

**Remarks by H.E. Ambassador designate Pannabha Chandraramya  
on the Occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Thailand**

**3 December 2019, Sheraton Tel Aviv**

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*Your Excellency Mr. Rafael Peretz, Minister of Education of the State of Israel,  
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Erev tov, Sawasdee ka.

On behalf of the Royal Thai Embassy, I wish to extend a very warm welcome to all friends of Thailand who are present here this evening. As I just arrived Tel Aviv on 13 November 2019, today's event becomes my first National Day Celebrations in Israel.

Dedicated as the National Day of the Kingdom of Thailand as well as Thailand's Father's Day, the 5<sup>th</sup> December marks the Birthday Anniversary of our late King, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great. For seven decades, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great had initiated more than 4,000 projects for the development of Thailand and the well-being of his people. Because of his devotion and dedication to Thailand and its people, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great was truly like the father of all Thais, and the soul of our nation.

His Majesty's heritage and wisdom are now graciously carried on by His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua, who has devoted himself to caring for his people through important initiatives of his own.

*Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,*

This year also marks the sixty fifth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Thailand and Israel. It is my greatest aspiration as Thai Ambassador designate to Israel to deepen the long and cordial relations between our two countries and further strengthen our cooperation in all aspects.

In June this year, there was an important development for further business partnership. The MOU on cooperation between the Thai Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce was signed here in Israel. Ever since, Thai businessmen came to Israel to seek business opportunities, especially in food and agricultural and innovation sector. To forge closer economic ties, next year the Royal Thai Embassy plans to bring an Israeli business delegation to Thailand.

We are also looking forward to enhancing cooperation with Israel on research and development in technology and innovation, in line with the “Thailand 4.0” strategy, especially on how to transform “results in the lab” to “profits in the market”. We therefore wish to encourage Israel, a renowned start-up nation, to invest more in Thailand.

In addition, as Israel hosts around 25,000 Thai workers, Thailand appreciates good collaboration with Israel under Thailand-Israel Cooperation of the Placement of Workers framework and wish to thank the Israeli side for having taken good care of the Thai workers.

More importantly, Thailand continues to be a major destination for Israelis. Last year, around 189,000 Israelis visited Thailand, and we are looking forward to welcoming more Israeli visitors this year and the years to come.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all friends of Thailand for their invaluable and consistent support to the Royal Thai Embassy. Your cooperation has become an important milestone of our close and cordial friendship through the years.

*Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,*

Once again, thank you for honouring us with your presence today. Before the evening is over, I hope you will enjoy the authentic Thai food specifically prepared for all the Friends of Thailand.

Thank you and Khob-kun ka.

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

May I now propose a toast to His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua and His Excellency Mr. Reuven Rivlin, President of the State of Israel, and to the everlasting friendship and relations between Thailand and Israel.

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