

## APPENDIX III

# ANNIVERSARY OF A PERSONALITY

### **A. Information concerning the personality to be commemorated**

1. Family name: Saipradit  
First name: Kulap
2. Born: 31 March 1905 Died: 16 June 1974
3. Field of activity: Writer, Journalist
4. Full list of her or his works and / or actions  
Kulap Saipradit was an academic, a writer and a journalist who was very vocal and instrumental in the Thai democratization process. Through his work and writing Kulap Saipradit led the way for peace and equality in the Thai society.
5. Please state whether this commemoration related to the work as a whole or to a particular work or action (if so, which?)  
This Commemoration relates to the work as a whole
6. Describe how this work/action has had a genuine impact at the regional and/or universal level.
  - 1) Many of Kulap's novels and short stories have been translated into foreign languages, for example "Behind the painting" have been translated into English, Chinese and Japanese, while "Look ahead" turned into Russian .
  - 2) His name appeared in China's Social Sciences Publication's "Biography of World's Famous Foreign Novelists" in 1979.
  - 3) Russia's compact dictionary of novelists included his biography and work.
  - 4) Dr. David A.Smyth of The London University wrote a Ph.D.Thesis on Kulap's major fiction.

### **B. Anniversary to be celebrated**

- Fiftieth   
Centenary  (100)  
Multiple thereof   
Dates (s) chosen for the celebration

1 January to 31 December 2005

**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 your country	Exhibition, lecture, Publication, seminar, short story contest	The Writers' Association of Thailand, The Thai Newspaper Association etc.	The Writers' Association of Thailand, The Sri Burapa Fund etc.
In other countries (please state which)	Exhibition, lectures		

**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: Translated Kulap Saipradit's literature into foreign languages.

2. How do you wish UNESCO to participate

To jointly organised, support and promote the commemorative activities of with correspond with the aims of UNESCO on literacy.

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

The commemorative activities will emphasize the UNESCO's will to encourage the world society to take action to promote the writer in recognition of his devotion to the literary, peace, human rights, social justice and the heritage of mankind.

**E. Please add any other information**

Please see the attachment for additional in formation

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# Kulap Saipradit

## A Brief Biography

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Kulap Saipradit ('Sri Burapa') was one of the best newspaper editor and foremost novelist of his time as well as a progressive Buddhist thinker and a fighter for peace, justice and human rights, and paid for it by losing his job time and again, spending more than four years in jail and the last sixteen years of his life in exile.

He was born on 31 March 1905 in Bangkok. His primary education was obtained at military training school for children and secondary at Thiepsirin School where he found himself in the company of several other future well-known novellists; like them he contributed poems to the school magazine.

In 1928 he wrote three novels, two of them, however stoodout: "*A real man*"(Louk Phoo Chai) and "*The war of life*" (Songkarm Cheewit). By 1929, Kulap had gathered his friends into a publishing group, Supharpburut (Gentlemen), which included some of the best writers of his generation. Under Kulap's leadership, the group went into journalism, and followed him through thick and thin in and out of haft a dozen publications over the next twenty years.

In 1934, Kulap spent three months in retreat as a monk and wrote another religious novel, "*Facing Sin*" (Phajon Barb). The following year he married Chanid Priyacharnkun, who became the noted translator of three of Jane Austen's novels under the pen name "Jiliet" and help him translated Maugham's *Pool*, Chekhov's *In exile* and Gorki's *Mother*. The couple had a daughter and a son.

In early1936, Kulap was forced to resign from the work at the newspaper.

Late that year, he went to study the press in Japan on his return wrote "*The jingle of life*" (Pa Nai Ceewit), and his romantic masterpiece, "*Behind the painting*" (Khang Lang Pharp), both serialized in 1937.

Then it was back to the press again: in 1939, he and his group started the Supharburut (Gentlemen) daily. In 1944 and 1945, Kulap was elected president of the Thai Newspaper Association. In late 1947, he and his wife left Thailand for two years in Australia, where he studied political science. On his return, he started a publishing house to publish his own works and those of his friends in cheap editions. He also wrote several books, including "*Till we meet again*" (Jon Kwa Rao Ja Phop Kan Eek).

In 1951, Kulap set up the Peace Foundation of Thailand. The following year he protested against the war in Korea, demand the lifting of press censorship and, when he went to distribute food and blankets to the needy in the Northeast, he was among more than a hundred "agitators" arrested on 10 November 1952. Accused of "treason" and summarily condemned to nineteen years and four months in jail, he was freed in February 1957 to celebrate the advent of 25<sup>th</sup> Buddhist century.

It was during these years in jail that he wrote the first two volumes of an unfinished trilogy, "*Look ahead*" (Lae Pai Khang Na), which many rightly consider to be his most accomplished political novel.

In 1958, he headed a delegation of writers to China. While he went on an Afro-Asian Writer's Conference in Tashkent, there was a revolution in Thailand and all members of Kulap's delegation were jailed on their return. Faced with the same fate, Kulap chose to remain in China, where he led the life of a "democratic personality" in exile, lecturing on Thai literature at Peking University, contributing to the Afro-Asian Solidarity Front's culture activities and to the Thai service of China's external broadcasting radio. He died of pleurisy in Peking on 16 June 1974.

Kulap's fictional writing evolved with his political thinking, which took him from an idealistic faith in the power of education and individual good will (translated into romantic novels written around clean, ambitious heroes working their way up within the system) to a growing concern for social justice and radical change of the sociopolitical system by relying primarily on the people.

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