



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Address by Irina Bokova,

Director-General of UNESCO

**on the occasion of Hommage to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of
Thailand**

UNESCO, 17 October 2016

Mr Chair of the Executive Board,

Mr President of the General Conference,

Excellency Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with deep sadness that I learned of the passing of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand.

On behalf of UNESCO and in my own name, I wish to extend deepest condolences to the Royal Family, the Royal Government and the people of Thailand.

I wish also to extend my sympathy to HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, *UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for the Empowerment of Minority Children through Education and Culture.*

This difficult moment is an occasion to pay tribute to an illustrious figure who marked the history of the twentieth century.

We all know how much His Majesty the King played an absolutely core role in promoting and sustaining unity and dialogue in the history of his country.

I take this moment to salute the memory of a man of profound culture, a man who was an outstanding advocate for education, who once said:

“Learning is a never-ending process. Those who wish to advance in their work must constantly seek more knowledge.”

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej was an ardent supporter of sustainable development and international cooperation through the United Nations.

In 2006, he received a *Lifetime Achievement Award* from the United Nations Development Programme.

I was honoured to present a citation on behalf of UNESCO in an event to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Sri Savarindira, the Queen Grandmother of Thailand.

On this occasion, I presented my best wishes to Their Majesties the King and Queen of Thailand.

I believe we will all remember the tireless efforts His Majesty the King led to advocate for the *Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy*, to achieve greater social equity and more inclusive sustainable development.

I recall well the Future Lecture we held here at UNESCO in 2012 already on the *“sufficiency economy philosophy -- a new ethical paradigm for sustainability,”* marking His Majesty the King’s 84th birthday.

Today, this vision, which is composed of three pillars – moderation, reasonableness and risk management, and built on knowledge and virtue – continues to provide philosophical guidance for Thailand, and is an inspiration for people everywhere.

I believe this vision resonates with UNESCO’s ideals and priorities, and with the spirit of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* that the international community has agreed and is leading forward.

His Majesty’s lifelong commitment to development and to marginalised, his ceaseless pursuit of knowledge and his advocacy for education, are an inspiration to all of us.

At this difficult time, UNESCO stands in solidarity with the Thai people and the Organisation remains deeply committed to carrying his precious legacy forward.

Thank you.