**NailyMirror** Daily **1** 



His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua

## Relations between Thailand and Sri Lanka in perspective

he date 5<sup>th</sup> of December was the birthday anniversary of the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great. This date has continually been celebrated in Thailand and by Thai people around the world as the Thai National Day, as well as and Father's Day, in recognition of the dedication and perseverance that His Majesty the late King exerted towards Thailand's sustainable development, based upon the principles of reasonableness, moderation, and self immunity, which are collectively called the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP)

Today, the Royal Thai Government has shared Sufficiency Economy Philosophy as its home grown alternative development strategy with friends all over the world, including Sri Lanka, in the scheme called "SEP for SDGs". Since the year 2017, community development pilot projects in 3 villages in Puttalam, Kandy and Polonnaruwa have been implemented under this philosophy. Apart from this, Sri Lankan people are among top three awardees of Thailand international training courses on numerous subjects, totalling 27 in 2019

Recognising that child development is instrumental for tomorrow's sustainability, this year the Royal Thai Embassy, in coordination with the Sri Lanka - Thailand Society, has donated a refurbished library and

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computer equipment to Saliyamala Maha Vidyalaya school near Anuradhapura, in order to support communitybased learning. In 2019, the Embassy also donated a refurbished computer lab to Vajira Sri Children's Development Center in Kotte, as well as a refurbished library to Sri Gunananda Vidyalaya in Colombo, the latter of which was founded by a Thai prince while ordained in Sri Lanka in early 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Ties between Thailand and Sri Lanka run deep. This year marks the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the diplomatic relationship of our two countries. While longstanding, this is historically very recent.

Thais and Sri Lankan have known each other since ancient time through religious exchanges. Thailand adopted Theraveda Buddhism from Sri Lanka over 800 years ago. In return, Thailand sent a sangha envoy to revive Buddhism in Sri Lanka around 300 years ago. These historic exchanges has resulted in long lasting goodwill among the two peoples, entailing constant people-to-people connection throughout the past millennium. To commemorate such excellent relationship, the Embassy has made a donation this year to Ranwella Temple in

Koggala to restore the historic

King Mongkut, the great great

printing press donated by

grand father of the present Thai King, to Sri Lanka in 1862 to print Buddhist texts during the Buddhism Renaissance period under colonial rule.

The diplomatic and political relations between Thailand and Sri Lanka are excellent. During the past century 4 Thai Kings, including King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua, the present King while being the Crown Prince, visited Sri Lanka. Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Ret.) also visited the country in 2018.

On economic front, trade and investment between the two countries have been growing steadily. In this year just before the onset of COVID-19, the Royal Thai Embassy in Colombo and the Thai Trade Center in Chennai organised 'Top Thai Brands' trade promotion event in Colombo. The Embassy has been active to realise new investment projects, while the existing Thai companies in Sri Lanka have admirably braved the economic challenges and implemented a number of CSR projects to mitigate immediate economic hardship and to foster sustainable green growth and

circular economy.
Thailand and Sri Lanka are on a firm ground to move ahead together for mutual benefit, based on our strongest historical bond lasting almost a millennium, and the people-to-people goodwill and affinity that has grown beautifully out of such bond.



# Economy Overview

s the second largest economy in Southeast Asia and the world's 19th largest manufacturer, the Kingdom ■ of Thailand has consistently achieved robust economic growth thanks to the country's strong fundamentals and diverse industries. These same factors are also sources of resilience that allowed the country to recover quickly from the 2008 global financial crisis.

The Thai economy registered 1.6% growth in the fourth quarter of 2019. The overall economic expansion for the Thai economy in 2019 was projected in the range of 1.5 - 2.5%. Thailand's exports also declined by 2.7% in the same period.

Looking to the future, Thailand's economic development is set to follow a 20-year National Strategy Plan, with a vision of achieving security, prosperity and sustainability. The 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2017 -2021) was thus mapped out in line with the National Strategy Plan. The principles of the "Sufficiency Economy Philosophy" continue to be a vital element of the 12th Plan, as they have significantly contributed to balanced and sustainable development in Thailand over many years.

#### Thailand 4.0

The country's path forward will follow an economic model called Thailand 4.0, which aims to unlock Thailand from several economic challenges and help the country break free from the middle-income trap. The economic model focusses on four objectives: economic prosperity, social well-being, raising human values, and environmental protection.

To achieve economic prosperity, the key drivers will be innovation, technology and creativity. The Thai government aims to raise research and development expenditure to 1.5% of the GDP, increase economic growth to annual rates of no less than 5% within five years, and boost national income per capita from US\$5,470 in 2014 to US\$15,000 by 2032.

To promote social well-being, the Thailand 4.0 model focusses on encouraging all members of society to reach their full potential, and reducing social disparity and income inequality. The economic model also aims to develop human capital by transforming costeffective labour into a skilled workforce.

For environmental protection, Thailand will ensure that natural assets can produce their full economic potential on a sustainable basis. This includes the provision of clean air and water, and the and most importantly, a modernised resilient biodiversity needed to support

The ambitious sea transportation development plan for the economic zone includes expanding existing deep-sea ports. The Laem Chabang Port is expected to rank among the world's top 15 cargo ports and will serve as the Gateway to Southeast Asia. The Map Ta Phut Industrial Port will greatly expand its capacities to accommodate a higher volume of liquefied natural gas, from the existing 10 million tonnes to 62 million tonnes per year. Sattahip Commercial Port, Thailand's third deep-sea port, will be upgraded and modernised to become an international cruise and ferry port, meeting global standards and accommodating the region's growing shipbuilding and off-shore oil rig assembly industries.

food production and human health.

In applying the Thailand 4.0 Model, the Thai government has launched the SMART Visa. Designed to encourage highly skilled professionals to work or invest in the Kingdom. SMART Visas provide more benefits and privileges than any other type of visa issued by Thailand. This eliminates the need for a work permit, and also extends to spouses and children of those who qualify. SMART Visas are available for investors, executives, talented individuals, and those involved in start-up incubators and accelerators that are working in one of the 11 industries targetted by the Thai government.

#### **Eastern Economic** Corridor (EEC)

To entice more technology-driven investment into the country, the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) was established as a prime location for the world's top companies wishing to expand their investments in the Southeast Asian region. The new economic zone, which covers Rayong, Chon Buri, and Chachoengsao provinces, will receive heavy investment in infrastructure development both for improving the existing infrastructure and building new networks.

Conforming to the Thailand 4.0 Model, the new economic zone is envisioned as a modern metropolitan area, a competitive place for trade and investment, a base for regional transportation and logistics, a hub for human resources, a tourist attraction, gateway to Asia.

What to do and How?

4. Build a Global, Regional & Nationwide R&D Networks

5. Strengthen Vocational Training & Education System

Source: Dr. Suvit Maesincee, Deputy Minister of Commerce

7. Introduce Capability-Based Investment Promotion Scheme & Performance Based Conditional Grants & Incentives

1. Active Role of Private Sector 2. Demand-driven Policy 3. Offer Tailored Support Fund

Develop Infrastructure

Division of Economic Information ment of International Economic Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand

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Air transportation will also undergo similar intensive improvements. U-Tapao -Rayong - Pattaya International Airport, a cornerstone of the EEC, will be developed extensively with the aim to eventually reach a capacity of 60 million passengers per year. The Airport will serve as major transportation and logistics hub and will be linked with the Suvarnabhumi and Don Mueang International Airports via highspeed trains, dual-track railways, and an

In parallel with the infrastructure development, the three provinces of Chachoengsao, Chon Buri and Rayong will be equipped with leisure and lifestyle facilities that rival any modern metropolis. Based on the philosophy of sustainable urbanisation, inhabitants in the economic zone will live in an environment that encourages a work-life balance with

Thailand's

**Public Debt** 

per GDP

**Economic** Factsheet

thriving tourism and wellness industries.
As infrastructure development in the EEC is underway, investment incentives will play an integral role in enticing foreign investment in the economic zone. Under the Eastern Economic Corridor Act B.E. 2561 (2018), companies operating in the economic zone will have their taxes halved for an additional period of five years. In addition, the National Competitive Enhancement Act for Targeted Industries B.E. 2560 (2017) provides a corporate income tax exemption for up to 15 years for eligible businesses in industries that are expected to contribute to Thailand's development.

#### **Driving Economic Growth** through Innovation

Thailand 4.0's New Engines of Growth initiative consists of two groups. The first is the upgrading of five existing industries: agriculture and food, tourism, automotive, electrical and electronics industries, and petrochemicals. The second one involves the development of six new sectors: automation and robotics, aerospace, digital, bioenergy and biochemicals, medical and

healthcare, and the defense industry The model will be carried out by using science, technology, innovation and creativity to transform Thailand's rich biodiversity and cultural diversity from a comparative advantage to a competitive advantage. Thus, the government is concentrating on developing technologies that will become an essential base for the development of other high-value industries that will drive Thailand towards

a prosperous future.

#### **Going Digital**

Thailand is stepping up to a new challenge of digital economy. The Thai government has laid out several initiatives to develop the digital economy by supporting the production of hardware, software, communication devices, and digital platforms for the industrial sector and financial services. In particular, the government will target investments in highspeed Internet access to support future industries, innovation, and e-commerce.

The Smart Cities initiative will initially see the transformation of Phuket, Chiang Mai, and Khon Kaen provinces, as integrated digital technology, energy and transport hubs, which will bring about a positive socioeconomic impact for residents. Other cities in Thailand will eventually be included in the initiative in the future.

Another project called Digital Park Thailand will support technology transfer and the creation of digital innovations; such as, mobile applications, data centres, and the 'Internet of Things' products. Located on a 250-acre plot of land in Chon Buri province, Digital Park Thailand will become a vibrant digital innovation hub and a competitive digital community, as well as a destination for global digital players and innovators to invest, work, learn and play. The project will also see Thailand become a data hub for the ASEAN Economic Community AEC) offering ultra-high-speed broadband infrastructure, international submarine cable stations, data centres, and

Tourism Foreign Tourists (Jan. - Mar. 2020) Foreign Tourists 10.8 Million (Jan. - Mar. 2019) 10.8 Million

Top Tourists (Jan. - Mar. 2020) 

Japan 0.32 mil.

**Imports** 

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China 1.29 mil.

Top 10 Exports (Jan. - Mar. 2020)

2. Precious Stones & Acce

Total 62.67 BIIIIons USD Exports

Top 10 Export Destinations

Malaysia 0.62 mil.



Knowledge worker/ High Skilled Labors

Technologies

**Unskilled Labors** 

**Buy Technologies** 

200

**Priorities for Innovation** 

Smart City Low-carbon Society Medical Hub Food Innopolis

Water Management & Technology

#### 2. 3. 4. 5. 8. \*\*\* 5. Plastic Pellets i. 🦲 7. 8. 4. 🛊 9. 😉 Air-conditioning & Parts 3. Electrical Machinery & Parts 5. Electrical Integrated Circ **Trade Statistics** Iron, Steel & Products Auto Parts & Accessor Q2 2020 2019 2018 21.9 22.8 **Export Value** 19.7 23.2 **Import Value** +2.2 -0.43 Thailand's INTERNATIONAL RANKING **BUSINESS** & INNOVATION





### A few steps in Thailand - Sri Lanka bilateral relations



Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Ret.) paid an official visit to Sri Lanka in July 2018.



Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai offered Royal Kathina Robes graciously bestowed by the King of Thailand to the congragation of monks at Shree Jayashekhararamaya, Colombo, in November 2018.



Ambassador Chulamanee Chartsuwan opened the 'Top Thai Brands' Trade Promotion Event during 6-8 March 2020 at BMICH



Printing press, a donation by King Mongkut in 1862, at Ranwella Temple, Koggala, prior to the restoration funded by donation from the Embassy

SUTECH SUGAR



Mr. Nandana Ekanayake, Chairman of Siam City Cement (Lanka) Limited, at the launch of a waste management project with H.E. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. Insee Cement, the largest Thai investor in Sri Lanka, has implemented numerous CSR projects, ranging from waste management, mangrove and coral replantation, to drug awareness programmes, and confiscated cocaine burning.



Experts from Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) conducted workshops in a village in Polonnaruwa,



Donation of refurbished library and computer equipment to Saliyamala Maha Vidyalaya school near Anuradhapura,



Thai Boxing Show at 'Top Thai Brands' event .



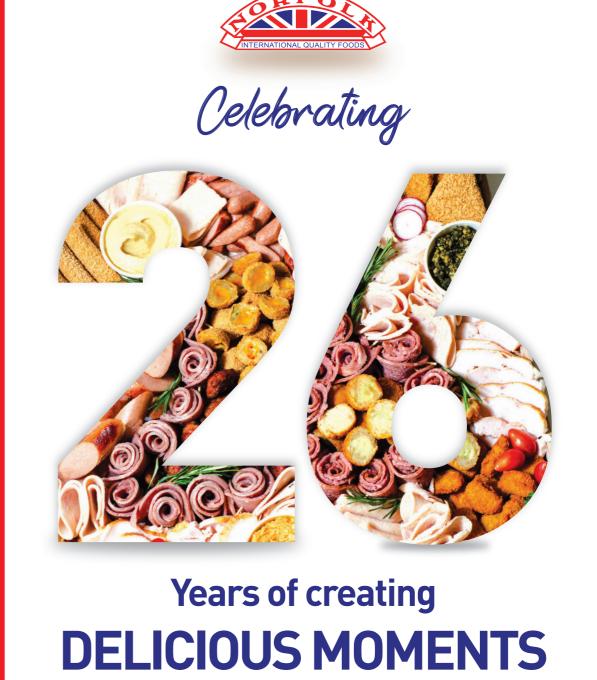
Investors from Thailand visited Sri Lanka to discuss a largest greenfield sugar development project with an envisaged FDI of USD 400 million.



Thai Embassy's stall at 'Top Thai Brands' event, highlighting sufficiency economy philosophy.



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# Thailand's Eastern Economic Corridor: Southeast Asia's New Engine of Growth



hailand's Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) is arguably the most ambitious connectivity project in mainland Southeast Asia, and has the potential to connect the Asia Pacific region with the Indian Ocean Rim and beyond.

#### From the Eastern Seaboard to the Eastern Economic Corridor

Thailand has long benefited from its strategic location at the heart of mainland Southeast Asia to drive its economic development. During the 1980s, the Thai government initiated the "Eastern Seaboard" project, to fast track national economic development and promote growth of industry, manufacturing, and exports. The Eastern Seaboard went on to become one of the region's resounding success stories, resulting in large foreign investments in the automotive industry, manufacturing, petrochemical and heavy industries at Map Ta Phut, as well as logistics and shipping at Laem Chabang. Between the 1990s and 2000s, Thailand's exports grew from USD 30 billion to 70 billion, mainly to Southeast Asia, Japan, Europe and the US.

The start of the 21st century has been marked by a dramatic shift in the global economic landscape: the rapid rise of China and India, and the emergence of mainland Southeast Asia as an investment destination. To capitalise on this reality, the Thai government initiated the EEC, building upon the success of the Eastern Seaboard, with the vision of creating a next-generation "growth area" to realise the "Thailand 4.0" strategy to promote sustainable economic growth based on the so-called "New S-Curve" industries with research, innovation, and the digital economy at their core.

#### The EEC project includes three main activities:

- ■Upgrading of Thailand's transport and logistics infrastructure in order to provide a solid connectivity platform to link the EEC region with markets of the Asia Pacific, the Indian Ocean Rim, and beyond
- ■Establishing areas of concentration for investments in the "New S-Curve" industries such as "EECi" to promote innovation, and "EECd" to promote the digital economy. A new EEC Office has been established to facilitate investments and provide novel incentives in addition to those offered by the Board of Investment (BOI)
- Creating areas for sustainable economic and social development through the use of new and environmentally-friendly technologies to enhance quality of life.

A number of major global firms have established and expanded investments in the EEC area to take profit from the new incentives under the EEC Act with new rules on land ownership to generous tax and non-tax measures. Since its launch in 2016, the EEC has already attracted over USD 53 billion of investment promotion applications.

#### New Infrastructure for New industries

The highlight of EEC plans for upgrading transportation and logistics infrastructure are the three "flagship" infrastructure megaprojects:

■High - Speed Rail linking Bangkok's international airports at Don Mueang and Suvarnabhumi with the emerging aerospace

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- hub at U-Tapao International Airport. Construction by a consortium of Thai, Chinese and Japanese contractors will soon start. When completed by 2025, this will seamlessly link Bangkok with the future "Aerotropolis" at U-Tapao
- Upgrading of the Laem Cha Bang deep sea port (Phase 3) to handle cargo capacity of 18.1 million TEU a year using the automated system and advanced full-scale services
- Developing U-Tapao International Airport and its "Aerotropolis" where investments in aerospace and aviation related industries are promoted. The Thai government has been in discussions with major international aerospace firms to develop aircraft maintenance and related facilities.

This USD 650 billion upgrade is being undertaken through public - private partnership, and will support the EEC's vision of becoming ASEAN technological, manufacturing and service hub with strong connectivity to its neighbours, the ASEAN region, and beyond.

#### **Smart Industries, Smart Cities**

The EEC aims to bring innovation to improve the quality of living, through "7 Smarts" solutions – Smart Mobility, Smart People, Smart Living, Smart Economy, Smart Governance, Smart Energy and Smart Environment. The overall plan is to create a "Livable Smart City" for its residents and investors where technological integration, low carbon emission, a circular economy, and access to good public healthcare and education will not only create an environment suited for innovation, but also for sustainable living.

The EEC's plans to create a hub for innovation (EECi) is already taking shape in Wang Chan Valley, with the creation of a world class international research institution – KVIS. It is envisioned that the Valley will be the core for the development of the region's smart living environment.

The Digital Park Thailand (EECd) is also moving ahead after Thailand's 5G spectrum auction was settled in February 2020. This will spearhead the country's adoption of 5G as Thailand aims to be the first ASEAN country to harness such technology, and support the country's digital technology development while aiming to attract digital businesses, particularly e-commerce and related logistics

One very relevant area for future development is biomedicine, which will complement Thailand's strong public health system, ranked 6th in the 2019 World Health Care Index. It is foreseen that the EEC will further develop research and development capabilities in genomic science through the new ambitious venture "Genomics Thailand" genome sequencing center, and advance Thailand's role as the region's medical hub.

With 2 million skilled workers already in the EEC area, the Thai government aims to further enhance the productivity of its workforce to be ready for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), by promoting cooperation with foreign partners, such as Carnegie Mellon University (USA), Les Roches Institute (Switzerland) Pearson Education (UK) and Kosen College (Japan) to develop international-standard curriculum to reskill and upskill laborers to meet the needs of the industries.

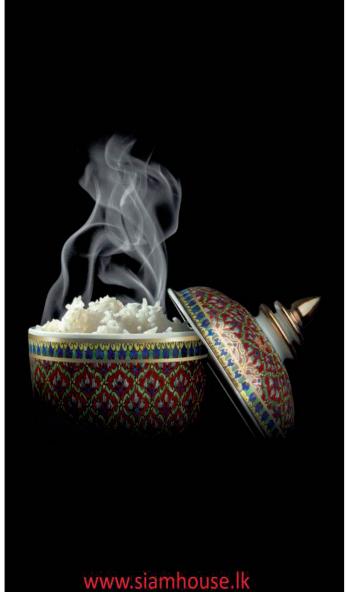
#### Southeast Asia's New Engine of Growth

The Asia Pacific, and Southeast Asia in particular, is expected to continue its rising trajectory in the coming decades. Being one of the world's most connected regions, it is well suited to take advantage of new opportunities emanating from the growth of the digital economy and e-commerce. Thailand's EEC project is envisioned as Southeast Asia's hub for the new growth industries of the future, while providing an environment supportive of innovation and manufacture of the new products of the future. With plans for new infrastructure and new incentives to support further investments, the EEC will be the most attractive area in which to invest and do business for those with a future looking perspective.

For further information, visit the EEC website https://www.eeco.or.th/







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**Food Services** 

# How Thailand turned the tide on COVID-19

From top to bottom, a whole-of-society effort has been the key to prevention.

The fear was palpable. The predictions were dire. In early January 2020, Thailand detected the first case outside China of a new, highly transmissible and deadly coronavirus (COVID-19) with no known cure. The Kingdom is a favorite destination for Chinese tourists: nearly 11 million visited in 2019, and in January 2020 alone, over 7,000 arrived from Wuhan, the epicenter of the outbreak. Public health professionals diagnosed Thailand as a country poised for disaster.

#### That disaster never happened.

n late November 2020, World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus singled out Thailand in his closing remarks to the World Health Assembly, that "Thailand is an excellent example that, with a wholeof-government, whole-of-society, comprehensive approach, this virus can be contained – even without a vaccine."

Thailand's numbers indeed speak for themselves. From numerous doomed forecasts of an impending disaster in January 2020, as on 30 November 2020 the country of over

But the most important partnership of all is between Thailand's people, from top to bottom. In the 1970s, when the public health infrastructure was still limited, the government filled the gaps with a program of Village Health Volunteers. In every community, someone was trained in basic health care. That person would relay health information to their neighbors, check on the ill and the elderly, keep family health records, and act as an interface with clinics or hospitals in the province.

69 million people has recorded 3,998 infections, 60 deaths, and fewer than 5 local cases since June 2020. Journalists, economists and analysts have been advancing theories about how Thailand succeeded in stopping the virus. Some credited lockdowns and border closures. Others point to widespread mask-wearing. More than one wondered if it could just be luck.

Luck is always welcome, but Thailand's effective response is built on a more solid foundation. The Kingdom "is reaping the benefits of 40 years of health system strengthening," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom said in a recent speech. Thailand's public health system, cited by the U.N. as a model for developing countries, has been central to preventing the spread of COVID-19. But the Kingdom's approach is even more holistic. It is a whole-of-society effort in which everyone from the upper echelons to village volunteers are playing important parts.

"I call it the Bang Rajan spirit," says Dr. Tanarak Plipat of the Department of Disease Control, referring to a celebrated chapter in Thai history. In 1765, villagers in the hamlet of Bang Rajan banded together and staved off an invading foreign army for months, rallying a divided Kingdom. In 2020, health volunteers in villages and towns across Thailand have been inspiring fellow Thais by selflessly working on the front lines of the response.

In most societies, it is rare to see someone at the very top getting involved in the trenches. But Thailand's public health system originated with one such individual. A century ago, Prince Mahidol of Songkhla abandoned life at the royal court, earned degrees in public health and medicine at Harvard. and treated poor patients as a doctor in Chiang Mai. He helped upgrade Siriraj, the first modern hospital in the



The Village Health Volunteer in rural areas of Thailand / Picture: www.prachachat.net -

of Thai Medicine. Prince Mahidol was a visionary and knew that a strong, accessible Thai public health system would be a decisive factor for the country's future.

His son, the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great, carried on that commitment. Many of His Majesty King Bhumibol's royal projects focused on public health and he granted hundreds of scholarships to medical students to study overseas

While still Crown Prince, His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua funded the building of 21 hospitals across Thailand, mostly in remote and impoverished areas. These hospitals filled the gap in the network of public health services and complemented the endeavour of the government to provide the people with equal access to such crucial services. More recently during the COVID-19 pandemic, Their Majesties the King and the Queen donated ventilators, personal protective equipment, and ambulances, to assist communities in far-flung districts. In addition, His Majesty provided modular swab units and COVID-19 testing systems to hospitals nationwide.

Successive Thai governments have consistently prioritized public health. Thanks to sustained and widespread building of hospitals, clinics, and medical schools and universities, Thailand scores highly on many health indicators, including extremely low levels of maternal and child mortality despite being a developing country. Life expectancy is long at 75+ years and still increasing. The system had become so robust in 2001 that the government introduced universal health care, allowing anyone to receive treatment at public hospitals for about a dollar. Thailand's universal health care programme, which is periodically refined and improved, remains enormously popular, and is always cited as a best model internationally.

Thai government has also consistently funded medical schools, universities and their research. Mahidol and Chulalongkorn Unisersities have been at the forefront and scientists at Chulalongkorn are fast at work on a COVID-19 vaccine. Thailand also has successful attempts in conducting large clinical vaccine trials, including treatments for HIV.

Experience with pandemics is another key to Thailand's response to COVID -19. Since the 1990s, the country has a sterling record of protecting its people from SARS, MERS, Avian Influenza, and other viruses. Its public health professionals have learned from every outbreak or potential threat and sharpened their skills and protocols. But they did not do it completely alone.

Partnerships have also been essential. Most Americans do not realize that the Center for Disease Control's largest office outside the United States is in Bangkok. And for 60 years, the U.S. Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences in Thailand has worked with the Kingdom's doctors and scientists to prevent, control and cure diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, dengue fever, and HIV/AIDS.

But the most important partnership of all is between Thailand's people, from top to bottom. In the 1970s, when the public health infrastructure was still limited, the government filled the gaps with a program of Village Health Volunteers. In every community, someone was trained in basic health care. That person would relay health information to their neighbors, check on the ill and the elderly, keep family health records, and act as an interface with clinics or hospitals in the province.

Today, the WHO hails them as the "unsung heroes" of the COVID-19 response. The roughly one million Village Health Volunteers are serving as sentinels to spot, prevent, track and trace COVID-19 infections in their communities. Sometimes they are at risk of contracting the illness themselves. 'I do it because I want to help my neighbors," 60-year-old volunteer Arunrat Rukthin in Nong Khai province told Khaosod newspaper. "The Kingdom's COVID-

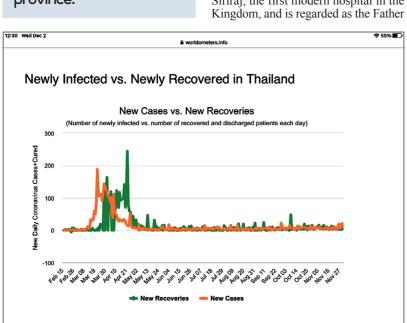
CU-RoboCOVID, assistant robots developed by Chulalongkorn University to facilitate medical workers / Photo courtesy of Chulalongkorn University

19 success was built on this record of cooperation between public health authorities and civil society that goes back 50 years," wrote Professor Walden Bello, a professor at the State University of New York at Binghamton.

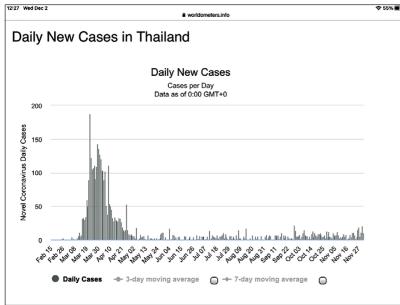
As in many countries, politics can be divisive. But Thailand adopted a wise approach, acting early and decisively, and letting public health authorities take the lead. Those decisions engendered trust. As a result, when the government ordered a soft lockdown and a curfew, issued rules on wearing masks and appealed for unity and cooperation on other preventive measures, it got it.

Thailand's success in tackling COVID-19 can provide worthwhile lessons. The country does not have the wealth or resources comparable to developed nations. But by adopting an honest, practical, and science-based approach, leadership won the trust and cooperation of the people who responded as a community.

> VDO clip "Sharing COVID-19 experiences: The Thailand response", produced by the World Health Organization, can be found at https://m.youtube. com/watch?feature=youtu. be&v=MnxO48joRZQ.



Source: worldometers.info



Source: worldometers.info



Best Wishes on the Occasion of the

### National Day of Thailand!

From the Team at Cinnamon Lakeside Colombo and the Royal Thai Restaurant

Royal Thai

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