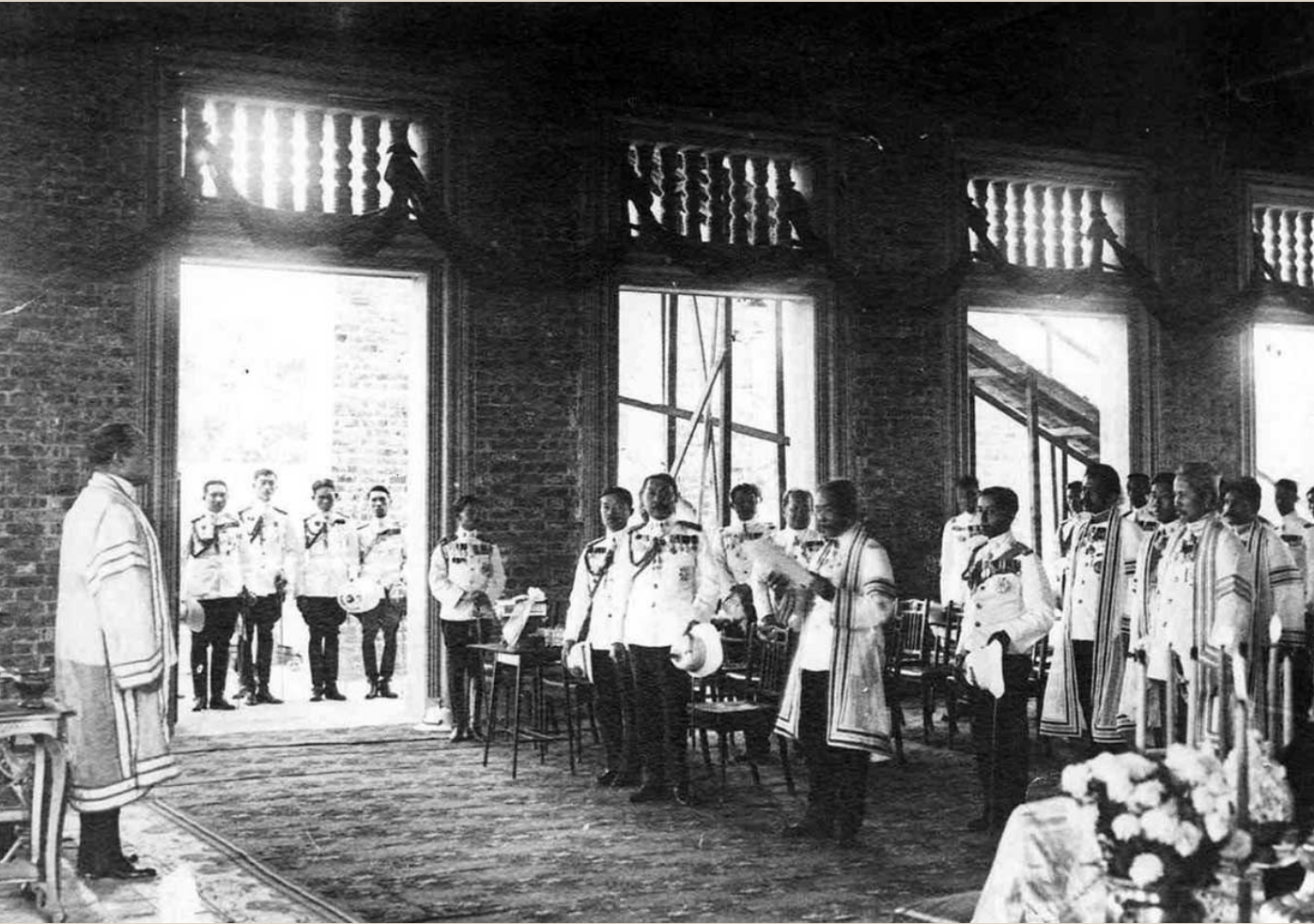
Lumphini during construction

Lumphini Park today





Developing a Generation of Competent and Ethical
People to Help Drive the Country toward Prosperity



Prince Damrong Rajanubhab addressing King Vajiravudh at the ceremony laying the foundation stone of the Headquarters of the Civil Service College of King Chulalongkorn, which later became Chulalongkorn University.

To develop a generation of knowledgeable, competent, and ethical people who can contribute to their own interests and the interests of the nation, “education” and “studies” are to be brought into play as important instruments for success.

His Majesty King Vajiravudh had a noble policy of developing the quality of people, who were to aid in the nation’s reforms and progress toward modern nationhood. As many things were new at that time, knowledge and understanding were necessary to make things happen. “Education” was thus the hallmark of King Vajiravudh’s reign. His Majesty’s notions toward education were influenced by the European education during the then Crown Prince’s study in England as well as by the US and Japanese education systems when he returned to Thailand, traveling via both countries. These ideas were subsequently embodied in His Majesty’s educational policies and approaches to national education.

The first educational initiative taken after His Majesty's ascension to the throne was the reform of education from primary to university levels. The King set up the royal pages school for primary to higher secondary education and upgraded the Royal Pages School established by King Chulalongkorn to the Civil Service College. It was subsequently inaugurated as Thailand's first university. His Majesty also supported vocational training along with training in the arts and crafts.

His Majesty enacted a compulsory Primary Education Act, providing opportunities for all children to gain access to compulsory education. The King also granted a policy to set up schools across the kingdom. For example, a number of schools whose names started with "Benjama" were built to commemorate the King's father while several girls' schools were founded nationwide as a memorial to his mother. On top of this was the introduction of an approach to providing mental, physical, and emotional training for young people in the form of the boy scout and girl scout movements, enabling youths to behave appropriately in society and grow up to become good citizens with desirable characteristics.

Developing Institutions of Higher Education for People in the Country

Institutions of higher education are tasked with providing the education instrumental in driving and developing society in different areas and in the right direction. In alignment with his goal to modernize the country, King Vajiravudh established higher education in Thailand.

Back in the reign of King Chulalongkorn, the Royal Pages School was established to produce graduates to mainly serve in the Ministry of Interior. As the civil service had grown beyond the Ministry of Interior, King Vajiravudh believed it was necessary to produce more civil officials to staff the offices in other government ministries. The King decreed that the Royal Pages School be elevated to **“The Civil Service College of King Chulalongkorn”**. His Majesty also granted the surplus of money donated by people for the equestrian statue of King Chulalongkorn amounting to over 900,000 baht for the construction of the Headquarters Building and other buildings on around 1,309 rais of his private land in Phatum Wan District, designated as the campus of the Civil Service College. His Majesty the King graciously laid the foundation stone of the Headquarters Building on January 3, 1915.

**King Vajiravudh resolved to expand
the education of the College
to accommodate not only bureaucrats
but also the general public.**



King Vajiravudh laying the foundation stone of the Headquarters of the Civil Service College of King Chulalongkorn on January 3, 1915, which is now Maha Chulalongkorn Building, Chulalongkorn University.

His Majesty mandated the Civil Service College of King Chulalongkorn be upgraded to “Chulalongkorn University”, the first university in Thailand, on March 26, 1916 as a memorial to his father, King Chulalongkorn.

Studying at a university level requires that the applicant complete high school. Back then, however, the number of high school graduates was very small. His Majesty’s policy to set up a university was a stroke of genius in motivating young people to attempt to further their education at university level in pursuit of a career and the knowledge needed by society.

Throughout the years, Chulalongkorn University has expanded its curriculum to encompass wide-ranging fields including science and technology, health sciences, and social science and humanities. The University has resolved to become a leading innovative university dedicated to advancing knowledge and producing graduates who will be the major driving forces in contributing to society as per the intentions of the University’s founder.

Chulalongkorn University





Promoting Vocational Education to Create Careers and Develop the Nation

Vocational education was another kind of education supported by King Vajiravudh early in his reign. His Majesty demanded vocational education be reformed to equip people with the technical skills to have an occupation to financially support themselves. The King established the Arts and Crafts School (Poh-Chang School) and the School of Commerce in 1913, and the Elementary School of Agriculture in 1917, providing options for students to seek vocational training for their future careers not limited to government officers or clerks.

People were encouraged to take up a wide array of professions to be part of the driving force contributing to the kingdom's economic growth and prosperity.

Since then, vocational education has steadily developed, having producing a skilled workforce to help enhance the country's competitiveness.

Moreover, King Vajiravudh had shown royal favor to **“craftsmen”** and **“artisans”** of all categories, giving them the same level of respect and admiration as those academic talents. His Majesty bestowed upon them titles, titles conferred by the King, government positions, salaries, awards, etc. and was committed to nurturing culture, arts, crafts, and other artistic categories, making King Vajiravudh's period the Golden Age of Thai arts and crafts.

Building Schools instead of a Royal Monastery

His Majesty ordered that all royal pages studying in various schools transfer to a newly established school before the school started on January 1, 1910 (back then the year began April 1), which was the King's first birthday anniversary celebration, two months after he came to the throne. The King founded the school instead of building a royal monastery, reasoning that since the previous five monarchs had already built multiple monasteries, to build more temples would be considered excessive in attempts to preserve Buddhism.

In the past, temples were places where young people received their basic education.

It stands to reason that building schools would be consistent with the policy to expand education to the public and advance the kingdom.

The school came under the royal patronage of His Majesty the King who donated his personal funds for the expenses. His Majesty named the school the Royal Pages College, which was organized along the lines of English public boarding schools. The school had many houses, which allowed for self-governance under the seniority system, each with a house prefect authorized to enforce discipline. They did activities together in harmony without interfering with others. Each was expected to be responsible for his own duties.



Vajiravudh College



The Royal Pages College was where His Majesty put his notions on education into effect similar to his creation of Dusit Thani to explore aspects of democracy. The successful ideas were then incorporated into the curriculums for elementary and secondary levels at model schools in different *monthons* throughout the kingdom. In 1916, King's College (Ratchavittayalay) from the Ministry of Justice was transferred to fall under his patronage, and His Majesty also established another Royal Pages College in Chiang Mai in the same year.

After King Vajiravudh's passing, King Prajadhipok successively patronized the Royal Pages College. Nonetheless, the global economic downturn after the end of World War I in 1926 prompted His Majesty King Prajadhipok to merge the Royal Pages College in Bangkok and King's College with all classes conducted on the Royal Pages College campus. His Majesty renamed the school **“Vajiravudh College”** as a memorial for King Vajiravudh, the founder.

Vajiravudh College





Promoting Elementary Education among Thai Youths

The Thai education system from antiquity to early Rattanakosin Period was centered around temples where commoners left their children under the care of knowledgeable monks to learn to read and write. The curriculum of this traditional education was thus generally designed by the monks themselves. The reign of King Chulalongkorn oversaw the dawn of educational reform in Thailand in line with modern education. He founded a school in the Grand Palace and later encouraged the establishment of both public and private schools in several provincial areas.

When he became king, His Majesty King Vajiravudh carried on the educational reform initiated by his father. In an endeavor to institute compulsory education, His Majesty deemed it necessary to enact a compulsory Primary Education Act to expand education across the kingdom. The push for the enactment was by no means an easy task. Aside from budget constraints, some educational authorities were concerned that the rapid expansion of education could cause chaos. The King, nevertheless, persevered to put all systems in place and successfully promulgated the Primary Education Act 1921, prescribing compulsory education in Thailand for the first time.

Such Act aimed to enable all Thai children to read and write and become literate out of the notion that primary education would allow people to develop their literacy, intelligence, good conduct, and to build up their knowledge to work in various fields.



Crown Prince Vajiravudh laying a corner stone at the Prince Royal's College, established by an American Presbyterian missionary.

Coming into effect on October 1, 1921, the Primary Education Act called for the compulsory attendance at school of all children from the age of seven to fourteen with no tuition. Since then, the Ministry of Education made October, 1 of every year the National Primary Education Day before it was later changed to November 25, which marked Somdet Phra Maha Thirarat Chao Day.

Setting up Prachaban Schools to Promote Education Nationwide

In alignment with the Primary Education Act 1921 which stipulated that all children enroll in elementary school from the age of seven to fourteen free of charge, King Vajiravudh mandated expansion of primary education to the districts, subdistricts, and villages across the kingdom by setting up schools in rural areas (Prachaban schools) to engage government officers and locals in education provision subsidized by local taxes and the Ministry of Education. The moves have laid the groundwork for the decentralization of education to local administrations, enabling them to provide education that corresponds to the socio-geography in each area as it is today.

Not only did Prachaban schools provide general education at elementary level, they also taught “subjects of life” to provide practical knowledge so as to prepare students for future careers, allowing students to further their studies. These subjects were removed after the political revolution. The journey of Prachaban schools came to an end after the school management was transferred from provincial administrations to the Office of the National Primary Education Commission on October 1, 1980. However, His Majesty’s education initiative has been readopted in education provisions under Bangkok Metropolitan Administration and local administrative organizations in every province.

The Promulgation of the Private School Act to Administer Private Schools

A national-scale education provision is a daunting task. As it happens, the government sector at times may not have sufficient educational resources to fulfil the commitment. Many countries thus resort to engaging the private sector in the provision of education. “Private school” was new vocabulary that first appeared in the Private School Act of 1918, referring to a place established by a private individual to provide education to students.

The history of private schools in Thailand dated back to the Ayutthaya Period. They were founded by western missionaries. Over the long course of evolution, Thai or foreign owned private schools took the liberty of developing their own school curriculums. They were not under control of the government nor was there any law governing the operations of private schools.

It was not until the reign of King Vajiravudh that His Majesty figured that there were a number of “loopholes” and “limitations” in the administration of private schools in the past. It stands to reason that the King promulgated the Private School Act of 1918. The enactment of the 1918 Act kept the operations of private schools in Thailand in check under stricter regulations and spawned a fast-growing number of private schools. This realized the wish of His Majesty to see private schools play an active role in sharing in the task of expanding educational opportunities to people across the kingdom.



King Vajiravudh observing Wild Tiger Corps maneuvers at a field in Ban Rai Subdistrict, Ban Pong District in Ratchaburi Province in 1919.

Creating the Wild Tiger Corps to Build a New Generation of People to Defend the Nation

“*Sua Pa*” or the Wild Tiger Corps was an old name used in former times for men who kept watch on the frontiers, observing enemy movements and sending back reports. Inspired by the British Volunteer Force, Vajiravudh, as the Crown Prince, founded the corps made up of volunteers drawn mostly from the court pages. When he became king, His Majesty inaugurated the Wild Tiger Corps on May 1, 1911 to provide military training to courtiers, civil servants, and commoners, enabling them to have discipline, abide by the laws of the land, and show solidarity and loyalty to nation, religion, and king.

**The Wild Tigers were also assigned the duty to help
preserve public order, aid local authorities
in mitigating disasters, and most importantly,
perform humanitarian deeds.**

Under a secret convention with the Western powers ratified in King Chulalongkorn's reign, Thailand was not allowed to have military forces within its southernmost areas and border. With His Majesty the King's astute policy, the Wild Tiger forces, considered a non-military corps, were deployed to preserve public order and foster national security without breaching the obligations.



King Vajiravudh standing on a royal car mounted with a Tri-rong flag in a field while observing troop transport during Wild Tiger Corps maneuvers in 1921.



His Majesty the King himself regularly gave speeches and patriotic lectures to the Wild Tigers with skill and deftness in his manner of speaking. He laid down the rules and organized the Pageant of Wild Tiger Traditions to illustrate the glory of the nation which had long retained its sovereignty, freedom, and independence. His Majesty was committed to inculcating in the Wild Tigers a sense of gratitude toward the ancestors who had sacrificed their lives to defend the country from aggressors.

The Wild Tiger Corps had grown continually with a steady expansion in the numbers of members. The King, therefore, promulgated a policy to found Wild Tiger units in various *monthons*, serving as a para-military corps. The enlistment of government officers and civilians in the Wild Tiger Corps was rapid, resulting in the establishment of Wild Tiger for Territorial Defense units nationwide. Later in 1920, the Female Wild Tiger Corps was set up, allowing women to become part of the Corps.



King Vajiravudh observing Wild Tiger Corps maneuvers.



King Vajiravudh posing with members of the Wild Tigers Corps.

Early after King Vajiravudh's passing, His Majesty King Prajadhipok had patronized the Wild Tiger Corps and the Scout Movement. It was not until the economic recession that hit much of the world in the aftermath of World War I that the government had to cut the government budget, eventually resulting in the disbandment of the Wild Tiger Corps while the Boy Scout and the Girl Scout Movements have survived and carried on until this day. Despite being disbanded, the Wild Tiger Corps' ideals still linger in the memories of the Thai people and have evolved into the Territorial Defense Command, Volunteer Defense Corps, civil scout movement, and volunteer service.



Founding of Scouting to Nurture a New Generation of Young People with Discipline and Social Contribution

The Scout Movement was founded in England by Lord Baden-Powell in 1907 to contribute to the development of young people to become responsible citizens,

**Learn to live in harmony with others in society
know their duties and responsibilities,
and do their best to do good deeds and render
service to society.**

The Scout Movement subsequently developed momentum, expanding across Europe.

Two months after King Vajiravudh established the Wild Tiger Corps and witnessed its progress, he deemed it appropriate to provide training for young people so they would grow up to be responsible citizens with patriotic qualities. On July 1, 1911, His Majesty decreed the establishment of Scouting for Boys called the “Tiger Cubs”. Thailand was believed to be among the first countries in Asia to establish scouting. The first scouting unit was set up at the Royal Pages College and more units were later founded in educational institutions across the kingdom. The King bestowed the motto **“Better to die than to lie”** for the scouts to uphold in doing deeds for the good of the nation like the Wild Tiger Corps.



(Left) King Vajiravudh and initial members of the Wild Tiger Corps.

(Right) King Vajiravudh planning a maneuver with members of the Wild Tiger Corps.



To engage women in scouting to serve as reserves, His Majesty set up the “Tiger Mom Club”. Comprising mostly the wives and children of the Wild Tigers, the Club was tasked with procuring food and medical supplies for the Wild Tiger Corps. The King also founded Scouting for Girls called “Girl Scouts”, which remains part of the school curriculum today. However, the King passed away before his initiative took shape. In the reign of King Bhumibol, Princess Bejaratana, King Vajiravudh’s daughter, revived her father’s initiative. As the patron of girl scouting, the Princess granted the Girl Scout Badge and bestowed the name “Bejaravudh Girl Scout Organization”. The royal patronage has enabled the Girl Scout movement to operate side by side with the Boy Scout movement effectively in schools nationwide.

Developing Society to Achieve Sustainability to
Rival the Modern Nations of the World



Social development is about shaping society toward a desired direction, improving the quality of life and well-being of people, advancing arts and culture, and strengthening communities and society to show solidarity and help each other. King Vajiravudh committed himself to carrying out multifarious duties to advance Thai society to the best of his capacity.

King Vajiravudh wearing the uniform of the Highest Commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces.



Public Health is Fundamental to National Development

Public health is pivotal to the country's development, for people who are physically and mentally healthy can live a happy life and contribute to the stability and harmony of society. King Vajiravudh took great interest and efforts in promoting public health which was fundamental to national development, initiating multiple medical and public health programs.

The old administration building of King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, the Thai Red Cross Society.

Establishment of King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital

His Majesty King Vajiravudh initiated the idea of founding a Red Cross hospital, modeled on the Red Cross Hospital of Japan he had observed during his travels. The Thai Red Cross Society or the Red Unalom Society was established in the reign of King Chulalongkorn following the Franco-Siamese territorial dispute of 1893 (the Rattanakosin Era 112) which left many military casualties. A group of female volunteers made efforts to raise funds and supplies, leading to the foundation of the Red Unalom Society to treat the injured soldiers and civilians. When the dispute ended, the Red Unalom Society continued to provide medical services. King Chulalongkorn set sights on upgrading the Red Unalom Society to benefit the country, but His Majesty died before his intentions were realized.

King Vajiravudh opined that donating money to build a Red Cross hospital would be a meritorious act and have lasting benefits on public as per the wishes of his father.

His Majesty and his brothers and sisters, therefore, jointly made donations to add to the Red Cross Society's funding to build a hospital. The hospital was named "King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital" in honor of King Chulalongkorn, the Beloved Great King of the Thai people.

The hospital, the largest and most advanced hospital at that time, was opened by King Vajiravudh in 1914. Since its inception, King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital has provided service to the public continuously and served as a model medical institution with adherence to morality and quality that meets international standards.

King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, The Thai Red Cross Society





Setting up the Queen Saovabha Memorial Institute

With the intention to build facilities for the sustainable public interest in honor of Her Majesty Queen Saovabha, his mother, adjacent to King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital established in honor of his father, King Vajiravudh donated a new piece of his private property to the Thai Red Cross Society for the construction of a new headquarters building of Sathan Pasteur.

The old administration building of the Queen Saovabha Memorial Institute (now the administration building of the Thai Red Cross Society).



Other members of the royal family as well as government officials also donated funds for purchasing medical equipment and constructing additional buildings. His Majesty named the new institute “**the Queen Saovabha Memorial Institute** ” and officiated at the official opening in 1922.

The idea to found Sathan Pasteur could be traced back to Prince Damrong whose daughter died of rabies because only traditional Thai medicine was available at that time. A French doctor, who was a friend of Prince Damrong, suggested the establishment of Sathan Pasteur for vaccine production and vaccination against rabies. Prince Damrong asked for permission from King Vajiravudh to found Sathan Pasteur, and permission was granted. The King also mandated that the mission of Sathan Pasteur which had been transferred to the Queen Saovabha Memorial Institute be expanded to include production of anti-venom serum and vaccines for other infectious diseases. At present, the Institute provides service and education about rabies and snake venom together with producing vaccines, serum, and other biological products with quality that matches international standards.

Expanding Healthcare Services to Vajira Hospital

Early in the reign of King Vajiravudh, His Majesty commanded the Privy Purse to purchase property on Samsen road, consisting of buildings and a huge garden which belonged to a former manager of Siam Kammajon Bank. The King later deemed it appropriate to have more high standard medical facilities to provide services to the Thai people in addition to Siriraj Hospital and King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital. Thus, he granted the Ministry of Metropolis permission to set up a hospital on His Majesty’s own property and named it “Vajira Hospital”. The King officiated at the opening in 1912.



Himmapan House or Samsen Park on Samsen Road belonging to Phra Sapphakan Hiranyakit (Choei Isarabhakdi), the manager of Siam Kammajon Bank. The King mandated the Office of the Privy Purse to buy the property and granted permission to the Ministry of Metropolis (Nakhonban) to set up a hospital named “Vajira Hospital”.

On trips that the King made to southern *monthons* in 1917 including a visit to Monthon Phuket, where the city council asked His Majesty for permission to relocate Sukhaphibal Hospital to a new site due to its limited space and problems with frequent floodings, King Vajiravudh granted permission and donated money from his own private funds to erect a building at the new location. When the construction was completed in 1919, the King named the building “Wachiraphayaban Building” and permitted the hospital to adopt the name “Vajira Phuket Hospital” after His Majesty.

Vajira Hospital has evolved over the years. It is now a teaching university hospital of the Faculty of Medicine Vajira Hospital, Navamindradhiraj. For Vajira Phuket Hospital, it has always been a key hospital in southern Thailand.

Laying Foundations for Democracy

In the reign of King Vajiravudh, Thailand was still an absolute monarchy, but His Majesty was well aware that the nation would soon move toward a democratic form of government. However, an abrupt change without good planning could result in countless problems and a false democracy. The best solution was to educate people to understand their fundamental rights and allow them to take part in local administration as a means to prepare people for a new form of government at a national level.

Having studied different forms of government in various countries, His Majesty had carried out experiments in constitutionalism since he was the Crown Prince. When returning to Thailand, the Crown Prince tried out his experimental idea of The New Republic conceived in Paris with his court pages in a fictional city called “Muang Mang”. The initiative continued for one year before coming to an end when the Crown Prince underwent the traditional Buddhist monk ordination. Crown Prince Vajiravudh also experimented with the concepts of a two-party system and UK parliamentary sittings at “**Gri Society**”, enhancing the country’s knowledge and understanding about democracy.

Realizing that Thai people at that time lacked sufficient knowledge and understanding about rights and responsibility, the earmarks of democratic government, “**His Majesty King Vajiravudh promulgated the Primary Education Act 1921.**”

In 1918, King Vajiravudh built the miniature city called Dusit Thani in the Dusit Palace before it was later moved to Phya Thai Palace in 1919. The model city boasted a temple, a hospital, a barrack, a school, a bank, shops, and approximately 300 residents. It was an experiment in self-government in the form of local administration which was an important foundation of national government. Dusit Thani also had constitution and elections.

The King acted as one of the citizens under the alias “Mr. Rama at Bangkok”, a lawyer. His Majesty also acted as a monk named Phra Ramarajamuni, the abbot of Dhammatippatai, preaching and inserting the idea that good democracy must be accompanied by virtues and ethics, reasoning that the kingdom’s advancement rested on the virtues and ethics of its people.

The experiment in democracy at the model city, Dusit Thani, continued until King Vajiravudh passed away. Although His Majesty’s desire to give a constitution to the people had not been realized, the Ministry of Interior built on His Majesty’s experiment at Dusit Thani, setting up municipalities (*thesaban*) and local administrations initiated by King Vajiravudh, resulting in the Thesaban Organization Act in the succeeding reign.



King Vajiravudh posing with committee members of the Blue Ribbon Party in the miniature city Dusit Thani.



Glorifying Thai Culture, Integrating Western Culture, and Inculcating Values into Thai Society

Art and culture, sports, religion, beliefs, and values, or the so-called soft power are factors influencing the participation and learning of people in society. King Vajiravudh adeptly employed this powerful soft power as means of inculcating values to drive Thailand toward becoming a civilized nation, to foster love and solidarity among people, and to create national pride in their glorious cultural heritage, a mark of Thai civilization that has been passed down from one generation to another.

Since his childhood, King Vajiravudh had a keen interest in history as well as Thai art and culture. His Majesty was concerned that Thai culture was dominated by the impact of the West brought by foreigners and some Thai people who were so obsessed with western culture and turned their backs on everything traditional. Unable to choose or blend different cultures together, a large number of people opted to drop their traditional culture in favor of western civilization in the fashion of “infatuation with new things in western style”. As a result, the centuries-old Thai art and culture passed down from previous generations could disappear unless His Majesty took efforts to nurture, support, and preserve Thai art and culture. To that end, the King was committed to reviving various fields of Thai art and culture throughout his reign.

Further, His Majesty pulled off the blending of Thai and western cultures to match Thai tastes. As the Crown Prince, His Majesty traveled to survey various archeological sites in the North including Kamphaeng Phet, Sukhothai, Sawankhalok, and Phitsanulok, treasure troves of Thai historical heritage that manifested an age-old glory of the Thai kingdom. When he became king, His Majesty established the Office of Archeology as part of the Library Division. King Vajiravudh could legitimately be called a pioneer in archeology in Thailand.

King Vajiravudh's picture taken during His Majesty's journey to survey various archeological sites in the North.

In His Majesty's attempt to preserve *khon* (masked dance drama), plays, and Thai traditional music, the “*Noble Khon Troupe*” was set up to train young court pages on precise patterns of khon movement. When he ascended the throne, King Vajiravudh mandated the establishment of the **Royal Entertainment Department (Krom Mahorasop)** charged with preserving and developing Thai classical dance and music. His Majesty also elevated the Royal Western String division to the Royal Orchestra, the first orchestra in Thailand and Southeast Asia. Further, the Noble Khon Troupe had been redirected to perform straight plays instead. After World War I, the troupe had staged several benefit performances of royal plays written by King Vajiravudh and other authors to raise funds for social causes and to instill in people a value of preserving Thai art and culture. The efforts continued until the King's passing.

In the area of **architecture**, the reign of King Vajiravudh saw His Majesty continue the construction of some western-influenced buildings left half - finished in the previous reign of King Chulalongkorn along with preserving elaborate traditional Thai architecture. His Majesty adeptly created a seamless integration of Thai and western styles of architecture, resulting in a new architectural style called “westerner with a Thai accessory”, which matched His Majesty's personal taste.

King Vajiravudh had a predilection for cartoon drawings and often had his cartoons published in newspapers. His Majesty also encouraged painting and sculpture in both Thai and western styles. Highly skilled Thai and foreign artists were commissioned to create exquisite works of art for decorations of important places under the supervision of His Majesty the King to ensure the works were aesthetically pleasing and to his liking. Foreign artists were also commissioned to develop local arts and crafts that combined intricate Thai motifs and western functionality.

His Majesty established the **Department of Fine Arts (Krom Silpakorn)** in 1912 and invited a number of Thai and foreign artists in various fields to serve in the Department. Toward the end of his reign, King Vajiravudh invited Professor Corrado Feroci, a sculptor from Florence, Italy (He was granted Thai citizenship after World War II and changed his name to Silpa Bhirasi) who had won a competition to design Thailand's coins, to work as a sculptor of the Royal Palace. Silpa Bhirasi is a venerable person who dedicated his life to the arts in Thailand and was the founder of the School of Fine Arts which was subsequently upgraded to "**Silpakorn University**".

In the realm of **Buddhism**, King Vajiravudh was a great patron of Buddhism, having restored multiple monasteries and fashioned numerous Buddha images. In addition to writing a book titled "*What is the knowledge attained by the Buddha on his enlightenment?*", His Majesty had translated a number of Buddhist prayers from Pali into Thai including *Mangala Sutta* and *Jayamangala Gatha* or *Bahum* for easy comprehension for Thai people. Also noteworthy was the King's inauguration of sending greeting cards on Visakha Bucha Day as do Christians on Christmas Day. On top of this, His Majesty appointed the Supreme Patriarch, Prince Vajiranana to chair the revision of *Atthakatha* (commentary) as a tribute to the Queen Mother. On the occasion of Prince Vajiranana's 60th birthday anniversary, King Vajiravudh published a complete set of commentaries, 200 copies of which were distributed locally and another 400 overseas.

His Majesty the King patronized and espoused various types of sports, especially football. His Majesty believed not only could a team sport foster solidarity among players, it could also boost their physical fitness, enabling them to become a driving force of the country's development and, most importantly, further nationalism. Having studied in England for many years, King Vajiravudh was a very keen football enthusiast. On his return to Thailand, he gave full encouragement to football, stimulating the sport to grow and leading to the organization of a national football team and a Royal Golden Trophy tournament. On June 25, 1925, the Football Association of Thailand was granted the royal permission to join International Federation of Association Football (FIFA), the first in Asia.

Besides football, badminton was also His Majesty's favorite sport. In addition to serving as the Royal Bangkok Sport Club's honorary president, he established the Royal

Turf Club of Thailand under the Royal Patronage, and ordered the Royal State Railways of Siam to build Royal Hua Hin Golf Course, Thailand's first standard golf course.

His Majesty's **literary** talents were apparent since his childhood. Realizing that advancement of the arts could bring the country international recognition, His Majesty dedicated his free time to writing a great number of articles, tales, narrative scripts for *khon*, plays, poems, speeches, royal guidance, nationalistic essays, journals, letter, documentaries, and newspaper articles. These literary works are of great merit in artistic expression through their mellifluous prose and poetry as well as in their conveyance of insightful messages. On top of this, King Vajiravudh used literary works as a "medium" to convey his political and administrative initiatives and viewpoints in an attempt to instill values in Thai people throughout his reign.

King Vajiravudh pledged to inculcate in people the responsible exercise of freedom in an ethical and democratic way. His Majesty permitted freedom to the press, allowing them to express views and criticisms freely. For instance, when a writer wrote an article on *Lor Tid Clone* (Our Wheels Getting Clogged) to satire the King's essay on *Clone Tid Lor (Clogs on Our Wheels)*, which was critical of the Thai society in various issues, His Majesty did not take it seriously nor punish him. Instead, the King was pleased and granted the writer a special reward. This was a testament that during the reign of King Vajiravudh, the press to a large extent enjoyed freedom of expression, thanks mainly to His Majesty's sportsmanship and gentlemanship. King Vajiravudh by all accounts was an exemplary writer and journalist, in whose footsteps younger generations should follow.

Apart from plays in the Thai language, His Majesty composed and translated a large selection of English and French plays into Thai. The literary pieces were marked with aesthetic quality of literature and retained the original literary flavor. His Majesty the King aimed to introduce western culture into the Thai society through his works, using arts as a means to verify the glory of the nation.

Cultural Heritages That Pass on till This Day

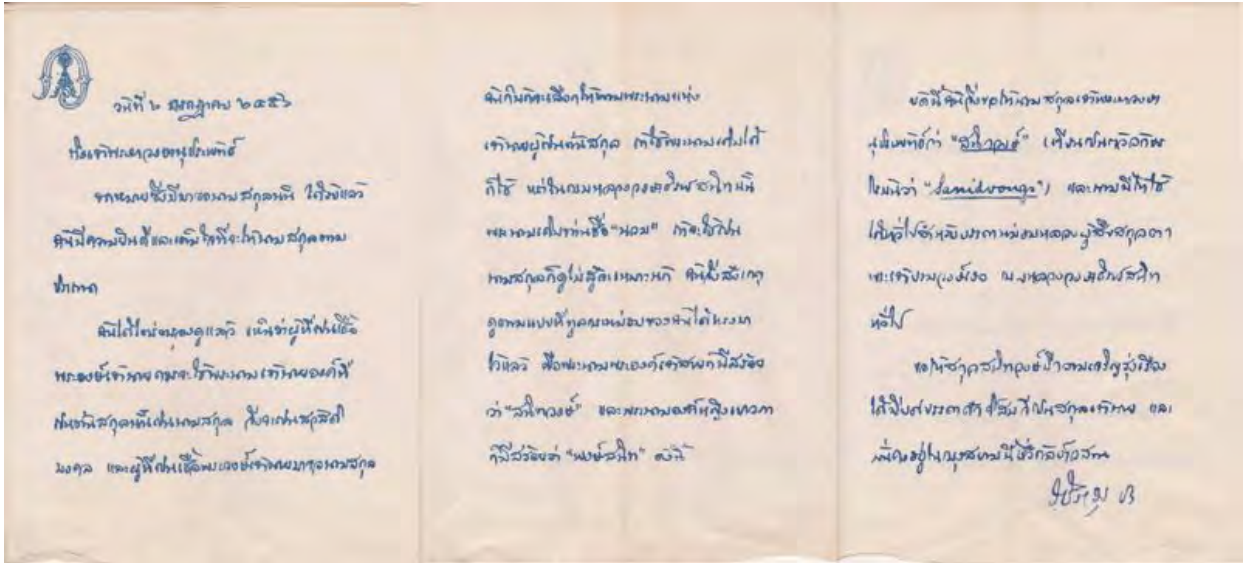
Many of His Majesty King Vajiravudh's initiatives and contributions have enormously benefited Thai society and laid solid foundations for the nation's development and stability. Examples are as follows:

The Tri-Rong Flag: The Symbol of Solidarity of Thai People

After Thailand joined the Allies in World War I, King Vajiravudh opined that Thailand's declaring war on Germany was the nation's first major step forward. It seemed appropriate to commemorate this milestone event. At that time, the Thai flag had a white elephant on the red background which the King did not find dignified enough. Prior to this, His Majesty had considered changing the flag design into stripes of colors as once the King saw the elephant flag hanging upside down. Further, since the printed materials used for making the flags had to be imported, they were relatively expensive. A change to a striped flag could help these problems go away.

His Majesty chose the colors that signified the ideologies for solidarity and boasted a dignified design. In the design process, the King was open to ideas and comments from different concerned parties. His Majesty finally came up with the design of a three-color flag and what the colors represented. The King named it the Tri-rong flag. The new flag boasts the colors of red for the nation which all Thais must protect even with their lives, white for religions, and dark blue for the monarchy.

The King decreed the Flag Act on September 28, 1917.



A letter from King Vajiravudh granting a surname.

Adoption of Surnames for Administrative and Social Benefits

In traditional times, Thai people did not have surnames. They identified themselves by their given names, making it difficult to distinguish between each individual as many shared the same name unlike in several other countries where people used a combination of given names and surnames for personal identification. Despite the attempt to incorporate one's paternal name in personal identification, the problem persisted. As the years passed, it would be difficult for the younger generations to trace their ancestral line. The greater the population of the country, the more difficult the precise identification of people.

Foreseeing the problem, King Vajiravudh ordered that Thai people should adopt a surname to ensure identification of people was more precise and unequivocal.

To that effect, “**the Surname Act of 1913** ” was promulgated, stipulating that Thai people had to bear a surname to facilitate birth, death, and marriage registration as well as when entering into a contract and exercising legal rights in modern society. This first Surname Act also set forth that the surname was to be handed down the male line.

The Surname Act was designed to systemize the increasingly complicated relationship in society. Not only did it help facilitate the record of data on people, it also ensured fairness in estate distribution, the right of possession, and statutory right of inheritance in the family in tandem with the western laws after which the Thai legal reform modeled itself.

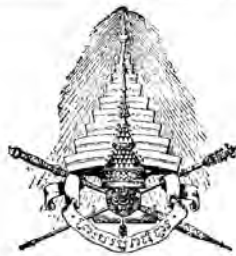
When the decree was first announced, a score of difficulties and confusions arose. Most people had no idea as to how to select a surname for themselves and turned to district officers and governors for help. King Vajiravudh himself devised and awarded over 6,000 surnames to government officers and commoners, providing guidelines for people in devising an appropriate surname. Apart from contributing to social organization like in the West, surnames serve as a token of family pride that family members must cherish and protect and are the basis for the continuation of a family line with strong ties and unity.

In addition to the promulgation of the Surname Act, the reign of King Vajiravudh saw the increasingly complex relationship in society being organized. Chief among the efforts were conducting population census together with birth, death, and marriage registration to keep records of individuals. Added to this were changes in the titles. His Majesty proclaimed the titles *Dek Ying* for girls and *Dek Chaay* for boys. For the word *Am Daeng*, which was used before a woman’s given name, His Majesty deemed it inappropriate and mandated new titles *Naang Saa* (Miss) for unmarried women, and *Nang* (Mrs.) for married women. For women of high social rank, the titles including *Thanpuying*, *Khunying*, and *Khun* were prescribed. The changes were designed to promote the status of women.

Adopting International Timekeeping System

In the last century, Thailand used a traditional timekeeping system, relying on traditional timekeeping devices: the gong and the drum. The onomatopoeia of the sounds of the drum and the gong gave rise to the terms “*thum*” and “*mong*” used to tell time. In the reign of King Vajiravudh, His Majesty opined that the traditional timekeeping system hindered communication with foreigners, and at that time Thailand saw the advent of European-made watches with a numbered display of 1-12 according to international timekeeping standards. It stands to reason that Thailand should adopt the international timekeeping system to facilitate communication.

In 1917, King Vajiravudh promulgated the official Thai timekeeping system, stipulating the use of “**o’clock**” to specify hour. According to his explanation, one day was divided into 24 hours, each called o’clock, and the hour was to be divided into “**minutes**” and “**seconds**”. To make timekeeping easier, the 24 hours of the day were divided into two sessions. The period from midnight to noon for a total of 12 hours was designated as “before noon”, and the period from noon to midnight for a total 12 hours was designated as “after noon”. His Majesty also set forth the new day begins after midnight rather than at *yam rung* (the sixth hour at dawn) to align with countries in Europe and America. Thailand has adopted the Greenwich Mean Time, and its current local mean time is 7 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time.



ประกาศใช้วัน เดือน ปี

มีพระบรมราชโองการ ใน พระบาทสมเด็จพระปรเมนทรมหาอานันทมหิดล
พระมงกุฎเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว ดำรัสเหนือเกล้าฯ สั่งว่า
วันที่ ๒ มีนาคม ๒๔๖๓ ราชกิจฯ ซึ่งได้ มีประกาศไว้แล้ว ใน รัชกาลก่อน
เรียกว่าประกาศให้ ใช้วัน เดือน ปีใหม่ ตั้งวันทุกวันนี้ เดือน ๕ แรม
สิบสอง ค่ำ มีชวศก ๒๔๖๓ ๒๕๖๓ นั้น ทรงพระราช
ดำริเห็น ว่า เป็นภวามพระสงฆ์สำหรับที่จะใช้ ให้เป็นระเบียนเทียบ
ร้อยปี อยู่แล้ว แต่ ว่า ลมเปลี่ยนใหม่ สำหรับที่จะใช้ ในการธนาคารด้วย
โดย คำนวณตามวิธี ใช้ บวกลบ ได้สะดวก และสะดวกใช้
อีกด้วย ตามวิธี ที่เรียกว่าปฏิทิน ฝรั่งใหม่ ใน ยุโรปนั้น ง่าย
ง่ายกว่า ใน อดีตนั้น ทำให้เกิดความวุ่นวายได้

King Vajiravudh's proclamation on a change to the solar calendar era.

Further, His Majesty decreed the official use of “the Buddhist Era (B.E)”, replacing the Rattanakosin Era introduced by King Chulalongkorn, which represented a three-digit number as the Rattanakosin Era had only begun in 1782. This made it difficult to record the events happening more than 100 years ago. Moreover, it was customary that modern nations adopted the calendar system that corresponded to their religions. Accordingly, King Vajiravudh instigated the use of Buddhist Era in all official contexts in 1913, and this is still followed today.

Creating New Terms

His Majesty King Vajiravudh created myriads of new terms since he was the Crown Prince. They could be classified into three categories:

- (1) foreign words that were transcribed into Thai replaced with new coined terms;
- (2) some existing words replaced with more proper words; and
- (3) new terms coined to accommodate the new initiatives during his reign.

Added to these were terms associated with law enactment. This has contributed to a wealth of new Thai words to enrich communication and nurture the unique identity of the Thai language. A large number of those words are still in use today such as *ka-ma-naa-kom* (communication), *duuang dtraa bprai-sa-nee-yaa-gon* (stamp), *dtam-ruuat* (police), *toh-ra-sap* (telephone), *bor-ri-gaan* (service), *bor-ri-jaak* (donate), *ban-pa-bu-rut* (ancestor), *grom chon bpra-taan* (Royal Irrigation Department), *naang saao* (miss), *sa-paa-gaa-chaat* (The Thai Red Cross Society), *kreuuang bin* (airplane), *chai-yoh* (hooray), *ta-haan aa-gaat* (air force man), *ta-naa-kaan* (bank), *omsin* (savings), *naam sa-gun* (surname), *put-ta-sak-ga-raat* (Buddhist Era), *a-nu-baan* (kindergarten), *a-nu-saa sa-naa-jaan* (chaplain), *ma-haa wit-ta-yaa-lai* (university), *wit-sa-wa gam-ma-saat* (engineering).

Strengthening National Security and Creating
International Recognition

In the 19th century, western imperialism spread quickly through Asia, closing in on Thailand. Thanks to the shrewd policies and statecraft of the previous monarchs, Thailand managed to retain its independence and sovereignty. This, however, came at a price as the kingdom had to concede some territories and sign unequal treaties with several Western powers, having put Thailand at a disadvantage for a lengthy period of time.

King Vajiravudh was well aware of the imperialist threats since he was a prince, especially during the Franco-Siamese War of 1893 which took place only one month before the Prince left for his studies in England. The conflict ended with Thailand agreeing to cede Laos to France and pay an indemnity of three million francs. In addition, Thailand was forced to evacuate all military posts on the right bank of the Mekong River without negotiation.

His Majesty saw to it that military might was instrumental in defending the country. The King set his mind to undertaking military training to enable him to streamline the strength of the Thai military. His Majesty's wisdom and ability in military strategies had been proven and gained wide acceptance on the international arena.

King Vajiravudh wearing a Field Marshal's uniform.



Organizing Military Force for Defense of the Nation

After King Vajiravudh's return to Thailand, he took several positions in the armed forces to gain insights into various fields. Toward the end of King Chulalongkorn's reign, the then Crown Prince Vajiravudh together with Prince of Nakhon Chaisi, the Commander of the Department of Military Operation (later promoted to Field Marshal Prince Chirapravati Voradej, Prince of Nakhon Chaisi, the Minister of Defense) laid the foundations for a modern military force.

In the past, commoners (*phrai*) were obliged to provide service to the sovereign or their masters for a certain period of time or provide military service in times of war or crisis. Each commoner had to be registered under a noble who had certain powers over his commoners. This made it difficult for war-time mobilization of these commoners upon call by the King. And the majority of these relatively small numbers of conscript soldiers lacked proper weapon training, leading to problems in combat operations.

After his return to Thailand, Prince of Nakhon Chaisi, who undertook military training in Europe, put forth the idea of western-style conscription in which men were equally liable to compulsory military service, and their salaries were paid from the military budget. The idea was put to the test in the wake of the Ngeaw rebellion in Monthon Phayap which saw a shortage of soldiers to suppress the rebellion. The satisfactory results led to the promulgation of the Conscription Act in 1905. The Act, drafted by Crown Prince Vajiravudh, then the Inspector General, was first enacted in a few *monthons* before being extended to other *monthons* nationwide.

King Vajiravudh riding a horse during a tour of military inspection.



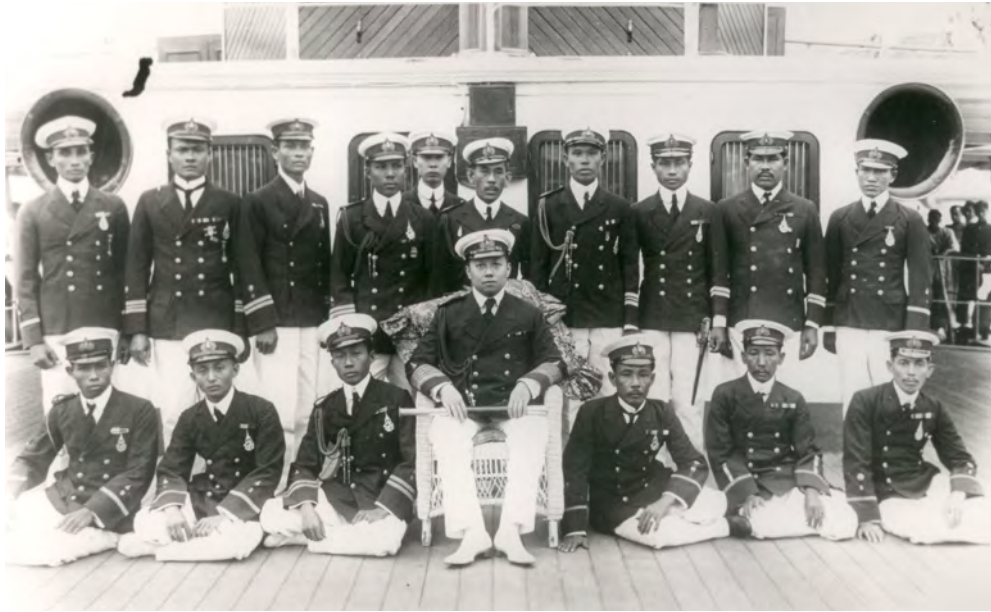
Later in 1916, King Vajiravudh instigated the Act in every *monthon* across the nation. The introduction of the new conscription system gave the King powers to centralize the military, reducing the powers of the nobles over his commoners. Every soldier thereafter was to report directly to the King. The moves were in line with the efforts to centralize political and administrative powers to cope with the political situations and foster internal security amid the age of imperialism.

Strengthening Thai Navy

In December 1914 on King Vajiravudh's visit to the beach in Monthon Chanthaburi, the Ministry of the Royal Navy held naval maneuvers and parade in Sattahip Bay. His Majesty saw that it was an ideal place to establish a naval base. Nevertheless, considering it was not yet the right time to found a naval base, the King mandated that the Ministry of Interior decree the expropriation of land in that area for building a palace, a move to keep His Majesty's defense strategy secret from the Western powers or even the Thai public.

In 1920, the Ministry of the Royal Thai Navy inspected Sattathip Bay and found it a strategic place for the establishment of a naval base. Admiral Prince Abhakara Kiartivongse, Prince of Chumphon requested His Majesty for the use of the royal land at Sattahip Bay. The King granted his permission as it corresponded to his previous intention.

His Majesty the King was well aware that Thailand had a coastline stretching over 2,000 kilometers on the Gulf of Thailand and along the Andaman Sea, and yet the country did not have a large warship to protect the kingdom's coast. When a group of officials and royalists proposed a plan to set up an association to lead a drive to enlist funds from the general public to buy or build a warship for the King to bestow to the Royal Navy, His Majesty graciously named the group "The Royal Navy League of Siam under the Royal Patronage of His Majesty the King". He also gave the name "Phra Ruang" to the ship to be obtained after a highly revered Thai monarch of the past. Aside from granting seed money, King Vajiravudh carried out a series of performances of plays and painting exhibitions with all the proceeds going to the fund to purchase Phra Ruang warship.



King Vajiravudh on board the royal yacht Maha Chakri during a journey to the coastal provinces in Monthon Chantaburi between December 12-24, 1914.

The excess of the money subscribed to buy the ship was offered to the Royal Navy at their disposal. The warship of Phra Ruang arrived in Thailand and was commissioned in 1920.

Toward the later years in his reign, King Vajiravudh established the Royal Wild Tiger Navy as part of the Wild Tiger Corps responsible for riverine patrol. The corps underwent the same training as sailors. A number of Wild Tiger Navy battalions were stationed in provincial areas especially the coastal provinces. His Majesty also personally sponsored officers to serve in Britain's Royal Navy to learn about military tactics in the submarine warfare of the Royal Navy during World War I. The knowledge and experience gained had subsequently contributed to the establishment of the Submarine Squadron, Royal Thai Fleet.



King Vajiravudh visiting an aircraft hangar in 1914.

Establishment of the Royal Thai Air Force

The Royal Thai Air Force was established in 1913 in the reign of King Vajiravudh, being upgraded from the Aviation Section of the Army Engineering Division. It was only a few years after the establishment of army aviation corps in the Western powers. The Thai public first became aware of aircraft in January 1910 when the first aircraft demonstration of a biplane was staged at Sapathum Horse Racing Course, merely eight years after the Wright brothers invented and flew the first airplane. It was concurrent with His Majesty King Vajiravudh's initiative to streamline Thailand's military strength in all areas to defend the country from the threats of the colonial powers.

When Prince of Nakhon Chaisi, the Minister of Defense, visited Europe, he learned that France was carrying out drastic military reforms, further reinforcing its fleet of aircraft. After his return to Thailand, the Prince informed Field Marshal Chakrabongse Bhuvanath, the Prince of Bishnulok, of the needs for Thailand to have airplanes for the defense of the kingdom like the more civilized nations. King Vajiravudh was kept in the situation subsequently.

The King later mandated the Ministry of Defense to send three army officers to France to study aviation and aeronautical engineering. Seven airplanes were also bought. After receiving their flying certificates, the officers returned to Thailand and helped set up **“Aviation Section of the Army Engineering Division”** at Sapathum Horse Racing Course.

When Sapathum Horse Racing Course was considered too small to accommodate future expansion into a large-scale airport, a plan was proposed to move the airfield to Don Mueang, which was located in upland areas with very low risks of flooding all year round and was not far from Bangkok. It could also be easily accessible by boat and railway. Upon the King’s approval, the airfield was relocated to Don Mueang Airport. Apart from being a military base, Don Mueang is also one of Thailand’s and the world’s major commercial airports.

When World War I broke out in Europe, King Vajiravudh decided to declare war on the Central Powers. The dispatch of the soldiers to assist the Allies not only demonstrated Thailand’s cooperation and preparedness of the Thai troops, a number of volunteer soldiers were chosen to learn to fly in France. They acquired the knowledge and tactics to develop the Royal Siamese Flying Corps, which evolved into **“The Royal Thai Air Force ”** today.

Building a Palace to Serve as a Stronghold for National Defense

Every year, His Majesty King Vajiravudh took members of the Wild Tiger Corps to participate in military maneuvers in Nakhon Pathom and Ratchaburi areas in conjunction with the military, the Wild Tigers, and the Boy Scouts in Monthon Nakhon Chai Si and Monthon Ratchaburi. The objectives were to prepare the Wild Tigers to play their role of supporting the army in spying and patrolling and to practice various military tactics to gain familiarity with the terrain in this area. During the annual maneuvers, the King stayed in the Sanam Chandra Palace in Nakhon Pathom.

The Sanam Chandra Palace was built by the then Crown Prince Vajiravudh. Besides serving as a retreat, His Majesty intended it be a stronghold during a national crisis due to its ideal location which was not far away from Bangkok and with access to the railway, making it easy to transport troops and equipment from Bangkok. The King also commanded a construction of a road connecting the Sanam Chandra Palace to Ratchaburi to facilitate the deployment.

It was hypothesized that if Bangkok were to come under siege like during the Franco-Siamese War of 1893, all military units across the country would be mobilized to defend the capital except for the 4th Division in Monthon Ratchaburi tasked with defending against seaborne invasion from the Malay Peninsula. In this scenario, the trained Wild Tigers who were familiar with the surrounding terrain could come in handy to defend the area instead.



King Vajiravudh driving in Sanam Chandra Palace.

Further, given Monthon Nakhon Chai Si and Monthon Ratchaburi had a myriad of canals, the enemies would be forced to transport troops via waterways had the track on the railway been removed, providing Thai soldiers perfect vantage points for ambushes. The landings on Samut Sakhon, Samut Songkhram, and Phetchaburi were also unlikely due to their muddy terrain which did not allow for transportation of heavy weapons. Likewise, the invasion through the Three Pagodas Pass was deemed difficult, if not impossible, because of the rough and densely forested terrain.

Toward the later years in the reign, His Majesty intended to use the Palace to be the site for a military academy given its strategic location. Although the government opted not to set up the military academy there after His Majesty's passing, the Palace was used instead for the purposes of the Ministry of Interior and for educational purposes. The Palace has stood the test of time as Thailand's valuable cultural heritage throughout the years.





Chali Mongkol Asana Residence and Mari Ratcha Rat
Banlang Residence at Sanam Chandra Palace.

Leading Thailand to Join the League of Civilized Nations

With a firm determination to bring Thailand the unprecedented prominence and dignity as other civilized countries, His Majesty King Vajiravudh was relentless in taken numerous bold initiatives to realize his goals.

Establishing Foreign Relationship

Before ascending the throne, the then Prince Vajiravudh, Krom Khun Thep Dvaravatti, later appointed the Crown Prince of Siam, went to England for his education for nine years. The young intelligent Prince who was elegant and cultured in appearance and manner earned respect and was invited to visit many European courts. He also attended multiple royal functions. For instance, Crown Prince Vajiravudh represented King Chulalongkorn, his father, at the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom, the coronation of King Alfonso XIII of Spain, and the coronation of King Edward VII of the United Kingdom.

The Crown Prince was committed to fostering foreign relationships, making visits to many European countries. When returning to Thailand, Crown Prince Vajiravudh traveled via the United States and Japan to observe the advancement and people's ways of life. The travel across both the Atlantic and the Pacific Ocean was considered an "around the world" trip, making him the first monarch to have done so. In addition to fostering rapport with various nations, the Crown Prince gained valuable experience to assist his father in carrying out the royal duties.



King Vajiravudh wearing Khruai over Regal Vestments and the Crown-Headdress for the Great Kathin Ceremony seated on the Budtan Kanchana Singhasana.

Ingenious Policy in Holding Two Coronation Ceremonies

After King Chulalongkorn's passing on October 23, 1910, Crown Prince Vajiravudh ascended the throne as the sixth monarch under the Chakri dynasty. As the coronation ceremony which was scheduled on November 11, 1910 coincided with a mourning period for King Chulalongkorn, King Vajiravudh mandated that the Royal Procession on Land be postponed and all festivities and entertainments be avoided. The ceremony was hence called the **“Assumption of the Royal Residence”**.

One year later, His Majesty the King commanded the second **“Royal Coronation Ceremony”** be held on December 2, 1911. The move was part of His Majesty's international relations policy to make Thailand better known to the world since His Majesty had good relationships with several monarchs and presidents of leading states. The ceremony was attended by representatives from 14 countries, marking it the first Royal Coronation Ceremony to have invited royal representatives and special envoys and becoming one of the greatest royal ceremonies in Asia at that time.

The rationale behind the delay in holding the Royal Coronation Ceremony was to avoid having festivities or entertainments during the time the nation was in mourning and to have sufficient time to invite foreign guests to Thailand. His Majesty closely oversaw preparations to impress these dignitaries and fend off criticism. Queen Mother Saovabha and several princesses were involved as hosts, greeting and meeting foreign female royalties and distinguished guests to portray the national pride and the dignity of Thai women to the world.

Entering World War I

World War I was a global war (1914-1918) between the Allied Powers consisting of Russia, France, England, Japan, Italy and others, and the Central Powers comprising Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey, and Bulgaria among others.

At the start of the war, His Majesty King Vajiravudh had adopted the policy of neutrality to maintain good relations with both sides. Yet when it was evident that Thailand could not remain neutral for long, His Majesty decided to join the Allies. His decision, however, was not well received by most princes and ministers who tended to lean toward the Central Powers.

With His Majesty's great foresight, he saw the continued attempt of the leader of the Central Powers to build up political and economic influence in Thailand. This together with the Central Powers' violations of international law and the fact that it was clearly losing prompted King Vajiravudh to declare war against the Central Powers and join the Allied Powers on July 22, 1917 to underline the message that Thailand did not side with those violating international law and human rights.

On June 13, 1918, a volunteer expeditionary force of 1,500 was sent to France to take part in the war.

World War I ended when Germany signed an armistice on November 11, 1918. During the war, the Thai motor transport detachments fought bravely and were later awarded the Croix de Guerre decorations from the French government for display on the flag of the Motor Transport Division to commemorate the victory.

His Majesty King Vajiravudh decided to join the Allies to give a major boost to Thailand's reputation in the international arena and, more importantly, to gain leverage in revising the unequal treaties with many countries. This is a key turning point in the history of international relations in Thailand, which has contributed enormously to the position of Thailand and its relations with the world's powers.



A volunteer expeditionary force traveling to join World War I in Europe.

Support for the Durham Light Infantry Regiment

Despite Thailand's adoption of neutrality policy at the start of the war, His Majesty King Vajiravudh sent money to the families of soldiers in the Durham Light Infantry Regiment killed or injured in World War I as he once served in the unit while studying in England. In appreciation for his generosity, King George V of the United Kingdom on September 22, 1916 bestowed on King Vajiravudh an honorary generalship in the British army, the highest military rank never before bestowed upon any head of state in Asia. Five days later, King Vajiravudh in return conferred an honorary generalship in the Thai army on the British monarch. The move signified the two dignified nations as equals.

It could be construed that the honor given by King George V of England, one of the Western powers, recognized Thailand and the Thai army as being in the same league as civilized nations.



Honorary General HM King Vajiravudh wearing a Durham Light Infantry uniform with the riband of Honorary Knights Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order.

Gradual Revisions of Unequal Treaties in International Law

In the reign of King Mongkut, England sent “**Sir John Bowring**” as an envoy to negotiate a treaty, eventually leading to the signing of the “**Bowring Treaty**” between England and Thailand in 1855. The treaty’s effects included arrangements of extraterritoriality, liberalization of foreign trade, and restrictions on the fixing of duty rates.

Thailand subsequently had to sign treaties with all other Western powers and some Asian nations based on the terms set by the Bowring Treaty. Given these treaties were permanently binding upon the signatory parties, and any treaty amendment required the consent of the other signatory party who often demanded treaty benefits in exchanges for revision of some provisions, they were collectively called “**unequal treaties**”.

In an attempt to revise these unequal treaties, King Chulalongkorn had made massive efforts throughout his reign to modernize the country in numerous dimensions. Chief among them were reorganizing the kingdom’s administration, improving laws and legal system, upgrading the penal system and correctional facilities nationwide, and modernizing the court system to ensure Thailand’s judiciary and court systems were internationally accepted.

At Harvard University, King Vajiravudh studied law. His Majesty was the first in Thailand to write a textbook on international law in the Thai language, comprising such topics as maritime law, and public international law. He also took a special interest in revision and drafting laws as well as reforming judiciary affairs. In addition to encouraging legal education, His Majesty mandated the establishment of the Thai Bar Association, reformed the judiciary system, and revised Thai laws to comply with international standards.

At the end of World War I with the victory of the Allied Powers, Thailand benefited tremendously from participation in the war. As one of the victorious Allied Powers, Thailand took successful steps toward revising treaties with the Central Powers. From there, the kingdom proceeded to negotiate with other foreign countries. The first accomplishment was the negotiation with the United States, resulting in a new treaty in 1920. A few years later, the Thai government appointed Dr. Francis B. Sayre, a US law professor, who was later awarded the title Phya Kalyanamaitri, the representative in negotiating the remaining unequal treaties.

The treaty negotiations were completed in the late period of King Vajiravudh's reign, yet the ratification of the new treaties was carried over and completed early in the reign of King Prajadhipok. Since then, Thailand had regained its commercial, tax, and judiciary autonomy after enduring over 70 years of unequal treaties. The new treaties have signified Thailand's relations with foreign nations on an equitable basis in tandem with His Majesty King Vajiravudh's wishes.

Epilogue

With His Majesty the King's keen intellect together with the practical period of preparation for assuming the formidable royal duties in leading Thailand to weather the political, social, and economic crises and rise to the same league as the civilized nations, King Vajiravudh relentlessly committed himself to accomplish his multifarious duties when ascending the throne. His Majesty drew upon his wealth of knowledge and skills in various fields to steer the country in the right direction, overcoming a myriad of challenges and obstacles and gaining recognition on the international scene as he had hoped.

Several of His Majesty's initiatives and policies throughout his reign were ahead of their time, at times making them too advanced for government officers or Thai people to accept or fully understand.

His Majesty King Vajiravudh passed on a richly diverse heritage to the Thai people which earned him the honorific title **“Somdet Phra Maha Thirarat Chao”** or the **“Great Scholarly Monarch of the Kingdom ”** in honor of His Majesty's great academic prominence. Apart from that, the United Nations for Education, Scientific, and Culture Organization (UNESCO) honored King Vajiravudh as one of the world's great personalities in culture.

To express its deepest gratitude for His Majesty, SCG was keen to construct a statue of King Vajiravudh in memory of His Majesty the King's benevolence, reminding members of the Board of Directors, Top Executives, and all SCG employees as well as the general public to dedicate themselves to bringing prosperity to the Thai kingdom in alignment with His Majesty's intention and as a celebration of the national pride and glory for many years to come.



King Vajiravudh wearing the Field Marshal's uniform of the 11th Infantry Regiment, King's Close Bodyguard.

Milestones Events in the Life and Reign of His Majesty King Vajiravudh

1880

- On January 1, HRH Prince Maha Vajiravudh was born to King Chulalongkorn and Queen Saovabha Phongsri.

1888

- Prince Vajiravudh was invested with the new royal title Somdet Chao Fa Krom Khun Thep Dvaravati.
- Prince Vajiravudh started to keep a diary after receiving a diary from his father, reflecting the young prince's curiosity and love of learning which subsequently contributed to his literary talents. This culminated in over 1,200 pieces of literary works throughout his lifetime.

1890

- Prince Vajiravudh was first educated at Rajakumar School, a royal school in the Grand Palace, along with other princes and minor members of the royal family.

1891

- Prince Vajiravudh accompanied and served Crown Prince Maha Vajirunhis when the Crown Prince was ordained into the monkhood.

1892

- Prince Vajiravudh had his topknot cut in the *Sokan* ceremony in accordance with ancient Thai tradition.

1893

- Incident of R.S.112 (The Franco-Siamese War of 1893), which was a conflict between France and Siam over the territory east of the Mekong, led to the French blockading the Siam coast. The conflict ended with the signing of the Franco-Siamese Treaty in which the Siamese agreed to cede the territory east of the Mekong and its control over the Indochinese under a protectorate to France.
- Prince Vajiravudh declared himself a Buddhist devotee (*Buddhamamma*) in front of monks who gathered at the ordination hall (*ubosot*) of Wat Niwet Thammaprawat before leaving Thailand for his education in England.
- Prince Vajiravudh studied Thai at the royal school in the Grand Palace with a number of Thai teachers including Phya Sisunthonwohan (Noi Acharayangkun), Phya Itsaraphansophon (Mom Rajowongse Nu Itsarangkun), and Mom Chao Bhapakorn, consort of Prince Maha Mala Pamrabporapat, and studied English with Mr. Robert Morant. The young prince was sent to England for further education by King Chulalongkorn on August 20, making him the first Thai monarch to study abroad. Upon arrival in England, Prince Vajiravudh stayed in Brighton for around one month before moving to North Lodge in Ascot where he obtained education via homeschooling with Phra Montriphotchanakit (Mom Rajawongse Pia Malakul) as his guardian. Sir Basil Thomson was assigned by the British government to provide private tutorials to the young prince.

1894

- On January 4, Crown Prince Maha Vajirunhis passed away while Prince Vajiravudh was staying in Ascot, England.
- On January 17, King Chulalongkorn appointed Prince Vajiravudh Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Siam.
- On March 2, Queen Victoria of England hosted a tea party to congratulate Prince Vajiravudh on being appointed the Crown Prince.
- On March 8, the royal seal of the Crown Prince, regalia, royal decorations, royal letters of appointment as well as insignias for Lieutenant in the King's Guard Regiment and for Senior Colonel of the Royal Guards were presented to Crown Prince Vajiravudh at the Thai Embassy in London, England.

1896

- On November 19, Crown Prince Vajiravudh moved to Graitney in Camberly near Aldershot where he studied military discipline with Lt.Col C.V. Hume; civilian discipline with Mr. Oliver, an English teacher; and French with Mr. Bouvier, a Swiss teacher.

1897

- King Chulalongkorn appointed Queen Saovabha Phongsri, mother of Crown Prince Vajiravudh, Regent of Siam during His Majesty's first journey to Europe. The Queen later had the title of Somdet Phra Nang Chao Saovabha Phongsri Praborommarachininat (H.M. the Queen Regent) bestowed upon her.
- The Crown Prince welcomed King Chulalongkorn during His Majesty's first journey to Europe in Venice, Italy.
- The Crown Prince and Thai students studying in Europe staged a play on *My Friend Jarlet* written by Arnold Golsworthy to entertain King Chulalongkorn at Parc des Eaux-Vivres in Geneva, Switzerland, where the King stayed. The Crown Prince played Marie Leroux in the play, which he later translated into a Thai version titled *Mitr Tae*.
- The Crown Prince represented King Chulalongkorn at Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee to celebrate the Queen's 60 years on the throne.
- The Crown Prince received military training at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst.

1898

- The Crown Prince enrolled in the Durham Light Infantry (DLI) Regiment at North Camp in Aldershot.
- While serving on active duty at the Durham Light Infantry, Crown Prince Vajiravudh volunteered to join other DLI soldiers to fight in the Boer Wars. However, the British and Thai governments deemed it inappropriate for the Crown Prince to participate in the warfare.
- The Crown Prince underwent further artillery training on Dartmoor at Okehampton Artillery Camp under the 6th Mountain Division.
- The Crown Prince underwent small arms training at the Army School of Musketry in Hythe. He obtained a special certificate and a sharpshooter medal.

1899

- After completing the military training, Crown Prince Vajiravudh went to study history, geology, economics, government, and law at the University of Oxford under the same curriculum the university prepared for the British Royal Family.
- During his study at Oxford, the Crown Prince stayed at Canterbury Quad, Christ Church, Oxford.

1900

- During summer break, the Crown Prince underwent surgery for ulcerative colitis and recovered soon afterwards.
- The Crown Prince researched information about history to write a thesis style commemorative book for the university titled *The War of the Polish Succession* published by Oxford (England): Blackwell in late 1900. The Crown Prince later wrote the book in the Thai language titled *Songkhram Sup Ratchasombat Polan*.

1901

- The Crown Prince represented King Chulalongkorn at the state funeral of Queen Victoria of England.
- Crown Prince Vajiravudh underwent mountain artillery training at the Battery of the Royal Artillery in Aldershot.
- The Crown Prince established the Thai Association in the United Kingdom (Samaggi Samagom) to provide assistances and consultations to Thai people in the United Kingdom, especially students, enabling them to adjust and fit in a new environment. He also published *Samaggi San*, the in-house magazine to facilitate communication among members. The idea came from *The Screen Owl*, an English language weekly magazine featuring miscellaneous topics for children's light reading and *The Looker-On*, the newspaper he published earlier.

- Crown Prince Vajiravudh represented King Chulalongkorn at the coronation of King Alfonso XIII of Spain, which later gave rise to the royal literary work titled *The Spanish Coronation*.
- The Crown Prince represented King Chulalongkorn at the coronation of King Edward VII of the United Kingdom.
- After graduating from Oxford, Crown Prince Vajiravudh traveled to several European countries including Belgium, Austria, Hungary, France, Denmark among others as well as Egypt to observe various affairs. The trip later inspired the Crown Prince's literary work titled *A Tour of Egyptian Cities* and his interest in archeology and democracy. During the journey, Crown Prince Vajiravudh and his foreign friends carried out an experiment in democracy, setting up a democratic republic under The New Republic experimental initiative.
- The Crown Prince returned to Thailand from the Port of Southampton on October 3, traveling via countries around the world to observe and study arts, technology, and government as guided by King Chulalongkorn. The Crown Prince visited the United States and Japan to study and observe advancements in the areas of education, government, military, economy, society, and culture in both powerful nations.
- The Crown Prince arrived at Paknam, Samut Prakan on January 29 and was greeted with spectacular festivities for several days. King Chulalongkorn bestowed upon the Crown Prince Saranrom Palace as a residence.
- Crown Prince Vajiravudh served in the Office of His Majesty's Principal Private Secretary to learn about the King's multifarious duties.
- The Crown Prince commissioned Chao Phya Thewetwongwiwat (M.R.Larn Koonchorn) to assign a *Khon* master to teach his pages and courtiers as a means to preserve this high Thai art form to prevent it from disappearing due to lack of support. An amateur troupe (Khon Samak Len) was later established to stage multiple performances.

1903

- Crown Prince Vajiravudh was appointed Inspector General of the army with the military rank of Major General, an honor equal to Defense Minister.
- Crown Prince Vajiravudh was appointed Regimental Commanding Officer of King's Guard Regiment with the military rank of Lieutenant Colonel.
- The Crown Prince was appointed a special Royal Guard.
- The Crown Prince tried out his experimental idea of The New Republic with his courtiers in a fictional city called "Mueng Mang" in Amphawan Park behind the Chitralada Villa Royal Residence (adjacent to Paruskavan Palace). The initiative came to an end when the Crown Prince underwent the traditional Buddhist monk ordination.

1904

- In line with tradition, Crown Prince Vajiravudh was ordained as a Buddhist monk by Somdet Phra Maha Samana Chao Kromma Phya Vajirananavarorasa as the preceptor with Prince Bhujong Jombunud Sirivaddhano being the act announcing teacher. After the ordination ceremony at the Grand Palace, the Prince-novice, who was given the ordination name "Vajiravudho", spent his novice days at Wat Bowonniwet. HRH Prince Mahidol Adulyadej also became ordained as a novice toward the end of the ordination ceremony.
- The Prince-novice studied the monastic discipline assigned by the preceptor. He sat the Dhamma Studies examination at Wat Bowonniwet and ranked first that year.
- The Crown Prince built a Buddha statue which was named Phra Maha Naga Jina as a memorial to his ordainment.
- The Crown Prince was entrusted with the renovation of Phra Pathommachedi. He ordered the construction of a bungalow for staying overnight during the renovation.
- The Crown Prince set up the Tawee Panya Club House to promote composition and plays. A monthly magazine named *Tawee Panya* was published, featuring articles, poems, tales, and humor.

1905

- As Inspector General of the army, the Crown Prince together with Prince of Nakhon Chaisi, Commander of the Department of Military Operation, drafted a military conscription bill. This led to the promulgation of the Conscription Act in 1905.
- Crown Prince Vajiravudh accompanied King Chulalongkorn to open the Northern rail line at Ban Phachi Junction. The Crown Prince also represented King Chulalongkorn on the inspection tour of Monthon Phayap, visiting northern provinces including Nakhon Sawan, Phichit, Phitsanulok, Uttaradit, Phrae, Lampang, Phayao, Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai, and Lamphun. On the way back, the Crown Prince also visited Tak, Kamphaeng Phet, Banphot Phisai, Nakhon Sawan, Chainat, Singburi, and Ang Thong.
- The Crown Prince composed *Lilit Phayap*, a narrative description of past events during his three-month journey to Monthon Phayap.
- On the journey to Monthon Phayap, the Crown Prince opened a royal Thai school in Lampang and named it Bunyawat Witthayalai School. He also sponsored the construction of a royal Thai school in Chiang Mai and named it Yupparaj Wittayalai School.
- On the occasion of the Crown Prince's birthday celebration in Chiang Mai, he came to the Chiang Mai Boys School founded by an American missionary on the east of the Ping River and laid the cornerstone for the first building. The Crown Prince also renamed the school "The Prince Royal's College".
- The journey to Monthon Phayap gave birth to the story of Thao Hiran Phanasun.

1906

- Crown Prince Vajiravudh experimented with the concepts of a two-party system and UK parliamentary sitting at "Gri Society" in the Chitralada Villa Royal Residence. The participants included the royal family members and government officers having traveled to the UK for working visit as well as his courtiers. They were members of either the Gentlemen Party or the Labor Party. The party that won the monthly election were to send nine members to manage and promote sports and plays in accordance with the objectives of the Society.

- The Crown Prince visited northern provinces including Kamphaeng Phet, Sukhothai, Sawankhalok, Uttaradit, and Phitsanulok. This subsequently led to the founding of the Archeological Club (Bhorankhadi Samoson) to promote public awareness in archeology and history as part of his policy of creating a civilized nation.
- The Crown Prince wrote a book titled *Tiew Muang Phra Ruang* (Sukhothai Tour) during his journey to the northern provinces. The book traced Thai history back beyond King U-thong, the first king of the Ayutthaya Kingdom, to the Sukhothai Kingdom.
- During the journey to the North, the Crown Prince discovered the head, hands, and feet of an ancient dilapidated Buddha statue and brought them back to Bangkok.
- The Crown Prince purchased a tract of land around Noen Prasart Hill, west of Phra Pathommachedi. He then had Luang Phitak Manop (Noi Silapi) supervise the construction of a palace named “Sanam Chandra Palace”.
- King Chulalongkorn went on his second trip to Europe and appointed Crown Prince Vajiravudh the King’s Regent.
- To commemorate King Chulalongkorn’s 40th year on the throne, which was as long as that of King Ramathibodi II of the Ayutthaya Kingdom, the longest reigning monarch in Thai history at that time, Crown Prince Vajiravudh consulted with his ministers and agreed to hold state ceremonies upon King Chulalongkorn’s return from his journey to Europe. The Crown Prince asked the public to help donate money to erect an equestrian statue in celebration of the Rajamankala Bhisek Ceremonies.
- The Crown Prince revived the fictional city “Mueng Mang” in the form of municipality with a mayor, a public works unit, a secretariat, and councillors. It also featured a fire station, *Chuan Hua* newspaper, and Lifortia Bank to introduce his courtiers to saving. The bank later led to the establishment of a “Savings Office”.
- The Crown Prince commissioned the Department of Sanitation, the Ministry of Metropolis (Nakhonban), to lay the groundwork for a modern water supply system for people in the city.

1908

- Crown Prince Vajiravudh and Commander of the Department of Military Operation organized the army, creating ten infantry divisions across the country.
- Thailand gave up the states of Kedah, Kelantan, Terengganu, and Perlis to the British and signed a secret convention with the British government in which the Federated Malay States (FMS) agreed not to deploy military down the Malay Peninsula from Bang Saphan Noi to Pattani as a result of a huge loan lent to the Thai government from the British for the construction of the Southern rail line.
- As the head of the fund-raising campaign, Crown Prince Vajiravudh represented the Thai public in presenting the Equestrian Statue to King Chulalongkorn at the Rajamankala Bhisek Ceremonies.

1909

- The Crown Prince went on his first journey to the southern *monthons* to observe the southern geography, especially around the Kra Isthmus Canal as well as people's way of life. The objective was to gather information for use in formulating a defense plan in the areas under a secret convention with the British.

- The Crown Prince resolved the problems in the Ministry of Justice resulting from “Khadi Phya Raka”, the conflict that caused a total of 28 persons including the Justice Minister as well as judges, and others to resign, adversely disrupting judicial operations. The Crown Prince served as the temporary head of the Justice Ministry since the problems arose in the reign of King Chulalongkorn through to his accession to the throne. This led to the restructuring of the Ministry of Justice two years later.
- After King Chulalongkorn’s passing on October 23, Crown Prince Vajiravudh ascended the throne as the sixth monarch under the Chakri dynasty.
- On November 11, King Vajiravudh attended the first coronation ceremony called the Assumption of the Royal Residence. His Majesty’s reigning titled was “Phra Bat Somdet Phra Mongkut Klao Chao Yu Hua”.
- King Vajiravudh appointed Prince Vajirananavarorasa the Supreme Patriarch who had absolute authority in the administration of the Sangha.
- King Vajiravudh gave educational directions to Phya Pisansilapatsat (Senan Devahastin Na Ayudhaya), chief inspector of the Ministry of Education, at Chakri Maha Prasat Throne Hall in the Royal Palace, subsequently leading to the National System of Education in 1913.
- King Vajiravudh ordered that all royal pages studying in various schools transfer to a newly established school named the Royal Pages College in line with the King’s intention to found a school instead of building a Royal Monastery, a former custom of Thai monarchs (King Prajadhipok later renamed the school “Vajiravudh College”). His Majesty’s notions on education that were successfully put into effect at the Royal Pages College were incorporated into the curriculum for elementary and secondary levels at model schools in different *monthons* throughout the kingdom.
- The Royal Page School established by King Chulalongkorn was upgraded to the Civil Service College of King Chulalongkorn. His Majesty also granted the surplus of money donated by people for the construction of the equestrian statue amounting to over 900,000 baht as seed money.

- King Vajiravudh proceeded to perform the ceremony of the Assumption of the Residence at Sanam Chandra Palace and solemnize Phra Pathommachedi. His Majesty intended Sanam Chandra Palace be a stronghold during a national crisis like the Franco-Siamese War of 1893.
- His Majesty commissioned the arrangement of a market fair to celebrate the ceremony of the Assumption of the Residence at Sanam Chandra Palace. The fair provided opportunities for the King to see a large variety of agricultural products produced by the community and to witness people's happy lives. This was a similar vision to His Majesty's later decision to hold the Siamrat Phiphitthaphan Trade fair, Thailand's first trade fair.
- King Vajiravudh revamped national defense, disbanding the Department of Military Operation and transferring military affairs to the Ministry of Defense. The Department of Navy also became the Ministry of the Royal Navy.
- The King established the Military Council to provide consultancy on national defense affairs.
- His Majesty commissioned Ercole Manfredi, an Italian architect, to work as an architect for the Royal Palace to develop local arts and crafts that combined intricate, neat, and delicate Thai pattern designs with the realism and functionality of Western art.
- King Vajiravudh served as the Royal Bangkok Sport Club's honorary president.
- His Majesty mandated the establishment of the Aviation Section of the Army Engineering Division at the Royal Bangkok Sport Club (Sapathum Horse Racing Course).

- King Vajiravudh undertook his first journey to the eastern *monthons* via the Armed Yatch Maha Chakri. Apart from traveling to towns in Monthon Nakhon Si Thammarat and Monthon Chumphon, His Majesty also visited islands along the coastline of Monthon Chanthaburi such as Koh Kood, Koh Chang, Koh Samet, Chong Samae San, and Sattahip to plan defenses against military attack at or near the coastline.
- The King promoted the Regiment of Outer Palace Guard (Krom Wang Nok) under the Ministry of the Palace to the Royal Palace Guard with the military organization of a regiment and yet remaining under command of the Ministry of the Palace. With the budget coming from His Majesty's personal funds, the Royal Palace Guard was tasked with providing support for the national defense.
- King Vajiravudh established the Wild Tiger Corps to provide civil servants and commoners with military training and watchkeeping skills to help preserve public order and support the army in time of war as reserves. The Wild Tiger Corps had expanded across the kingdom in line with His Majesty's astute policy to deploy non-military corps to defend the nation instead of military forces to avoid breaching the secret convention with the British and French governments.
- The King decreed the establishment of the "Tiger Cubs" to enable young people to learn self-discipline and espionage skills so they could grow up to become responsible citizens and contribute to the country.
- On November 8, King Vajiravudh commanded that the Royal Procession on Land and the Royal Barge Procession as well as festivities be held as part of the Royal Coronation Ceremony. It was the first Royal Coronation Ceremony in Thailand and Asia to be attended by the royal representatives and special envoys from 14 countries. It was His Majesty's ingenious international relations policy to portray Thailand as a civilized country to the world.
- The Wild Tiger Corps Maneuver Regulations were issued.
- King Vajiravudh staged the first Wild Tiger Corps maneuver between February 2-5, 1911 in Nakhon Pathom. During the maneuver, the Sanam Chandra Palace was turned into "The Sanam Chandra Palace Royal Camp" in line with His Majesty's national defense initiative.

- Sculptors were commissioned to reconstruct the head, hands, and feet of the ancient dilapidated Buddha statue that the King had discovered during his journey to the North in 1907 into a Buddha image in the pose of persuading relatives not to quarrel.
- The Department of Sanitation, the Ministry of Metropolis (Nakhonban) was commanded to build Charoen Rat 31 Bridge over the old city moat, using His Majesty's personal funds for public benefits on his birthday celebration. This spawned the construction of Charoen Bridges Series funded by His Majesty every year up to 1916. A total of six bridges had been built.
- King Vajiravudh instigated the law school set up by Prince Raphi Phattanasak, Prince of Ratchaburi, be transformed into a royal school under the Ministry of Justice, a move that accredited the study of law as in the more modernized countries.
- King Vajiravudh established the Entertainment Department (Krom Mahorasop) under Krom Mahardlek Luang responsible for performing and musical arts. The agencies under Krom Mahorasop included the Khon and Piphat Mahardlek Division, the Piphat Luang Division, and the Royal Western String Division.
- All fine arts under the Ministry of Public Works and the Museum Department, the Ministry of Education were transferred to the Fine Arts Department (Krom Silpakorn) under the Ministry of the Royal Palace, tasked with protecting and promoting Thai arts and culture.

- After His Majesty's mandate to absolve the Ministry of Public Works of the responsibility for fine arts and public works and be tasked only with communications as well as water and road transport, the King renamed the ministry the Ministry of Transport and ordered that engineers be stationed in every *monthon*.
- A Thai code for transmitting messages was developed by His Majesty for use instead of the Morse code in English.
- King Vajiravudh established a hospital in northern Bangkok, commanding the Privy Purse to purchase a property on Samsen road. His Majesty later ordered the Ministry of Metropolis (Nakhonban) to build a hospital and named it "Vajira Hospital".
- The King promulgated the reorganization of the Ministry of Justice, transferring the Supreme Court to be under the Ministry of Justice under the oversight of the Director General of the Supreme Court.
- King Vajiravudh directed the Ministry of Metropolis (Nakhonban) that the King's personal lands and properties be subject to the same taxes as those levied on the ordinary citizen.

- His Majesty issued the Surname Act of 1913, stipulating that Thai people had to bear a surname to facilitate birth, death, and marriage registration. The surnames also served as a token of family pride that family members must cherish and protect.
- The Royal Treasury Minister was mandated to set up the Savings Office to provide a place to safeguard people's savings and to accumulate capital to ensure financial security.
- King Vajiravudh presided over the opening of Sathan Pasteur, which provided access to rabies vaccines in Thailand without the need for people to travel to Saigon.
- The National Education Plan 1913 was enacted, classifying the education system into two categories: general education encompassing elementary education, lower-secondary education, and upper-secondary education, and professional/technical education.
- The King promulgated the Firearms Act to deter criminals from getting guns.
- The Morphine and Cocaine Act was proclaimed to suppress the use of more harmful narcotics than opium.
- The Epidemics Prevention Act was promulgated to facilitate the prevention and control of contagious diseases such as cholera and the bubonic plague.
- His Majesty ordered royal physicians to perform inoculations against smallpox for people in Bangkok and cities in several *monthons*.
- The King banned public card playing on holidays to reduce gambling addiction among the public.
- Poh-Chang School and the School of Commerce were established.
- The King issued the Forest Act.
- The Water Hyacinth Act was promulgated.
- The Klong Prapa Protection Act was promulgated.
- King Vajiravudh decreed the official use of the Buddhist Era (B.E.), replacing the Rattanakosin Era.

- His Majesty instigated the casting of a Buddha image from the remains of an ancient dilapidated Buddha statue discovered during his journey to the North in 1907 in the pose of persuading relatives not to quarrel at Wat Phra Chetuphon Wimon Mangkhalaram. The new Buddha statue was installed at the Buddha Image hall of Wat Phra Pathommachedi.
- King Vajiravudh ordered the Privy Purse to purchase shares in Siam Cement Co., Ltd dedicated to manufacturing cement, the raw material for the construction of infrastructure, to reduce the country's reliance on imports.
- King Vajiravudh revised the last part of the lyrics of the royal anthem *Sansoen Phra Barami*.
- After completing the religious sacrifice ritual at the royal monument of King Naresuan the Great, King Vajiravudh directed the Wild Tigers, soldiers, and local officers in attendance to walk up in line for the King to sprinkle holy water on them. When in front of the King, they shouted "Chaiyo", the word invented by King Vajiravudh to be used to express joy, approval, or encouragement. The phrase "Chaiyo! Chaiyo! Chaiyo!" has been widely adopted ever since.
- The Ministry of Royal Thai Navy was commanded to set up a permanent radiotelegraph station at Saladaeng in Bangkok and another in Amphoe Muang, Songkha Province. His Majesty officiated at the opening ceremony of Thailand's first radiotelegraph station at Saladaeng later in the year.

- King Vajiravudh presided over the opening of King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital.
- The King granted permission to establish “The Royal Navy League of Siam under the Royal Patronage of His Majesty the King” to lead a drive to enlist funds from the general public to buy a light cruiser to protect the kingdom’s coast. Aside from granting seed money of 80,000 baht, His Majesty assigned Admiral Prince Abhakara Kiartivongse, Prince of Chumphon to negotiate the purchase of a warship in England. The Prince Admiral and his entourage commanded the ship which was given the name “Phra Ruang” by the King during its subsequent voyage across the continent from England to Thailand.
- World War I broke out in Europe in late July.
- His Majesty demanded that the crisis of Siam Kammajon Bank be resolved and granted permission to the Office of the Privy Purse to buy shares in the bank worth over 1,634,000 baht.
- King Vajiravudh undertook his second journey to Monthon Chantaburi. He demanded the Ministry of Royal Thai Navy to conduct a maneuver between a fleet of torpedo boats with His Majesty commanding the exercise.
- King Vajiravudh decreed the expropriation of land along the Sattahip Bay from Kledkaew to Samae San which featured an ideal strategic location for the benefits of the Royal Thai Navy.
- The King officiated at the opening ceremony of Samsen water treatment plant.
- King Vajiravudh commanded the establishment of Royal Samsen Electricity Authority to generate and distribute electricity.
- The King ordered the recruitment of officers for service in the Patrol Department from members of a military reserve aged 20 and over instead of conscripting people to serve.
- The Act of the Establishment of the Association was promulgated.
- King Vajiravudh promulgated the Act of Post-mortem Examination and entrusted judges to carry out autopsies in cases of suspected homicides.

- The Lawyers Act 1914 was promulgated to protect plaintiffs and defendants from being abused by crooked persons in and outside the courthouses.
- The Thai Bar Association under the Royal Patronage was established.
- The Royal Military Academy was founded to train students in performing and musical arts to preserve and promote Thailand's rich artistic and cultural heritage.
- King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital was transferred to the Thai Red Cross Society.
- The Literature Society (Wannakhadi Samosorn) was set up by King Vajiravudh to promote Thai literature and to select works in various literary categories as good examples in literary composition.
- The Aviation Section of the Army Engineering Division was upgraded to the Army Aviation Corps, subsequently giving rise to the Royal Thai Air Force.

- The Department of Commerce and Statistics Prophecy was founded to collect information about trading activities in the Thai economic system.
- His Majesty took the second journey to the southern *monthons*.
- King Vajiravudh laid the foundation stone for the Civil Service College of King Chulalongkorn and gave a speech regarding setting up a future university.
- The Department of Wild Tiger Corps Medical Students under the Royal Patronage was established to provide field hospital training for instructors and students of the Royal Medical College.
- The King granted his personal money to make robes of honor for imams, the heads of the Muslim community.
- His Majesty directed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to send his personal funds of 1,000 pounds to the British government to be given to the wife or the child of the soldiers in the Durham Light Infantry Regiment who were killed in World War I as His Majesty had once served in the unit.
- In appreciation of King Vajiravudh's support, King George V of the United Kingdom bestowed on King Vajiravudh an honorary generalship in the British army. He was also allowed to wear the uniform and insignia of the Durham Light Infantry.
- King Vajiravudh conferred an honorary generalship in the Thai army upon King George V, making the first and only time the head of state of a western power accepted the honorary generalship in the Thai army.
- The King mandated the Royal Treasury Minister to give up *Huay* (Lottery) *Kor Khor*.
- The Barrages Department (Krom Thod Nam), Ministry of Agriculture, was assigned to irrigate the cultivated area of Rangsit in place of the Siam Canals, Land and Irrigation Company whose concession had lapsed to the government.
- The South Pasak Irrigation Project was conceived following His Majesty's initiative to expand the excavation of canals and ditches northward toward the Rangsit field, resulting in the excavation of a distribution canal connecting the Chao Phraya River and the Pasak River. King Vajiravudh also commanded the construction of Rama VI dam to block the Pasak River to detain water at Amphoe Tha Ruea, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya and channel it to the fields east of the Chao Phraya River.
- King Vajiravudh reformed the organization of the Ministry of Interior by imposing the regions (*pak*) over the administrative *monthons*, each governed by a viceroy (*Uparaja*) directly responsible to the King, and an intendant of the *monthon*.

- A football match to win the Royal Golden Trophy was held between the military team against the Wild Tiger Corps team at the Wild Tiger Corps Stadium in Dusit Palace.
- Football players from the Ministry of Education Team and those playing in the Royal Golden Trophy tournament were selected to make the Siam National Team, Thailand's first national football team, playing against the Royal Sports Club team.
- The Announcement of the Ministry of Education's Monastic Affairs Department (Krom Sangkhakari) on the classification of the royal temples into "classes" and "grades" was issued.
- King Vajiravudh mandated the Felony Division (Kong Ma Han Thot) and the Petty Offences Division (Kong La Hu Thot) as well as other prisons stipulated under the Prison Act of 1901 be merged into the Department of Corrections under the Ministry of Metropolis (Nakhonban). The agency came under the oversight of a director-general.
- King Vajiravudh commanded the transfer of the External Revenue Department and the Internal Revenue Department to be under the Ministry of Finance and the change of its name to the Revenue Department.
- A veterinarian school was established, and officers were commissioned to provide veterinary vaccines for livestock as a means to control disease.
- The King promulgated the name of the Department of Audit and the Department of Account be changed to the Comptroller General's Department to oversee the country's financial interests.
- he King established the Auditor General's Office, which was responsible for auditing receipts and payments, and the custody and disbursement of money at ministries, departments, *monthons*, and cities across the kingdom.

1916

- King Vajiravudh commanded the establishment of the Code Revision Committee consisting of both Thai and foreign legal experts to revise codes, acts, and customary laws to facilitate the conduct of government affairs.
- King Vajiravudh issued the "Statutes of the Football Association of Siam", making the Football Association of Thailand under the Patronage of His Majesty the King the first sport association in Thailand.

- The King proclaimed the shortened version of His Majesty's title as "Phra Bat Somdet Phra Ramathibodi Si Sinthra Maha Vajiravudh Phra Mongkut Klao Chao Yu Hua".
- His Majesty granted his essay on warfare tactics titled *Kansongkhram Pom Khai Prachit : Pathakatha* to the Command and General Staff College Royal Thai Army for use as a textbook.
- The Ministry of Education expanded education to the high school level in line with the King's initiative, leading to a good number of high school graduates.
- Chao Phya Thammasakmontri (Senan Devahastin Na Ayudhya), Minister of Education, was granted an audience with His Majesty the King at Chitralada Villa Royal Residence in Dusit Palace to be instructed in the preparation for the establishment of a university.
- The Civil Service College of King Chulalongkorn was upgraded to Chulalongkorn University, the first university in Thailand.
- The King commanded that some military personnel from the Palace Guards Division be sent to station in Nokhon Si Thammarat, Ranong, and Phatthalung. He later promulgated a military conscription act in the southern *monthon* to draft men into the military instead of sending officers down south from Bangkok. This was His Majesty's astute policy to defend the country along the Malay Peninsula without breaching the secret convention with the Western powers as the palace guards were not under the Ministry of Defense. The moves gave rise to the Vajiravudh Camp and the 4th Army Area.
- The Royal Turf Club of Thailand under the Royal Patronage was founded to promote horse breeding and horse racing.
- The King stipulated that a flag which displayed five horizontal stripes in red and white be used instead of the flag featuring a white elephant to fly on the boats of merchants and for the general public.
- The King mandated that *Bonbia* (Chinese gambling) be given up as it was a major cause of theft, shirking work or obligations, and a disgrace to the nation.
- The Ministry of Education opened three pilot public reading rooms which were met with huge success. The initiative was to be expanded throughout the country.

- The King undertook his third journey to the southern *monthons* for the third time.
- During the journey, His Majesty donated money to erect the “Wachiraphayaban Building”, the first building of Vachira Phuket Hospital.
- The Agricultural Primary Teacher Training School was founded.
- King Vajiravudh wrote a play titled *Mitr Meechai* (The Triumph of Friendship) which was staged during a dinner given to Sir Edward Brockman, Deputy Governor-General of the Federated Malay States on his official visit.
- Having closely monitored the political situation in Europe and the development of World War I, King Vajiravudh declared war against the Central Powers led by Germany and Austria-Hungary and joined the Allied Powers, eventually ending extraterritoriality and the restriction of import duties to 3% as enforced by the Central Powers.
- The King ordered the Ministry of Defense to call for volunteers to join World War I in Europe.
- The severe flooding, also known as *Nam Tuam Pi Maseng*, followed by three years of heavy rains from 1918-1920 prompted a hike in rice prices. To mitigate the people’s hardship, His Majesty the King set out various measures to solve the problems of soaring rice prices and the costs of living. Examples included imposing a ban on rice exports, duty exemption for rice paddy fields in 45 districts of Nonthaburi and others in Supanburi as well as registration fee exemption for certain types of vehicles.
- King Vajiravudh declared the Flag Act B.E. 2460 (1917), using the Tri-rong flag as the national flag of Thailand in place of the flag showing a white elephant in royal regalia.
- The King issued the Royal Decree on titles for women.
- King Vajiravudh promulgated the Population Census Act.
- Cemetery management rules and regulations were issued to prevent public conflicts and organize cemeteries in different places.
- His Majesty promulgated the adoption of an international timekeeping system in all official contexts.
- To improve and expand the railway, His Majesty established the Royal Railway Department (Krom Rot Fai Luang).
- Sala Yaktat (later upgraded to the Assay Office) was founded under the Ministry of Commerce.

- Wang Ban Pun changed its name to Phra Ram Ratchaniwet.
- King Vajiravudh enacted the Private School Act to keep the operations of private schools in compliance with the regulations of the Ministry of Education.
- The King mandated the expansion of primary education to districts, subdistricts, and villages nationwide by setting up schools in rural areas (Prachaban schools) to engage locals in education provision subsidized by local taxes.
- The King granted his personal funds for the construction of Charoen Sattha Bridge over Klong Chedi Bucha from Nakhon Pathom Railway Station to Phra Pathommachedi.
- His Majesty the King gave the volunteer soldiers a send-off to join the war in Europe at the Ananta Samakhom Throne. Each was granted a sema-shaped nickel medal, an overcoat, and the poem *Siammanusti* to raise their spirits and boost morale.
- The Sanitary Department under the Ministry of Metropolis (Nakhonban) was merged with the Public Protection Department (Krom Prachapiban) under the Ministry of Interior into the Department of Health, which was later upgraded to the Ministry of Public Health.
- King Vajiravudh built a model city called Dusit Thani on a 2.5-rai plot of land around the Udon Pak Throne in Dusit Palace. The city which had a scale of 1:20 was part of a project to experiment in democracy with weekly newspaper named Dusit Smith coming out on Saturdays.
- The construction of the Khun Tan Tunnel, as part of the initiative to extend the Northern rail line, was completed.

- At World War I's end, Thailand which was on the side of the victorious Allied Powers became a founding member of the League of Nations as well as a member of the Universal Post Union, the World Health Organization, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the World Organization of the Scout Movement.
- King Vajiravudh wrote a play on *Thammathamma Songkhram* (The War between Good and Evil) based on a Jataka tale called *Ekadasa nipata* to commemorate the end of World War I. His Majesty also forwarded the translated English version to the Allied countries.
- King Vajiravudh used the advantage as a victorious nation in the World War I to negotiate the unequal treaty rights given to several countries during the reigns of King Rama IV and King Rama V.
- Queen Mother Sri Bajrindra passed away.
- His Majesty donated his personal funds to publish the *Atthakatha* (commentary) of some of *Vinaya Pitaka* (Basket of Discipline), *Sutra-Pitaka* (Basket of Discourse), and *Abhidhamma Pitaka* (Basket of Special Doctrine) revised by Prince Vajiranana as a tribute to Queen Mother Sri Bajrindra.
- Domestic airmail services from Bangkok-Chantaburi were inaugurated.
- Dusit Thani moved to a 4-rai plot of land at the back of Phya Thai Palace.
- The King appointed delegates to participate in an international conference on setting the local mean time of each country.

- Thailand adopted a new standard time, 7 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time nationwide.
- King Vajiravudh sponsored the publication of a complete set of *Atthakatha* (commentary) of *Sutra Pitaka* (Basket of Discourse) on the occasion of the Supreme Patriarch, Prince Vajiranana's 60th birthday anniversary, 200 copies of which were distributed locally and another 400 overseas.
- King Vajiravudh commanded the organization of a welcoming ceremony and the commission of "Phra Ruang" ship bought by The Royal Navy League of Siam under the Royal Patronage and presented to the King as a royal warship.
- The Department of Commerce and Statistics Prophecy (formerly the Department of Statistics Prophecy) was upgraded to a ministry status called the Council of Commerce and Statistics Prophecy similar to England's Board of Trade. The Council was entrusted with providing consultancy and assistance to the commerce-related agencies as well as disseminating information about economic issues and new investment opportunities.
- The King commanded the Royal State Railways to build a resort hotel and a golf course to serve tourists.
- King Vajiravudh commissioned the renovation of the Phya Thai Palace where the Queen Mother had lived until her death into a new Royal Phya Thai Palace as another royal residence.

- The Primary Education Act was promulgated, calling for compulsory attendance at school of all children from age of 7 to 14 until completing primary school or being able to read and write.
- The Supreme Patriarch, Somdet Phra Maha Samana Chao Krommaphya Vajirananavarorasa died.
- King Vajiravudh appointed Prince Bhujong Jombunud “Phrachao Worawong Thoe Kromma Luang Jinavorn Sirivaddhana Somdet Phra Sangharaja Chao” (the Supreme Patriarch, the Head of All Members of the Sangha).
- The Northern rail line from Bangkok to Chiang Mai was inaugurated.
- The Wild Elephant Protection Act B.E. 2464 was promulgated.
- The Child Title Act B.E. 2464 was promulgated.

- King Vajiravudh dedicated the royal land at Sattahip Bay expropriated after a naval maneuver in 1914 for the establishment of a naval base as requested by Admiral Prince Abhakara Kiartivongse, Prince of Chumphon, Chief of Staff in the Royal Thai Navy. In 1920, the Ministry of the Royal Thai Navy inspected the Sattahip Bay and found it a strategic place for the establishment of a navy base. Also, it was an ideal location for sea operation exercises during both monsoon seasons and for facilitating army operations.
- His Majesty named the Buddha statue cast from the remains of an ancient dilapidated Buddha statue discovered in 1907 “Phra Ruang Rojanarit Sri Indrathit Thanmophat Maha Vajiravudh Rajabhochani Bophit” and installed it at the Buddha Image hall of Wat Phra Pathommachedi.
- The construction of Rama VI Bridge, the first railway bridge over the Chao Phraya River to link the Southern rail line with the Northern rail line began.
- King Vajiravudh mandated the Pasteur Institute (Sathan Pasteur) under the Thai Red Cross Society be relocated to the Queen Saovabha Memorial Institute built from His Majesty’s private funds on the west side of King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital. He also dedicated land for the construction of a new headquarter building of the Pasteur Institute, responsible for elemental analysis, prognosis, detection of pathogens, and production of anti-venom serum and rabies vaccine, as well as the School of Bacteriology, Parasitology, and Epidemiology for the studies of medicine, hippology, and veterinary.
- The King demanded that the Ministry of Interior share its government officers with other ministries and that the Ministry of Metropolis (Nakhonban), exclusively charged with administration in Monthon Bangkok, be merged with the Ministry of Interior.
- The Notebooks, Documents, and Newspapers Act was issued to promote public dissemination of information and to prescribe the rights, duties, and responsibilities of newspaper publishers.

- The Railway Hotel Hua Hin and Royal Hua Hin Golf Course opened for business.
- King Vajiravudh promulgated the Medical Act B.E. 2466 (1923), stipulating the foundation of the Medical Council of Thailand to set out regulations and raise the status of the medical profession.
- The King gave a royal command to establish the Law Drafting Department charged with considering the Civil and Commercial Code and other legislature.
- The Weights and Measures Act B.E. 2466 (1923) was enacted.
- His Majesty the King invited Professor Corrado Feroci, a sculptor from Florence, Italy, who had won a competition to design Thailand's coins, to work as a sculptor of the Royal Palace. The Professor (later changing his name to Silpa Bhirasi) founded the School of Fine Arts, which was subsequently upgraded to Silpakorn University.
- King Vajiravudh commissioned construction of the Mrigadayavan Palace in Cha-am, Phetchaburi Province as a summer palace. The construction was designed by Ercole Manfredi.
- The King proclaimed the Civil and Commercial Code of 1923.
- King Vajiravudh mandated the establishment of the "Department of Commercial Registration" under the Ministry of Commerce, which was responsible for studying civil and commercial laws as well as treaties of friendship and commerce made with different countries to enable troubleshooting and the promotion of commerce.

- Chulalongkorn University offered a Bachelor's degree program in medical sciences for the first time, thanks to King Vajiravudh's policy to direct the Ministry of Education to seek academic assistance from the Rockefeller Foundation in the United States.
- After the project to link the Southern rail line with the Federated Malay States Railway was completed, King Vajiravudh undertook a tour of inspection of the Southern rail line down to the Thailand-Malaysia border at Padang Besar.
- King Vajiravudh paid a state visit to the Federated Malay States under the British government following an inspection tour of the Southern rail line. This was the first and only state visit by King Vajiravudh to a foreign country.
- King Vajiravudh promulgated the "Palace Law of Succession 2467 B.E."
- His Majesty the King officiated at the opening of Rama VI Dam, Thailand's first irrigation and diversion dam.
- Council of Legal Education was founded to administer and devise curriculum for the law school under the Ministry of Justice.
- The decimal metric system of weights and measures was adopted for trade.
- The Literature Society (Wannakhadi Samosorn) commended *Madanabadha* (Romance of the Rose) as a masterpiece for the use of rhyming couplets for the dialog, which was unique and difficult to compose. The play *Huachai Nakrop* (The Soul of a Warrior) was praised as an excellent play while *Phra Non Kham Luang* (The Story of King Nala) was cited as a good example in the classical verse form category.

- King Vajiravudh donated a 360-rai plot of land, which was his private property to build “Lumphini” for use as a public park for people’s relaxation.
- The Football Association of Thailand was granted royal permission to join International Federation of Association Football (FIFA).
- King Vajiravudh initiated a project to hold the Siamrat Phiphitthaphan Trade Fair, the region’s first international trade fair, as a means to attract more foreigners to visit Thailand and learn more about Thai commodities.
- His Majesty intended to commission the Royal State Railways to turn the Royal Phya Thai Palace into a resort hotel named “The Phya Thai Palace Hotel” to accommodate tourists attending the Siamrat Phiphitthaphan Trade Fair and later general tourists.
- The King ordered the building of 16 “Phra Nirokhantara” statues, equal to the number of years of his reign plus one, and planned to hold festivities commemorating the end of the fifteenth years of his reign, which would then be equal in length to the reign of Rama II. However, His Majesty fell gravely ill and passed away shortly after. King Prajadhipok thus gave the Buddha statues to 15 Maha Nikaya monasteries. One statue was kept and renamed “Phra Nirarokhantara”.
- HRH Suvadhana gave birth to a princess on November 24 at Thepsathan Philat Hall within the Phra Maha Monthien in the Royal Palace. The princess was given the name Princess Bejaratana Rajasuda Sirisobhabannavadi. King Rama VIII later granted her the title of “Princess Cousin”.
- King Vajiravudh passed away on November 26 after falling ill with an infection of the intestines and abdominal sepsis at the Chakraphat Phiman Hall within the Phra Maha Monthien in the Royal Palace, having reigned for 15 years, 1 month and 3 days.



From His Majesty's Forward-looking Vision
in the Early Days to Become SCG, a Leading
Conglomerate in ASEAN Committed to
Driving Innovation for Tomorrow

SCG Headquarters



Throughout the century, since its founding by the Royal Decree of King Vajiravudh, SCG has grown steadily alongside Thailand's economic and social development. Despite having faced a wave of threats and crises, including the two world wars, the "Tom Yum Kung" financial crisis, severe flooding, and the COVID-19 pandemic, SCG has managed to stay the course. The collaborative efforts have enabled SCG to weather the storm and emerge even stronger. The Company is resolved to ensure business continuity regardless of any difficult circumstances that come in the way through close monitoring and assessment to make swift business adjustment and through the use of advanced technology. This allows the Company to develop products, services, and solutions that best address the needs of consumers and society in a timely manner.



As Thailand's first cement manufacturer, SCG has risen to the rank of a leading innovative organization in ASEAN driven by the relentless commitment of all its business units to develop a diverse range of innovations to accommodate better living both for today and tomorrow. **The Cement-Building Materials Business, for instance**, has transformed its business model from being a manufacturer to a creator of innovative home products, services, and solutions to enhance the home and construction industry. **The Chemicals Business** has also transformed itself into a provider of high value-added (HVA) products and services to deliver solutions that answer customer demand more precisely and promptly. Likewise, the **Packaging Business** has positioned itself as a packaging solutions provider, offering a broad array of products and services to become an integral part of consumers' daily life. All the business units operate with commitment to the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) of the United Nations in accordance with ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) with the focus on uplifting the quality of life for communities, promoting resource efficiency in line with the circular economy principles, and mitigating global warming. They work collaboratively with partners in all sectors to contribute to the Thai economy and society in consistency with SCG's motto "Passion for Better".

Strengthening the Country's Economy

From the original purpose of creating Thailand's self-reliance and promoting local industrial enterprise, SCG has advanced into new cement-related ventures and diversified into wide-ranging businesses that pave the groundwork for the nation's economic advancement, joining forces with leading advanced companies, both domestically and overseas. Currently, SCG comprises three business units: **THE Cement-Building Materials Business** has diversified from the early production of cement, a vital raw material when Thailand set out to construct the country's basic infrastructure, to reduce reliance on imports and fully utilize local resources into various businesses as the economy warrants. The Business resolves to enhance the home and construction industry, providing a complete range of products, services, solutions, and distribution channels. **The Chemicals Business**, which was set up to pioneer the chemical industry to utilize the natural gas that had been discovered in the Gulf of Thailand to reduce plastic imports, has since developed and expanded investment continuously. Today, SCG's Chemicals Business is recognized as one of Asia's key players. The Business commits itself to developing high value-added products, using innovative technology in conjunction with a consortium of research & development institutions both at home and abroad to stride toward becoming a sustainable chemicals business. **The Packaging Business** was formed when SCG took over management of Siam Kraft Paper Company, SCG's supplier of cement bags which suffered huge losses. The acquisition allowed SCG to enter the paper business and to continue to grow into a leader in total packaging solutions in ASEAN, providing a broad spectrum of innovative products and service with commitment to achieving sustainability in business operations. Today, SCG's Packaging Business has evolved into **SCG Packaging Public Company Limited (SCGP)**.

Leader in Delivering Innovations to Uplift the Quality of Life for Thai People

All SCG's business units have adopted the concept of creating innovations, using digital technology, and understanding customer's latent needs in developing products, services, and solutions that best accommodate the needs of consumers both today and tomorrow regardless of any evolving situations. For example, at the peak of the COVID-19 crisis, a wide range of innovations against COVID-19 has been developed to safeguard medical professionals and healthcare users from the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

The commitment to driving innovation has prompted SCG to liaise with various research institutions amid the COVID-19 outbreak. The Company has been kept apprised of the progress in the development of COVID-19 vaccine by the University of Oxford in the UK, SCG's long-standing research and development partner. Having learned that the University of Oxford and AstraZeneca, a leading global biopharmaceutical company, were looking for manufacturing facilities in different countries to manufacture and supply the University's potential COVID-19 vaccine to ensure efficient and timely distribution of the vaccine, SCG served as a liaison, leading to an agreement to manufacture the COVID-19 vaccine in Thailand, providing greater access to vaccines to the Thai people.



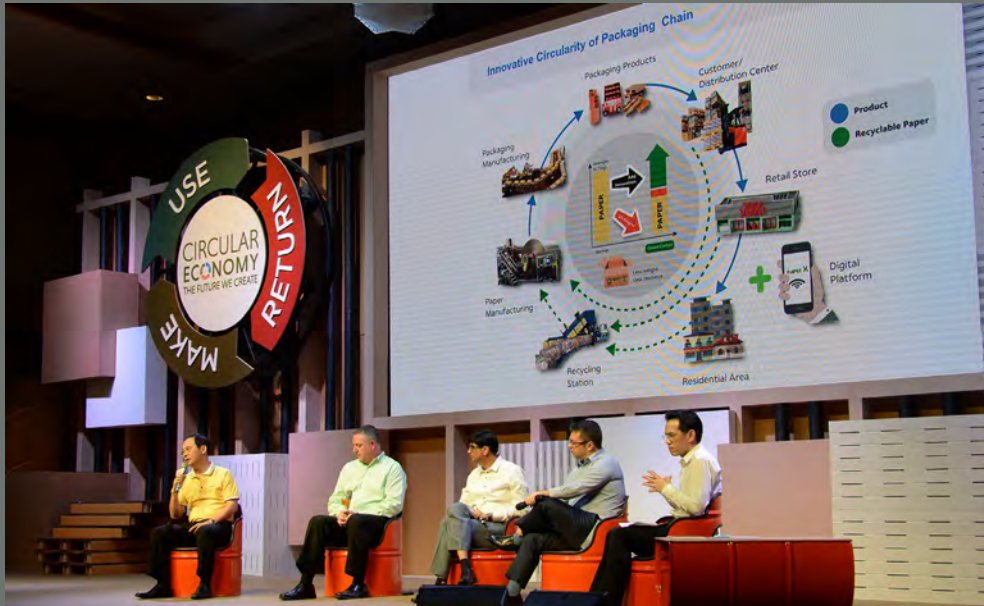
A Role Model in Human Resources Management to Upgrade Thai People's Capabilities

Since its inception, SCG has been dedicated to enhancing the capabilities of Thai people in production, trade, and management, gaining the Company a reputation as an institution that has produced a myriad of highly capable professionals in society. A human resources system was put in place, which focuses on enhancing the capabilities of employees in work-specific knowledge and leadership skills as well as taking care of over 50,000 employees with racial diversity across the world, and supporting their professional advancement and personal growth. It is no surprise that SCG has long been recognized as a role model in human resources management as evidenced by the Company having received the Human Resource Management Excellence Award bestowed by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn for 19 consecutive years (2003-2021).

A Role Model in Creating Environmental Balance alongside Business Growth

SCG has given key priority to the maximization of resource efficiency and environmental conservation, having set stricter environmental standards than those stipulated by law and striving to address climate emergencies. Realizing that the principle of the circular economy is key to achieving sustainable development, the Company has promoted the implementation of the circular economy principle by encouraging a change in production and consumption behaviors together with creating a network to allow for the reuse of resources to maximize resource efficiency.

SCG's environmental contribution has resulted in the Company having received numerous awards and recognitions. Moreover, SCG was assessed and listed as No. 1 in the world in the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI) for Industry Leader in Construction Materials. It is also the first organization in ASEAN to be assessed as a member since 2004 and to have done so for 18 consecutive years.



Being a Good Corporate Citizen that Contributes to Society

SCG has long adhered to one of its 4 core values “Concern for Social Responsibility” which has been passed on from one generation of employees to another. It is imperative that SCG gain acceptance and trust from any community in which it operates and that SCG shall play a part in raising their quality of life in the areas of economy, environment, education, health, sports, culture, religion, and the like in order to truly accommodate the needs of communities and society as a whole. SCG’s social responsibility goal is to uplift the quality of life for people in the communities with an emphasis on addressing the issues that impact their living to foster economic strength, reduce social inequality, and develop capabilities of communities to tackle problems and achieve sustainable self-reliance in tune with the policy of SCG’s founding father. SCG is determined to build on His Majesty King Vajiravudh’s development initiatives by carrying out multiple projects and activities. Chief among them are as follows:

Building on the Royal Initiative on Sustainable Water Management

SCG has resolved to promote water management in line with King Vajiravudh’s noble intention through the “SCG Conserving Water for Tomorrow” and the “Conserving Water from Mountain to Mighty River” projects to restore the balance of water for use in consumption and agriculture. The Company has adopted His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great’s sustainable water management approach to conserve water and battle drought, flooding, and wastewater problems for over ten years, having achieved enormous success in many areas.



However, Thailand constantly faces problems of drought and flooding, and they are becoming more frequent and severe every year. This could unavoidably add to the country’s economic woes. Having taken lessons from SCG’s water management projects, which have continued for more than 10 years, SCG, in cooperation with Utokapat Foundation under the Royal Patronage of H.M. the King and Hydro Informatics Institute (Public Organization), carried out the “SCG Helps 108 Communities to Overcome the Drought Crisis Project” in tribute to H.M. King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua on the occasion of SCG’s 108th Anniversary in 2020. SCG has subsequently used the lessons from accomplishment in this project and encapsulated them into the “No Drought, No Poverty” model. This proves that communities can tackle drought and poverty by themselves. The model consists of six key takeaways to combat drought and poverty: 1 Work in solidarity and rely on ourselves; 2 Learn to manage water, using technology; 3 Find, store, and use water wisely; 4 Practice integrated farming and manage risks; 5 Understand markets and customers; and 6 Add economic value and achieve sustainable community development. SCG and its community network believe that if communities join forces to rely on themselves in managing water, using know-how and technology in formulating a water management plan, they will have water for consumption and agriculture sustainably and also enjoy more income and a stable livelihood. SCG pledges to push forward the implementation of the model in communities nationwide.





Developing Innovations to Build on the Royal Intention to Promote Health Care

In tune with His Majesty’s determination to treasure, preserve, and build on his late father’s legacy on health care, especially during the global outbreak of COVID-19 in late 2019, His Majesty King Vajiralongkorn initiated the “Ventilators and Other Medical Equipment to Fight COVID-19” project, donating his personal funds to purchase ventilators and other urgently needed medical equipment for hospitals and medical facilities nationwide. His Majesty also commissioned SCG to construct the Innovative Modular Swab Unit, using his own private funds. In response, SCG was quick to materialize His Majesty’s initiative, inventing and installing highly efficient modular swab units at 20 hospitals to ensure safety for medical professionals and patients during procedures.

SCG has continued to develop COVID-19 innovations since the first wave of COVID-19 in response to the rapidly-changing situations. The goals are to reduce the risk of infection for doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers, enabling them to handle the COVID-19 crisis safely. Added to this is the mitigation of the impact on people and helping Thailand get through the crisis. Examples include: **Modular ICU** for treatment of COVID-19 patients with severe symptoms. It can be built in compliance with the ICU standards in just one week. To ease a severe shortage of beds in light of the growing number of patients, **the Paper Field Hospital Bed** was devised. Made from 100% recycled paper, the bed is ergonomically designed, lightweight, and space-efficient for transportation and storage. **The Bathroom Mobile Unit**, which is fully assembled, ready for use with concrete construction, offers ease of transportation, installation, and disinfection. **Positive Pressure Isolation Chamber** allows healthcare workers to conduct swabs without direct contact with patients. It



is easy to install and readily movable. **The Negative Pressure Isolation Room** is designed to fit emergency rooms, ICUs, or to be used as a patient room. **The Patient Isolation Capsule** helps prevent the spread of the virus during transportation of the patient. Small Patient Isolation Capsule for TC Scan is designed for use during patient transportation to TC scan. Finally, **Dent Guard** helps prevent the spread of virus during dental work. These COVID-19 innovations have been delivered to more than 400 hospitals and field hospitals across Thailand.

Preserving the Royal Intention to Promote Human Resources

Development

In line with one of SCG's four core values "Belief in the Value of the Individual", SCG focuses on developing talented and moral people through the development of young people's education and potential. To that effect, the Company provides a wide array of scholarships to students, both locally and in ASEAN countries where SCG operates, enabling them to further their studies. On top of this is the offering of apprenticeships to develop professional competence along with instilling work ethics into young people. SCG has also carried out various activities to develop young people's capabilities in the areas of innovation, science, art, and sports, among many other things.

Moreover, SCG in conjunction with the Thai Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade of Thailand, the Federation of Thai Industries, and Office of the Vocational Education Commission, organized the "Hands of the People Build the Nation" project to enable vocational students to take pride in vocational education, have career advancement opportunities, and stay away from inappropriate habits and behavior. To that effect, scholarships have been granted to students who intend to study at vocational college level since 2013. This runs concurrent with communicating accurate information to foster a positive attitude toward vocational education as well as encouraging youths to explore their technical aptitudes and interests and take steps toward that direction. The scholarships are unencumbered and will be continuously granted until the beneficiaries graduate with a high vocational certificate in an industrial field.





Preserving the Royal Intention to Nurture Thai Art and Culture and Sports

SCG commits itself to sustaining and nurturing Thai art and culture, having provided constant support to restore and preserve numerous cultural heritages of the nation, for example, Thu-riang kilns, viceroy puppets, and historical buildings. In addition, SCG has encouraged young people to create works of art in various fields and provided them a venue to share experiences with senior artists. To that end, the Young Thai Artist Award is organized to promote the artistic potential of youths in the categories of two-dimensional art, three-dimensional art, photography, film, literature, and music composition. The objectives are to nurture the artistic talents of Somdet Phra Maha Thirarat Chao and instill artistic abilities in Thai youths.

In the area of sports, SCG has provided support for a variety of sports including football, golf, and most importantly, badminton which SCG has underwritten for over 40 years, sponsoring tournaments at different levels, both locally and internationally. In its dedication to developing the sport, the SCG Badminton Academy was set up in 2007 to develop the athletic skills and abilities of young Thai badminton players through the use of sport sciences, enabling them to win at many world-class competitions continually. These efforts are in line with the enthusiasm for sport of the SCG's founder.



**CPAC Ultra Crete Solution: Innovative
High-Performance Concrete Technology
Used in the Construction of the Concrete
Bridge and Commemorative Statute Plaza**



To epitomize a sense of gratefulness toward His Majesty the King in granting royal permission for SCG to build a statue of King Vajiravudh to commemorate His Majesty and to symbolize the gratitude of us all at SCG for King Vajiravudh's establishment of Siam Cement in 1913, SCG staff dedicated their efforts to constructing an innovative concrete bridge and Commemorative Statue Plaza. Multiple construction innovations and advanced green technologies were utilized in building the facilities for the benefit of the public and to commemorate His Majesty King Vajiravudh's kindness toward SCG.

CPAC Green Solution, a member of Cement-Building Materials Business, which is SCG's first business, brought Value Engineering into the construction project to enhance construction efficiency. Some of the efforts include prefabrication in which the components of the bridge were assembled in a different location from the job site itself. This prefabricated construction method provides consistent quality, reduced site disruption, requires less labor, and allows a shorter construction time and good budget control. A broad range of digitization processes were also adopted, including CPAC BIM technology, which is used for creating and managing construction information in the form of 3D models from the design and construction to post-construction phases of the project. On top of this was the CPAC BIM Site Dashboard, which allows for project monitoring and control through visual progress reports comparing the actual work progress of each project section against the schedule as well as a comparison of money spent against the money budgeted for the project. A CPAC drone was also used to survey and track work progress accurately. All these innovative technologies helped speed up construction time by 15%, cut waste by 10%, and reduce the number of workers by 50% when compared to a conventional construction process.

The front of the Commemorative Statue Plaza boasts a large pond. As such, SCG deemed it appropriate to build a bridge across the pond from the Commemorative Statue Plaza to the road to provide easy public access for people coming to pay tribute to the statue. The design of the bridge is associated with the Plaza. When looking from the side, the bridge was designed to resemble a gesture of palms pressed together to embody gratefulness.

The bridge was embellished in the middle with the Privy Seal of King Rama VI “Phra Vajira” from His Majesty’s name “Maha Vajiravudh” to commemorate the royal benevolence of the great monarch.

In the construction of the bridge, CPAC Ultra Crete Solution, an innovative high-performance concrete technology was utilized. Specially designed and using high-performance material, the sturdy structure retains higher strength and load capacity than ordinary concrete structures. These distinctive qualities allow for the thinnest beam measuring only 300 millimeters and the thinnest bridge road measuring 50 millimeters. The bridge spans 30 meters without requiring any pillar support unlike other ordinary bridges. This project showcases Thailand’s first high-performance bridge using CPAC Ultra Crete Solution, which was designed and manufactured domestically through every step. This reflects the potential of SCG’s innovations in construction and technology that have continued to develop over the course of 109 years.



The Board of Directors

Air Chief Marshal Satitpong Sukvimol	Chairman
Mr. Chumpol NaLamlieng	Vice Chairman and Independent Director
Mr. Kasem Watanachai	Director
Lieutenant Colonel Somchai Kanchanamanee	Director
Police Colonel Thumnithi Wanichthanom	Director
Mr. Kan Trakulhoon	Director
Mr. Prasarn Trairatvorakul	Independent Director
Mr. Pasu Decharin	Independent Director
Mrs. Parnsiree Amatayakul	Independent Director
Mr. Cholanat Yanaranop	Director
Mr. Thapana Sirivadhanabhakdi	Independent Director
Mr. Supachai Chearavanont	Independent Director
Mrs. Nuntawan Sakuntanaga	Independent Director
Ms. Jareeporn Jarukornsakul	Independent Director
Mr. Roongrote Rangsiyopash	President & CEO

SCG Top Executives

Mr. Roongrote Rangsiyopash	President & CEO, SCG
Mr. Thammasak Sethaudom	Executive Vice, SCG
Mr. Yuttana Jiamtragan	Vice President-Corporate Administration, SCG
Mr. Aree Chavalitcheewingul	President, Cementhai Holding Co.,Ltd
Mr. Nithi Patarachoke	President, Cement-Building Materials Business, SCG
Mr. Chana Poomee	Vice President-Cement and Green Solution Business, Cement-Building Materials Business,SCG
Mr. Paramate Nisagornsen	Vice President-SCG Home Business, Cement - Building Materials Business, SCG
Mr. Wiroat Rattanachaisit	Vice President-Regional CBM Business and Housing Products and Solution Business, Cement-Building Materials Business, SCG
Mr. Tanawong Areeratchakul	Chief Executive Officer & President, SCGC
Mr. Sakchai Patiparnpreechavud	Chief Commercial Officer and Executive Vice President-Regional Executive Vice President Vinyl Chain, SCGC
Mr. Mongkol Hengrojanasophon	Chief Operations Officer and Executive Vice President-Thailand Olefins Chain, SCGC
Mr. Suracha Udomsak	Chief Innovation Officer and Executive Vice President-New Business, SCGC
Mr. Kulachet Dharachandra	Chief Financial Officer, SCGC
Mr. Wichan Jitpukdee	CEO, SCGP

The Siam Cement Public Company Limited (SCG)

SCG Chemicals Public Company Limited (SCGC)

SCG Packaging Public Company Limited (SCGP)

References

- Chulalongkorn University. (2005). *Documents for Academic Forum on the 80th Birthday Anniversary of HRH Princess Bejaratana entitled "Mongkut-Bejaratana Nirattisai."* Bangkok: Memorial Hall of Chulalongkorn University.
- Dithiyont, W., & Jayaphorn, C. (2009). *Duang Kaew Hang Phra Mongkut Klao*. Bangkok: The National Identity Office.
- Government Saving Bank. (2002). *Somdet Phra Maha Thirarat Chao: A Book in Tribute to Phra Bat Somdet Phra Ramathibodi Si Sinthra Maha Vajiravudh Phra Mongkut Klao Chao Yu Hua, the Founder of Government Savings Bank, on the Occasion of His Majesty the King's 120th Birthday Anniversary*. Bangkok: Style Creative House.
- Jayaphorn, C. (2550). *Footsteps of the Great Philosopher-King Vajiravudh*. Bangkok: King Vajiravudh Memorial Foundation under Royal Patronage.
- King Chulalongkorn Digital Archives. *His Majesty King Vajiravudh*. Available at <http://Kingchulalongkorn.car.chula.ac.th/th/history/rama6-bio> (accessed May 1, 2021).
- King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, The Thai Red Cross Society. *The Commencement of King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, The Thai Red Cross Society*. Available at <https://chulalongkornhospital.go.th/kcmh/commencement/> (accessed May 1, 2021).
- King Vajiravudh Memorial Foundation under Royal Patronage. (1994). *Phra Barom Racha Pra Tassanee Phra Bat Somdet Phra Mongkut Klao Chao Yu Hua*. Available at <http://rama6.or.th/memorial-hall/philosopher-legac> (accessed May 1, 2021).

King Vajiravudh Memorial Foundation under Royal Patronage. (1997). *Encyclopedia of His Majesty King Vajiravudh 2ne Edition Book 1: History, Persons, and Events*. Bangkok: Edison Press Products.

King Vajiravudh Memorial Foundation under Royal Patronage. (1997). *Encyclopedia of His Majesty King Vajiravudh 2ne Edition Book 2: Royal Multifarious Duties and Related Affairs after His Reign*. Bangkok: Edison Press Products.

Meechubot, V (n.d.). *Vachiravudh Annals*. Available at www.vajiravudh.ac.th/VC_Annals/vc_annal2.htm (accessed April 9, 2021).

Meechubot, V. (2009). *Phra Bat Somdet Phra Ramathibodi Si Sinthra Maha Vajiravudh Phra Mongkut Klao Chao Phandin Siam*. Bangkok: Sangsan Books.

Silpakorn University. (2007). *Phraratchawang Sanam Chan Lae Sua Pa Kap Kanraksa Khwammankhong Khong Chat*. Bangkok: Silpakorn University.

Vajiravudh, R. (2014). *Prawat Ton Ratchakan Thi 6*. Bangkok: Matichon Book.



