

กระแสพระราชดำรัสตอบในวโรกาสที่กลุ่มผู้สนับสนุนพิพิธภัณฑ์เด็กแห่งกรุงวอชิงตัน ดี.ซี.

ทูลเกล้าฯ ถวายรางวัลด้านมนุษยธรรม ระหว่างประเทศ

วันที่ 1 พฤศจิกายน 2534 ณ กรุงวอชิงตัน ดี.ซี. ห้องรับรองพิเศษ โรงแรมเซอราตัน วอชิงตัน

(The Friends of the Capital Children's Museum International Humanitarian Award

November 1, 1991, Washington, D.C., Grand Ballroom, Sheraton Washington Hotel



I thank the Board of Governors and Friends of the Capital Children's Museum for inviting me to this function and for giving me your worthy award.

His Majesty the King has dedicated his reign to travel all over the country to meet the people. Through these visits he had gained an intimate understanding of how our people live. From this understanding, he has come to look upon Thai farmers and their families as really heroic people. They lead a very hard life, but they help to feed the rest of the country and people in other parts of the world. Thus the King has concentrated his efforts on improving farm productivity through water resource and various agricultural projects. For my part I was assigned by His Majesty to see to the welfare of the farmers' families, such as health, education for children, and livelihood. After accompanying His Majesty everywhere, I have been able to recognize the talents and skills of rural people in turning natural materials into products of great beauty using techniques and patterns handed down by their ancestors.

With the help of many good people, I was able to set up a Foundation called SUPPORT in 1976. The main objective of the Foundation is to encourage rural people to produce products for their own use as well as to sell them in order to raise the family income. Now many SUPPORT training centres have been set up, including one in our Residence in Bangkok, where the poor and the disabled are trained in these arts and crafts. I am proud to say that so many people have passed through these centres and can now produce beautiful works of art, some of which you can see on display today. Most of these people have a better living standard than before. But what is just as important is that they now have developed a great pride in themselves for being able to create such beautiful objects.

I have therefore come here to receive your International Humanitarian Award not only for myself or the Thai Royal Family, but on behalf of the Thai people, especially the Thai farmers and their families. It is they, who have to toil in the mud under the hot sun to feed us and the world, who deserve all the honour of this occasion.

Thank you