

APPENDIX III

ANNIVERSARY OF A PERSONALITY

A. Information concerning the personality to be commemorated

1. **Family name:** Her Majesty Queen Sri Savarindira, the Queen Grandmother of Thailand
First name: -
2. **Born:** 10 September 1862 **Died:** 17 December 1955
3. **Field of activity:** Education, Culture, Applied Science, and Social and Human Sciences
4. **Brief description of the personality and of its most important works**

4.1 Biography

Her Majesty Queen Sri Savarindira—Grandmother of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the present king of Thailand, a daughter of His Majesty King Mongkut (Rama IV), and Queen of His Majesty King Chulalongkorn (Rama V)—was born Her Royal Highness Princess Savang Vadhana on 10 September 1862. Her Majesty had four sons and four daughters, but six of them passed away at an early age. One of Her Majesty's offspring who survived to manhood was His Royal Highness Prince Mahidol of Songkla who was the father of His Majesty King Ananda Mahidol (Rama VIII) and His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama IX).

Her Majesty Queen Sri Savarindira was educated in the palace where She learned how to read and write the Thai language as well as English, and all the exquisite handicrafts as befitted a royal princess, such as traditional floral arrangements and embroideries which Her Majesty excelled and would win her world renown later on in life.

It was however the time of change from the old to the modern world. Her Majesty inherited from King Mongkut the appreciation of western knowledge. The close relationship with her father which allowed her to accompany him on his visits outside the wall of the Grand Palace since She was young widened her vision of the real needs of the people: education, which would lead to more income-generating activities, health-care along with western medical practice, to name only a few.

Due to her compassionate nature, Her Majesty was first and foremost a humanist and philanthropist, with a belief that religion, in her case, Buddhism, was a firm basis for the human way of life. Of the utmost importance in Her Majesty's education was Buddhist Studies and the profound understanding of Buddhist philosophy gave her the strength to get through the great grief of her life, the loss of six children within the period of twenty years, and to turn to dedicate herself to philanthropic works in Education, Applied Science, Culture, and Social and Human Sciences, all through her long life until She passed away on 17 December 1955 at the age of ninety-three at Srapathum Palace.

4.2 Most important works

In addition to fulfilling her duties as one of the queens of King Chulalongkorn such as receiving important foreign visitors and accompanying His Majesty on his visits to the provinces in Thailand and neighboring countries, the most important contribution of the Queen Grandmother for the sustainable development of Thai society was her recognition of the importance of **education** in upgrading the nation's human resources and the role which an educated public would play in contributing to the general well-being. In practical terms, education was the only means to upgrade the quality of man-power badly needed for the total reform of the country envisaged by King Chulalongkorn.

Queen Sri Savarindira supported education at every level with emphasis on gender equality, but She advocated for special attentions for the curriculum for girl and woman education as they would be the first teachers of their children. Her contribution took the form of building new schools, donating her personal funds to support the improvement and administrations of schools as well as providing scholarships for needy students and qualified teachers to enhance their studies at every level at home and abroad. The recipients of her scholarships became medical doctors, nurses, authors of books for mothers and other related subjects.

In the field of **culture**, Her Majesty realized that cultural diversities of the different nations must be recognized and the interaction between different cultural sources should be encouraged as these dialogues among civilizations will bring about mutual respects among nations leading to world peace based on culture: **culture for peace**.

At home, Her Majesty encouraged the preservation and promotion of national culture both at local and court levels as these would be a living proof of the cultural roots of the Thai people as well as another source of income-generating activities to raise the standard of living of the people which had always been one of her chief concerns.

Health care based on modern medicine was another problem which needed immediate attention. Her Majesty often travelled to and resided in rural areas and noted that they had no access of any kind to medical service. This led to the setting up of small medical centres in the provinces and mobile units to serve people in remote areas, using ox-carts to deliver medical equipments and personnel. Many of these centres later developed into adequate health centres and hospitals.

To conclude, Her Majesty devoted her entire long life to embark on and provide full support for numerous activities with practical values and outcome. Her determination and commitment to the improvement of the quality of life of the Thai people, especially the disadvantaged and the marginalized, have contributed to facilitate the smooth transition of Thai society from the "Old World" to "Modern Times".

5. Full list of her or his works and/or actions

- 5.1 Education
- 5.2 Culture
- 5.3 Religion
- 5.4 Applied Science
- 5.5 Social and Human Sciences

5.1 Education

“Money can be stolen by thieves, but your knowledge can never be stolen by anyone.” A statement by the Queen Grandmother.

“The reason I gave you the scholarship was for the benefit of the motherland and not for the subsidy for an individual.” (excerpted from a royal letter to a scholarship student)

Education as a key success factor of social development in any age and society did not escape the attention of the Queen Grandmother who recognized the importance of education for young people who would one day contribute to national development and prosperity. Her Majesty supported education at every level, particularly that for girls and women. Royal support encompassed **formal, non-formal and on-going education and the provision of scholarships**. She focused on educating people in accordance with their individual potential, enabling them to have a livelihood as stipulated by basic human rights, while being given a moral education that ensured a peaceful coexistence in society.

To quote just one example of the nature of her support for **formal education** in Bangkok, a girls’ school called Rajini (queen) School was founded in 1904 by her younger sister, Her Majesty Queen Sri Bajarindra (Saovabha Phongsri). In 1926, another girl’s school was established, Rajini Bon School. The Queen Grandmother consistently supported these twins’ schools in monetary terms and in their management over the years. In 1941, Her Majesty founded the Rajini Foundation to provide funding support for the operation of the two schools according to their objectives. To this day, both schools are renowned for their moral education, their academic excellence and traditional accomplishments expected of well educated girls in Thai society.

In education, Her Majesty’s policy was to give without discrimination. She extended royal patronage to many schools, both Thai and foreign institutions. Rajini Schools and Assumption College in Bangkok, Woranari Chaloem School in Songkhla Province, Wattanothaipayap School (a girls’ school) in Chiang Mai Province and Chao Fah Srang School (a local primary school) in Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Province were only some of the institutions which enjoyed her royal support.

Her Majesty gave active support for **non-formal education**, especially for women as it opened the way to many income-generating occupations. This was a very modern perception because at that time, women were mostly interested in household chores and handicrafts, not in income-generating occupations. To prove her point, Her Majesty established *a sewing centre* at Song Dhamma Throne Hall in the Sivalai Garden of the Grand Palace. The centre produced outfits for members of the royal family and the court officials. She blended Thai and western styles together and hired teachers from western countries to improve the sewing techniques.

Her Majesty saw the need to promote a project of **education for sustainable development** and proceeded to demonstrate its importance to her courtiers on her properties around Bangkok. The unused areas in her last residence, Srapathum Palace, were utilized to cultivate vegetables and fruits for the court, with surplus products sent to other palaces or sold to generate income for her courtiers, to feed the underprivileged, and to help to maintain Srapathum Palace. A rice mill was set up on her prime property on the bank of the Chao Phraya River on Charoen Krung Road in Bangkok. This mill was to serve farmers who ploughed her own rice fields in nearby Pathumthani Province. Rice was an export commodity that was in great demand by the Colonial powers and rice-milling was a profitable, high-yield investment. Her decision

to embark on this enterprise was a testament to her modern outlook and insight into international trade.

However, She did not manage her rice-milling for economic gain. It was the Chinese millers and not western businessmen who dominated the milling business through their networking with Chinese rice-barge owners who sold consumer goods to villagers while buying their rice and sold it to fellow Chinese millers. Her Majesty concentrated instead on the potential of her farmers by adding values to the produce from her rice-fields. The rice was put aside for the farmers' consumption before it was sold or donated to poor or victims of natural disasters.

This initiation proved to her courtiers the values of non-formal education leading to income-generating occupations and that was one of many ways to improve the quality of human resources available in Thai society of the time.

5.2 Culture

“Don't learn only from books, you must learn how to sew and embroider, home-making, health and hygiene for your family and others.” (A royal address given to young girls)

Her Majesty believed that cultural heritage should be preserved both at court and folk levels and the production of national arts and crafts should be developed and promoted, not only as they would be a source of additional income, but they would also be a living proof of the cultural roots of the Thai people. On the other hand, cultural diversities of different nations should be respected and the interaction between different cultural sources encouraged as these would lead to mutual respects and peace among nations

Queen Sri Savarindira was entrusted with the important task of promoting Thai arts and crafts to the world in the age of colonialism to earn the recognition that Thailand was a nation with deep rooted civilization worthy to be a free member of the world's family of nations.

The opportunity came in 1893 when Thailand, then Siam, was invited to participate in **The World's Columbian Exposition** in Chicago, Illinois, the United States of America. Many Thai sectors took parts in this exposition. In the Woman's Building, various kinds of Thai women's arts and handicrafts were sent to exhibit along with these kinds of works created by women from many countries. King Chulalongkorn authorized Queen Sri Savarindira to be in charge of this event.

This exposition presented arts and handicrafts made by women from around the world: the United States, England, France, Italy, Germany, Spain, Austria, Russia, Belgium, Holland, Sweden, Norway, Greece, Siam, Japan, Algeria, Cape Colony, Cuba, Mexico, Nicaragua, the Argentine Republic, Jamaica, Ceylon, Brazil, Columbia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Panama, and the Sandwich Islands. Thailand was represented by a small pavilion to exhibit screens embroidered with gold and silver; large pieces of embroideries and tapestries illustrating native military subjects and combats on elephants between the Burmese and Siamese; a needle picture embroidered in gold and silk which represented a royal barge; gold-thread silk-lined bedspreads with figures of palms, elephants, birds, pagodas, and boats presenting pictures of out-door scenes of Siam; the rubies, emeralds, and other precious stones-decorated costumes of the Thai

princes worn at Sokan ceremonies; and a gold lace shawl worn by Her Majesty the Queen, to name a few.

Her Majesty had an intense interest and talents in handicrafts, especially in the art of traditional embroidery and personally supervised the production and selection of the pieces to be sent for exhibition. Around twenty items were her own exquisite works and belongings such as fabrics embroidered with gold threads, embroidered fabrics for screens, and embroidered albums. It was the first time that ladies from Thai court exhibited their handicrafts in an international exposition and it was successful.

In **The Report of the Committee on Awards of the World's Columbian Commission**, Mrs. F. G. Stebbins, Judge, gave her reasons for the awards as follows:

“...They are represented here at the World's Fair by Mrs. Phra Surya, maid of honor to the Queen, who has entire charge of this valuable display of the work of Siamese women, having spared no time, trouble, nor expense in making the exhibit one of the most interesting in the exhibition. And it is well worthy of this far-off country, whose twelve millions of souls are now thirsting for progress, advanced civilization, and peace. The awards granted them are as well deserved as they are numerous; their embroideries being not only of unsurpassed excellence, but also peculiar to their own country.”

It was the participation in these cultural exchange activities which earned for Thailand the recognition of the world in the field of culture, and in particular the respects for Her Majesty Queen Sri Savarindira from her contemporaries. After the World's Columbian Exposition, Her Majesty sent Mrs. Bertha Honoré Palmer, President Board of Lady Managers, World's Columbian Exposition, an album made by Mrs. Suriya and embroidered by Her Majesty Queen Sri Savarindira herself. This exquisite handicraft was really appreciated by Mrs. Palmer as mentioned on her letter to Her Majesty dated 11 December 1893:

“...The admiration which this magnificent Album has elicited has been universal and the knowledge that the dainty gold and silk embroidery upon the cover was executed by your Majesty has inestimably increased the value of and interest in the volume...”

On home ground Her Majesty's thirst for learning and receptive mind made her welcome new technologies and opportunities for women's occupation. This attitude was rather avant-garde for her times when most women confined their interest to home-making skills and other elaborate and beautiful traditional handicrafts.

Her Majesty encouraged traditional culture both at local and court levels, such as the weaving techniques around Ang Sila, a small sea-side village near Sri Racha where She often came to recuperate from illness.

She launched small enterprises in dress-making, weaving and growing fruits and vegetables in the palace then transferred these occupational skills to her courtiers through the process of **learning by doing**. Apart from designing new patterns and improving weaving techniques, She sought expert help from Japan who introduced weaving looms and assisted her in importing weaving machinery and raw silk from Japan. These activities ensured a livelihood for her courtiers who could be self-reliant with reasonable quality of life. Moreover, cultural heritage could be preserved.

5.3 Religion

Religious beliefs are vital to the human race and Queen Sri Savarindira was well aware of the dimension of moral education and gave her full support to moral and religious education for the public. Education on Buddhism had always been one of Her Majesty's concerns. She believed that religion was crucial for the foundation of the way of life and advocated that Buddhist studies for the people was as important as the education of the monks. She supported the printing of books on the Buddhist tenets as well as fables based on Buddhist teachings for distribution in schools and educational institutions. As a result Buddhist classes in schools were strengthened.

In 1898, Her Majesty donated funds to support scholarships for Mahamongkut Raja Wittayalai that was an educational institution where monks studied the philosophy of Buddhism and other related subjects. She also helped to establish the Pariyatti Dhamma School at Pathumwanaram Temple as a centre for the education of the monks. She always donated funds for the maintenance of temples because they were important centres in local ways of lives.

5.4 Applied Science

Western health care was introduced into Thailand in the reign of King Mongkut (1851 – 1868). Her Majesty Queen Sri Savarindira inherited from her father her interest in modern medicine. Her contributions were not limited to funding support, but they revealed her interest, imagination and efforts to keep up with the western medical advance of the day. When Her Majesty learned that Jeen-ha, a Chinese-Thai, had cancer of the knee and had to have a leg amputated, She ordered a prosthetic leg from Japan from her private funds to relieve his disability, to quote just one example.

Her Majesty proceeded to fulfill King Mongkut's vision to provide Thai society with western health care through **Queen Savang Vadhana Memorial Hospital** at Sri Racha and **Siriraj Hospital** in Bangkok.

1) Queen Savang Vadhana Memorial Hospital at Sri Racha

Between 1899 – 1905, Her Majesty Queen Sri Savarindira came to reside in Sri Racha off and on to recuperate after the loss of several of her children. While in residence, She observed that local people had no access of any kind to medical service.

1.1 In 1901, Her Majesty set up a small health care institution with her personal funds. This institution officially opened on 10 September 1902 and His Majesty King Chulalongkorn named it Somdej Hospital in 1903. Its official title today is *Queen Savang Vadhana Memorial Hospital at Sri Racha*. The hospital was placed under the administrative authority of the Thai Red Cross Society in 1928 but Her Majesty continued to donate a large amount of money for its support.

1.2 In order to help people in remote areas, Her Majesty initiated the *mobile medical units* in this hospital using ox-carts to deliver medicine, medical equipments, and doctors. It was a start of mobile medical units in Thailand. Later in 1969, her daughter-in-law—Her Royal Highness Princess Sri Nagarindra, Mother of the present king—founded the Princess Mother's Medical Volunteer (PMV). The services are served by helicopters, boats, and cars. Radio medical service is also adopted.

From a small wooden institution by the sea, **Queen Savang Vadhana Memorial Hospital** at Sri Racha is at present a major hospital. Its mobile medical units serve people in remote areas as well as staff members of large companies in the industrial district of Sri Racha. A medical school is going to be set up to meet the requirement for more doctors around the eastern seaboard, which is one of the most important economic areas in Thailand.

The hospital will also be a place for medical students to study in various specialized fields.

2) Siriraj Hospital

Siriraj Hospital, Bangkok, was set up as the first public hospital in Thailand in 1888. It is now a well-known hospital providing general health care for a large number of patients from all over Thailand and also neighboring countries. Medical students from Mahidol University which is the first medical school in Thailand founded in 1890 are trained at this hospital.

His Royal Highness Prince Mahidol of Songkla, one of Her Majesty Queen Sri Savarindira' son, (Father of the present king of Thailand) with the support of his mother, played a crucial role in building up Siriraj Hospital into a medical centre recognized in world medical circle. Her Majesty donated a large amount of her personal funds to supply the hospital with medical equipments and essentials for the nursing care of the patients as well as supporting the physical aspects such as water pipe construction from Bangkok across the Chao Phraya River to Siriraj Hospital on the opposite bank.

Of more importance was Her Majesty's decision to support the policy of her son, His Royal Highness Prince Mahidol of Songkla, to send students to study abroad in Nursing and Medicine. These contributions have a vital impact on Thai society until today. Some of her scholarship recipients became medical doctors; nurses; teachers; the first director of Nursing School of Mahidol University; an author of a book for mothers and nannies, which was one of the first books on mothers and children in Thailand, to name a few.

Her Royal Highness Princess Sri Nagarindra, Mother of the present king of Thailand, then Miss Sangwan Talaphat was also one of Her Majesty' scholarship recipients. On 17 December 1990, Her Royal Highness was awarded Health-for-All Gold Medal by World Health Organization (WHO).

Her Majesty Queen Sri Savarindira continued to donate funds to Siriraj Hospital and Siriraj humbly presented to Her Majesty an Honorary Patronage Certificate and Brooch Number One in 1949 as a token of appreciation and gratitude.

At present, Siriraj Hospital is one of the biggest and most prestigious hospitals in Asia.

5.5 Social and Human Sciences

1) Leprosy Treatment

Her Majesty Queen Sri Savarindira's policy regarding humanitarian works was to give without discrimination. During that period leprosy was an infectious, non-curable disease shunned by society. Her Majesty took it upon herself the responsibility of caring for these patients in both public health care institutions and McKean Hospital founded by Protestant missionaries in Chiang Mai Province, to quote just one example.

Her family members carry on her works. Her daughter-in-law, Her Royal Highness Princess Sri Nakarindira—Mother of His Majesty the Present King, supported the foundations to help leprosy patients. His Majesty founded the Thai Leprosy Foundation to help the patients and the Rachapracha Samasai School in Samut Prakan Province is responsible for their children.

At present, leprosy has dwindled in Thai society and is not regarded as an incurable infection anymore.

2) The Thai Red Cross Society

His Majesty King Chulalongkorn donated the original fund to set up the Red Unalom Society on 26 April 1893 to alleviate the suffering of injured soldiers and people during a territorial dispute between France and Thailand. Her Majesty Queen Sri Savarindira also contributed a large amount of money for its support.

In 1906, after participating in the Geneva Convention, the Society was named The Siamese Red Cross Society. In 1921, it became a member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and participated in various activities as required and was renamed the Thai Red Cross Society on 19 October 1939. Her Majesty Queen Sri Savarindira served as President of the Society for thirty-five years, from 1920 until her demise in 1955.

Her Majesty devoted herself and donated her personal funds to develop and support the activities of the Society all through her long life. She served as Chairperson of the Society Board Member Meetings; Chairperson of the Annual Red Cross Charity Fairs, and participated in other related activities. The Thai Red Cross Society continues to be an active and useful organization because of Her Majesty's personal interests as well as large funding support.

The Society provides many services to people such as medical services and public welfare through King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital in Bangkok, Queen Savang Vadhana Memorial Hospital at Sri Racha, the Red Cross stations in the provinces, and volunteers in every region.

After Her Majesty Queen Sri Savarindira passed away, her family members carry on her humanitarian works. Her Majesty Queen Sirikit is President and Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn serves as Executive Vice-President of the Thai Red Cross Society, and continues to alleviate the sufferings of the people without discrimination. For example, the Executive Vice-President directed the Society to help to relieve the catastrophic losses of Tsunami victims in the south of Thailand in 2004 and cyclone Nagis victims in Myanmar in 2008.

6. Please state whether this commemoration related to the work as a whole or to a particular work or action (if so, which?)

The commemoration is related to all achievements of Her Majesty as a whole, with particular emphases on the improvement of the quality of life not only of the Thai people, but also those in Thailand's neighbouring countries.

7. Describe how this work/action has had a genuine impact at the regional and/or universal level

Her Majesty's work had a crucial impact at both regional and universal levels. On many occasions, She accompanied His Majesty King Chulalongkorn when he gave audiences to royal guests on state visits and often accompanied His Majesty on several domestic visits to other provinces in Thailand. Her Majesty was the first group of ladies of the Court who accompanied His Majesty on state visits to many countries such as Malaya, Singapore, and Java. For each visit, Her Majesty would prepare funds and suitable supplies to meet the requirements of temples and charitable organizations of different cultures and beliefs.

In the field of culture, She established sewing and weaving centres and a textile factory. She also brought in textile experts from western countries and Japan to improve the weaving techniques and imported silk from Japan. In 1893, Thailand was invited to participate in **The World's Columbian Exposition** in Chicago, Illinois, the United States of America. Many Thai sectors took parts in this exposition. In the Woman's Building, various kinds of Thai women's arts and handicrafts were sent to exhibit along with these kinds of works created by women from many countries. King Chulalongkorn authorized Her Majesty to be in full charge of the event and because of her personal supervision and contribution, many exotic pieces from Thailand were awarded. Some of these exquisite pieces were made by Her Majesty herself.

In the all important **field of public health**, the Thai Red Cross Society under Her Patronage had a strong impact in improving health care service not only for the Thai people, but also people from the neighbouring countries, to keep up Her Majesty's policy of giving without discrimination regarding race, country, and belief.

8. **Web site(s):** The Queen Savang Vadhana Foundation - <http://www.queensavang.org>

B. Anniversary to be celebrated

Fiftieth

Centenary

Multiple thereof

Dates (s) chosen for the celebration: 10 September 2012 – 10 September 2013

C. Information concerning the activities organised on this occasion by the country/countries concerned

Place	Type of activity	Institution responsible	Funds requested (under the Participation Programme)
In Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Royal and religious ceremonies in Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Birth of Her Majesty Queen Sri Savarindira ○ Establishing the museum dedicated to Her Majesty Queen Sri Savarindira ○ Exhibitions, conferences and seminars on Her Majesty Queen Sri Savarindira's works and achievements ○ Documentary on Her Majesty Queen Sri Savarindira's biography, works and achievements ○ Commemorative books, postage stamps and coins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ministry of Culture ○ Ministry of Education ○ Ministry of Public Health ○ The Queen Savang Vadhana Foundation ○ The Thai Red Cross Society ○ Faculty of Medicine, Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University ○ Faculty of Nursing, Mahidol University ○ Thailand Post Co., Ltd. ○ Other governmental agencies 	USD 26,000

Place	Type of activity	Institution responsible	Funds requested (under the Participation Programme)
In other countries (please state which) 1. France (UNESCO Headquarters) 2. USA (Chicago History Museum)	○ Exhibition ○ Cultural events	○ Ministry of Culture ○ Ministry of Education ○ Ministry of Foreign Affairs ○ Thai Permanent Delegation to UNESCO ○ The Queen Savang Vadhana Foundation	

D. Links with UNESCO

1. Please indicate the field of competence of UNESCO to which this celebration is related

- Education
- Science
- Culture
- Social and human sciences
- Communication
- Transdisciplinary Projects.....

2. How do you wish UNESCO to participate?

To provide facilities for exhibitions and commemorative events and funding support from the Participation Program.

3. Please state in what way this commemoration is linked to, and promotes, UNESCO's objectives and missions

The commemorative activity will demonstrate Her Majesty's ways and means of translating into action UNESCO's ideals and mission, as testified in the World Declaration on Education for All, Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The beneficial outcome would serve as a source of inspiration and a model for replication by other Member Countries of UNESCO.

E. Please add any other information

Please see the attachment for additional information.
