

## The Projects under Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn (24)

### International Recognitions

The 1991 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service

Ramon Magsaysay Award Presentation Ceremonies

Manila, Philippines, August 31, 1991.

... Embracing all things Thai, HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS MAHA CHAKRI SIRINDHORN has become a force for cultural preservation. At her initiative, dying handicraft skills are once again being passed from master to apprentice, shadow plays rejuvenated, sacred temples restored, and classical works of music recorded for posterity. She herself plays several Thai instruments, preferring the ranaad – ek, a solo wooden xylophone till now



played almost exclusively by men. By singing and performing in public with Thais of all walks of life – unthinkable for royal women of the past – she has helped spur an unprecedented revival of traditional music.

Educated from grade one through her doctorate entirely in Thailand, PRINCESS SIRINDHORN has interests ranging from classical Asian Languages to modern educational techniques and theories. In 1984 she mastered remote sensing technology – a tool for studying Thailand's beleaguered environment – and today she teaches history at the Royal Military Academy. As an inveterate world traveler, she generates esteem for her country abroad. The books she writes about her travels become best – sellers, and the proceeds from them she donates to needy children.

Of all things Thai, PRINCESS SIRINDHORN most of all embraces Thai children. Through a foundation she started, many of Bangkok's orphans and unwanted children receive attention and find new homes, while hundreds of refugee children are cared for by the Thai Red Cross, which, with the mother, she leads. Also, through her efforts, deaf and blind children throughout Thailand now have special schools, and thousands of pupils in remote border areas receive nutritious lunches

and learn self – reliance by growing their vegetables. Generous with her own purse, PRINCESS SIRINDHORN inspires generosity in others. Her projects are well funded and well managed. Moreover, to Thailand's children she is not a distant benefactor. She takes stock of their progress personally, visiting them everywhere she goes and bringing them cheer.

Cheer is perhaps PRINCESS SIRINDHORN's most pervasive gift to all the Thais. They are cheered by her modesty, for she speaks softly and spurns ostentatious make – up and clothing. They are cheered by her seriousness, for she turns away from idle celebrity to devote herself to service. Not least they are cheered by her cheerfulness. In the smiling PRINCESS SIRINDHORN, Thais find an image of what they themselves aspire to be: a people moored happily to their traditions, yet treading confidently in the modern world.

In electing H.R.H. PRINCESS MAHA CHAKRI SIRINDHORN to receive the 1991 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service, the Board of Trustees recognizes her making her royal office an instrument of enlightened endeavor for Thailand, and her sparkling embodiment of the best that is Thai.

**Honorable Plaque for Her Dedication and Outstanding Leadership  
in the Program of Sustainable Elimination of Iodine Deficiency Disorders in Thailand  
The International Council for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (ICCIDD)  
Bangkok, Thailand, August 19, 2004.**

...Throughout her years of royal duties, the Princess has provided dedicated leadership to the program. The following examples illustrate this prominent characteristic :

1. Devoting much time and efforts in the country's IDD control programs.
2. Chaired the National IDD Committee in 1991. This gesture has generated widespread multi – sectoral involvement and coordination in the country.

3. Presided over the opening ceremony of the First National IDD Seminar in March 1992. The theme of the seminar was “IDD Control in Thailand”. In her address, the Princess expressed concern that if the problem of IDD is not properly and immediately addressed, the quality of life of

millions of Thai people will be deteriorated to the point where the social and economic development and national security would be obstructed.

4. Chaired the opening ceremony of the Second National IDD Seminar. The theme was "Towards the Elimination of IDD in Thailand". She made a special presentation on "Concepts and Experiences in IDD Control Program".

5. Presided over the grand ceremony, in 1996 of National Campaign to Eliminate IDD to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of His Majesty the King's Ascension to the Throne. A gift of salt to commemorate the event was distributed to about 12 million households nationwide to encourage iodized salt consumption among Thai people.

6. Pays regular annual visits to the Border Patrol Police Schools to personally evaluate the progress and status of the programs.

All these bring to prominence the eminent leadership and the right direction shown by H.R.H Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. More importantly, the Princess has acknowledge that better developed human resources in the IDD elimination play an important role in the national development and security. The grassroots level contacts that she has cultivated have tremendously helped the IDD control program in Thailand to accomplish the present level of success. The Princess carries with her invaluable learning experiences with exposures to the realities of lives of people since her tender age.

International Council for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (ICCIDD) takes great pleasure in recognizing the superior role played by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn towards sustainable elimination of Iodine Deficiency Disorders in Thailand.

**Special Ambassador of the United Nations World Food Program for School Feeding**

**Agency's Executive Board Meeting**

**Rome, Italy, October 11, 2004.**

I am so very pleased to have Her Royal Highness act WFP as an advocate for WFP school feeding programs. Her expertise in nutrition and her outstanding record of commitment to

humanitarian causes will shine a spotlight on the plight of the world's 300 million hungry children - - 100 million of whom do not attend school.

School feeding is the best investment that can be made in a country's future, and I am grateful to Her Royal Highness for bringing her excellent skills and admirable reputation to highlight the value of education and good nutrition for children.

Speech by Mr. James T. Morris

WFP Executive Director

**UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador**  
**for the Empowerment of Minority Children Through Education and Through**  
**the Preservation of Their Intangible Cultural Heritage**

**Bangkok, Thailand, March 24, 2005.**

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn is UNESCO's first Goodwill Ambassador from an ASEAN country. In this role, she will advocate for the empowerment of minority children through education and the preservation of their intangible cultural heritage, with a special focus on the Mekong sub – region. The Ambassadorship seeks to address the deterrents to full participation in the education system, including cultural and ethnic minority status, health and nutrition, language of instruction, and poverty. The Ambassadorship will celebrate and promote cultural diversity, especially amongst minority groups. Her efforts will help ensure that all voices are heard and that all children have access to, and receive, education of good quality. Her Royal Highness' valuable experience and support will make a major contribution to UNESCO's continuing efforts to promote Education For all.

**Doctor of Humane Letters, Johns Hopkins University**

**Maryland, U.S.A., May 26, 2005.**

...To the question of whether the ancient Institution of Royalty has a role in the modern world, one excellent answer is, simply: You.

You Royal Highness's deepest commitment is to poorest and neediest of Thailand, a dedication inspired, no doubt, by the lifelong example of your revered father, His Majesty the King.

You live your commitment as much in all – but – inaccessible rural villages as in the Royal Palace. You live it among the hill tribes of the north and among the sea gypsy and minority Muslim peoples of the south. You live it with systematic campaigns for education, for nutrition, for public health, for human rights, and for sustainable economic development.

And you live it on the world stage, where you have become an honored advocate for traditional culture, minorities and the rural disenfranchised poor...

### **2004 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development**

**New Delhi, Republic of India, November 19, 2005.**

... We know her as a keen scholar of Sanskrit and as a devout Buddhist. But Her Royal Highness is all these and more. Her life and work prove that she is a great citizen of the world. Her work in the service of children, and in preservation of the culture of her people, consistently shows us how much we can achieve if only we are motivated to do so. She is both an admirable representative of the Thai people and an outstanding symbol of a great resurgent nation...

Speech by Mr. Manmohan Singh

Prime Minister, Republic of India

### **The International Union of Nutritional Sciences (IUNS) Special Award**

**In Recognition of Her Exceptional Contributions**

**Through Nutrition Improvement to Development of the Disadvantaged Population**

**Bangkok, Thailand, October, 2, 2009.**

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn stands today as a shining light, showing the world how the process of attaining "Nutrition Security for All" can realistically be undertaken. For almost three decades, Her Royal Highness has devoted her life to improving the nutritional well – being and quality of life of the poorest and the neediest, and especially to improving the lives of children who are the future of the country and the world.

Her Royal Highness has shown us that the attainment of nutrition security must transcend social, cultural and geographic boundaries. Her Royal Highness is a leader in pioneering systematic campaigns in food, nutrition and education that reach people who are usually not a part of mainstream society and are often neglected. Her work has touched the lives of countless children and families living in remote locations and under difficult living conditions, as well as among those population groups often marginalized due to cultural or religious differences. Moreover, Her Royal Highness' untiring efforts stretch beyond the borders of Thailand to improving the lives of people living in neighboring countries and beyond, such as Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Myanmar and Mongolia.

Her Royal Highness' expertise spans broad, yet interrelated areas, including education, nutrition, public health, human rights, and sustainable social and economic development. In today's world, such a holistic approach to the application of interdisciplinary knowledge is rare, but Her Royal Highness has shown that it can be done, and it can lead to realistic, sustainable results in nutrition.

Her Royal Highness is both a practitioner and achiever, believing firmly that starting small and learning from mistakes can lead to the best use of resources and thus success. Her Royal Highness is also a learner, constantly seeking new knowledge that when applied in simple, economic and productive ways, can lead to sound improvements in the lives of children, their mothers and families.

Her Royal Highness' commitment is evident in many arenas. Her Royal Highness' belief that improving the nutrition and health of children must start at the beginning of life has led to training programs in basic nutrition and health care for adolescent girls and pregnant and lactating women, so they are capable of feeding their infants properly and providing basic health care when needed.

Her Royal Highness' programs in food and nutrition have led to substantial improvements in children's nutritional well – being. Her Royal Highness' school feeding programs promote children's participation and a learning – by – doing approach that allow children to gain valuable knowledge and skills, as well as to adopt proper eating habit and better personal hygiene practices. By empowering young people in this way, Her Royal Highness has equipped them with the best tools for life.

Her Royal Highness is also a firm believer in sustainable local development, inspired by the lifelong example of her revered father, His Majesty the king. Her Royal Highness has empowered local people to adopt improved agricultural and animal husbandry practices to enable them to provide proper, high quality food for their pregnant and lactating women and children, thus ensuring household food security and the nutritional well – being of all family members.

Above all, Her Royal Highness has advocated for a culturally sensitive approach to nutrition and development. Where people still adhere to their own religious customs, cultural beliefs, and traditional medical practices, Her Royal Highness is spearheading innovative research and development programs aimed at merging local wisdom and scientific knowledge to improve food and nutrition practices.

On behalf of the IUNS, it is with great honor that this citation is extended to Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn for her lifelong commitment to and humanitarian work in nutrition.