

Annex II

Form for the submission of an anniversary proposal

A. Information concerning the personality/event to be commemorated

1. Family name and first name of the personality

His Royal Highness Prince Vajirañāṇavarorasa (Somdet Phra Maha Samana Chao Krom Phraya Vajirañāṇavarorasa)

Title of the event: The 100th anniversary of the passing HRH Prince Vajiranavarorasa

2. **Born** April 12, 1860

Died August 2, 1921

3. **Date (s) chosen for the celebration :** January 1– December 31, 2021 (one year)

4. **Field of activity :** Education, Social and Human Sciences, and Culture

5. Brief description of the personality listing his or her major works/of the event

5.1 Short description

His Royal Highness Prince Vajirañāṇavarorasa or Somdet Phra Maha Samana Chao Krom Phraya Vajirañāṇavarorasa was born in 1859, the 47th child of King Rama IV of Siam (Mongkut). What stands out about HRH's early parenting received and education is the diversity of his teachers/mentors and the many subjects to which he was exposed in the royal palace at his early age. Later as a very young man, he spent two years as a legal and administrative secretary to King Chulalongkorn, helping his brother to pursue the policy of major reform of government departments and the legal system.

He then was fully ordained as a Buddhist monk in 1879 at the age of 18 and remained a priest for the rest of his life. The King clearly saw the Prince's potential as an educational leader and innovator. In subsequent years, the Prince served the King in numerous important leadership roles such as being the first director of the Mahamakuta Royal Academy, Thailand's first college established by the prince as a mix of Buddhism and liberal arts. He was then appointed to be in charge of extending the primary schools on the Buddhist temple lands nationwide. Toward the end of his illustrious life, he was named by King Rama VI as the 10th Supreme Patriarch of Buddhism in Siam, a position he held for 11 years until his death at age 61.

5.2 His major works

The royal Siamese government wanted to introduce primary and secondary schooling throughout the country. King Chulalongkorn entrusted Prince-Patriarch Vajirañāṇavarorasa as one of his close associates to modernize the education system, and he subsequently developed a secular educational system nationwide. It is hard to imagine now the degree of patience and perseverance that this Prince-Patriarch required. Prince-Patriarch Vajirañāṇavarorasaa stately took advantage of the thousands of temples that already existed throughout the country, and began to open schools on temple land. Since the temples were community centers and the site of traditional knowledge and education, he wanted this modern education to be paired with international practice on free access and gender equality. The end result was a universal system throughout the Kingdom serving both girls and boys (inclusive education).

In summary, inclusive education is an area in which Prince Vajirañāṇavarorasa made enormous contributions and had extraordinary vision of implementation. He was the trailblazer for the creation of a modern Thai secular education system. To facilitate achievement of this goal he had to write diverse textbooks for use in these schools. Siam was at the forefront of Southeast Asian countries in providing such equal education across the land. Actually, this was an early effort in Southeast Asian to achieve "education for all", an UNESCO goal adopted in Jomtien, Thailand, seven decades later.

6. Describe the way(s) in which the personality/event has had a genuine regional and/or worldwide impact.

HRH Prince Vajirañāṇavarorasa's important work had both regional and worldwide impacts. Way ahead of his time, he pioneered Education for All and inclusive education as he orchestrated the creation of a secular Thai education to extend throughout his Kingdom to educate for the first time both girls and boys. He was also an amazing example of a scholar-doer. David C. Wyatt, a well-known Cornell historian of Thai history, called him "one of the most prominent intellectuals of his time" and the "leading intellectual of his generation in Siam". He produced an enormous body of published work, a total of 496 items in the research libraries of the world including 452 books, of which 73 have been translated into English. His autobiography, for example, can be found in the research libraries of 14 diverse nations, including Germany, Israel, New Zealand, and the Netherlands, while *Navakovāda (Instruction for Newly-Ordained Bhikkus and Sāmaneras)* was also translated into regional languages such as Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Indonesian extending his influence and impact on Buddhist education in those countries.

Most importantly, he was also way ahead of his time in promoting critical thinking and questioning texts and established thinking. This progressive pedagogical thinking had influence on neighboring countries such as Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Viet Nam. Despite not being able to go abroad for study, HRH developed both impressive global literacy alongside with local wisdoms in then temple schools. For example, he wrote many texts for Thai students and monk novices on how to learn English and how to use a special script for writing the Pali language. His vision on the literacy skills among primary school graduates in the early Thai nation state can be deemed as *global citizenship education*.

7. Website(s): www.onec.go.th/vachirananavarorasa

B. Co-sponsors : Korea, China and Vietnam

C. Anniversary to celebrated: Centenary

D. Information on the activities held on the occasion by country or countries

Place	Type of Activity	Institution Responsible	Time Frame	Estimated Cost (USD)	Funds Earmarked/ Requested (under the Participation Programme)
Thailand	1. TV series on life and legacy of Prince Vajirañāṇavarorasa 2. Series of lectures on Education, Culture and Social Sciences and Humanities "Vajirañāṇavarorasa"	The National TV Pool, Office of the Prime Minister The Sangha Supreme Council of Thailand Ministry of Education	Jan. - Apr. 2021	100,000	-

Place	Type of Activity	Institution Responsible	Time Frame	Estimated Cost (USD)	Funds Earmarked/ Requested (under the Participation Programme)
	<p>3. International Conference on Moral Education and Global Citizenship</p> <p>4. A national essay contest for primary, secondary and tertiary students on the life and legacy of Prince Vajirañāḥavarorasa</p> <p>5. The national release of a centenary anniversary stamp commemorating the Prince and his educational contributions</p> <p>6. Buddhist merit making and international citation to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the passing</p> <p>7. National seminar and Nation-wide school display on the Prince and Universalization of Education in Siam 1921-2021</p>	<p>Communication Authority of Thailand</p> <p>The Royal Thai Government and Bovornnivesh Viharn Temple</p> <p>Ministry of Education</p>	<p>Jan. 1- Dec. 31 2021</p> <p>May 2021</p> <p>Aug. 2, 2021</p> <p>Aug 1- 5, 2021</p> <p>Aug– Dec 2021</p>	<p>30,000</p> <p>100,000</p> <p>100,000</p> <p>50,000</p> <p>100,000</p>	

Place	Type of Activity	Institution Responsible	Time Frame	Estimated Cost (USD)	Funds Earmarked/ Requested (under the Participation Programme)
In other country	Exhibition and series of lecture in Thai temples in U.K., U.S.A, Australia, South Africa, and Japan	The Sangha Supreme Council of Thailand	Jan to Dec. 2021	200,000	

E. Links to UNESCO

1. Please indicate the UNESCO field(s) of competence to which the celebration is linked to

Education

Culture

Social and Human Sciences

2. Describe the contribution that such an anniversary celebration can effectively make the attainment of the Member States' goals in UNESCO fields of competence and in regards to the major priorities set in the Medium- Term Strategy (C/4) and Programme and Budget (C/5X approved by the General Conference

This yearlong celebration would focus on Peace Education that links sustainable development through schooling systems and lifelong learning with civic education and global citizenship. Prince Patriarch's crucial role in implementing the universalization of compulsory education in Thailand manifests a living example of a dynamic contribution towards inclusive education. The multi-faith dialogues among global religious leaders to commemorate this occasion would promote multi-facets of UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy ranging from SDG to access of global information and awareness and the active promotion of global citizenship education.

3. Form of participation request from UNESCO

None

4. Describe in way(s) in which this commemoration is consisted with and enhances UNESCO's goal and mission

In celebration of the life and legacy of Prince Vajirañāṇavarorasa throughout 2021, the Royal Thai Government and the Sangha Supreme Council of Thailand will promote the international awareness of learning partnerships among state, community, and religious organizations to support UN Sustainable Development Goals and the UNESCO Education Agenda 2030 in Asia and Pacific. For example, the English version of a special TV series on Prince Patriarch could help UNESCO member states revisit notions of "All for Education" linked with "Education for All" from the Jomtien Declaration, articulated in Thailand, in that key religious leaders, as community intellectuals could bring about the universalization of compulsory education in Thailand a century ago. This past example would result in the new discourse and renewal of a tripartite partnership both at the national and regional levels that support all targets of SDG Goals 4 by 2030. An

international conference on Moral Education and Good Citizenship co-hosted by the Sangha Supreme Council of Thailand and international Buddhist organizations expecting 300 religious leaders from all corners of the world would serve as an international venue for these valuable collective discussions and civilizational discourse.

5. Other information

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