

**Opening Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Penprapa Vongkovit
On the Occasion of the Thai Festival Reception 2018
and the Final Round of the Thai Cooking Competition**

23 April 2018, 18.30 – 21.00 hrs., Residence of the Thai Ambassador

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is great pleasure to warmly welcome all of you here this evening.

This evening will be the first event to start off the Thai Festival 2018 which will take place on Wednesday in Nazareth and Thursday in Tel Aviv. The Thai Festival is part of the Embassy's annual event to promote Thailand here in Israel.

Apart from the opportunity for all of you to have a delicious taste of Thai food, I am also delighted to welcome the 3 finalists in the Thai Cooking Competition which we organize jointly with Bishulim Cooking School as a part of the Festival. The judges of the competition are now looking forward to tasting your dishes, and the final-round winner will be awarded with 2 round trip air tickets ! from Tel Aviv to Bangkok, kindly offered by Arkia Israeli Airlines. So may the best chef win !!

Also, I am delighted to introduce the "The Rajawadee", a Thai jazz band from Bangkok, who will play a selection of Thai contemporary musics.

On this occasion, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to my colleagues and friends who are supporting this evening's reception and the upcoming Thai Festival, especially :

- Mr. Egal, CEO of Bishulim School, for being an excellent partner in the Thai Food competition;
- Mr. Avi Nakash, the owner of Arkia Israeli Airlines, for sponsoring the Free Air Tickets !!
- Mr. Dov Kalmann, the representative of the Tourism Authority of Thailand who has worked tirelessly to help Israelis discover Thailand;
- the Thai business community and Thai restaurants in Israel namely Tiger Lily and Har Sainai,
- Our five star hotels the Dusit Island Resort in Chiang Rai and the Baan Thai Beach Resort & Spa in Phuket.

This festival would not be possible without your kind support.

I wish you the most enjoyable evening. Thank you.

Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Penprapa Vongkovit
Opening of the Thai Festival in Israel
25 April 2018 at St. Joseph Auditorium in Nazareth

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends
Salam Aleikum / Sawadeeka

A very warm welcome to all of you. And at the outset, may I express my appreciation for our honorary guest, Mr. Ali Sallam, Mayor of Nazareth, who came to open and join the event tonight.

Last year, Thailand was privileged to welcome one hundred seventy six thousands Israeli visitors, who found my country a welcoming place to relax and enjoy exotic food, topical fruits, our rich culture, and of course learn some Muay Thai. So as part of my job to promote more Israeli visitors to Thailand, we organize Thai Festivals in Israel every year.

And this year is particularly significant as the Thai festival is taking place in the historic town of Nazareth. We hope there will be more visitors from Nazareth and this area will choose to discover Thailand.

I am therefore highly honoured to open the Thai festival in Israel tonight which will feature:

- Thai food innovation showcase and Thai cooking demonstration;
- Presentation of Thai Halal food innovation by Halal Science Center;
- Performance of our contemporary music by “The Rajawadee band” and cultural performance; and
- Finally, we will announce the winners of the lucky draw who will receive round trip air tickets to Thailand by Turkish Airlines, domestic flights in Thailand by Bangkok Airways, as well as package tours sponsored by Via Thailand campaign by Via Nazareth group.

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to our friends and partners who have given their kind support to the Thai Festival:

- The Tourism Authority of Thailand who has worked tirelessly to help Israelis discover Thailand;
- Mr. Shadi, General Manager of Via Nazareth, Mr. Ilker Basaran, GM of Turkish Airlines, and Bangkok Airways.

This Festival would not be possible without your kind support.

Thank you, and I wish you the most enjoyable evening.

Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Penprapa Vongkovit
Opening of the Thai Festival in Israel
26 April 2018 at Cinema City in Ramat HaSharon, Tel Aviv

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends
Shalom / Sawadeeka

The relations between the peoples of Thailand and Israel have always been excellent. We were highly privileged to welcome one hundred seventy six thousands visitors from Israel last year, most of whom are from the younger generation who found my country a welcoming place to relax and enjoy exotic food, fruits, our ancient culture, and of course learn some Muay Thai.

So it is only right that the Thai Embassy, in collaboration with the Tourism Authority of Thailand, could bring some of our rich culture here to Tel Aviv, a place also rich in history and culture, in order to deepen the bonds of friendship between our two countries.

This year, we will also promote Thai food innovation industry under the theme “Food for the Future”. Thailand has one of the richest culinary traditions in the world and Thai cooking is particularly focused on lightly prepared dishes with strong aromatic components and spicy edge, with various healthy ingredients.

I am therefore highly honoured to open the Thai festival in Israel tonight which will feature:

- Thai food innovation showcase;
- Presentation of Thai food Innovation by National Food Institute;
- Performance of our contemporary music by “The Rajawadee band” and cultural performance; and
- Finally, we will announce the winners of the lucky draw who will receive round trip air tickets to Thailand by Turkish Airlines, domestic flights in Thailand by Bangkok Airways, Hotel vouchers from Thanyapura Sports & Health Resort in Phuket, as well as tickets for participation in Laguna Phuket Marathon and all-included packages of Spiceroads bike tour.

Allow me to thank once again for our good collaborators in organizing this Festival:

- The Tourism Authority of Thailand who has worked tirelessly to help Israelis discover Thailand;
- Marathon Israel, Laguna Phuket Marathon, Turkish Airlines and Bangkok Airways.

This festival would not be possible without your kind support.

Thank you, and I wish you the most enjoyable evening.
