



Congratulatory Message
from the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand
on the occasion of 170th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations
between the Kingdom of Thailand and the United Kingdom

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The Kingdom of Thailand and the United Kingdom have shared a long-standing and amicable relationship for over four centuries, since the Ayutthaya period. This bond has grown over time, with a significant milestone during the reign of His Majesty King Mongkut (Rama IV), when the Treaty of Amity and Commerce between the British Empire and the Kingdom of Siam — commonly known as the “Bowring Treaty”— was signed. This treaty marked the beginning of transformative changes in Thailand’s economic, trade, legal system and judicial processes, political governance, and international relations, aligning them with global standards.

Over the past 170 years, since the signing of the Bowring Treaty on 18 April 1855, the relationship between the two kingdoms has grown remarkably robust at all levels, particularly the cordial ties between the two Royal Families and their exchange of visits. His Majesty King Chulalongkorn (Rama V) made state visits to the United Kingdom in 1897 and 1907. His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej the Great (Rama IX) and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit the Queen Mother in 1960. Most recently, in May 2023, His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua (Rama X) and Her Majesty Queen Suthida Bajrasudhabimalalakshana attended the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. Likewise, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, made state visits to Thailand in 1972 and 1996.

Beyond the close relationships between the two monarchies, Thailand and the United Kingdom share common values, including a constitutional monarchy and democratic governance. Both kingdoms have continuously promoted comprehensive and multi-faceted cooperation, such as economic advancement, social progress, and human resources development. In 2024, the two sides further elevated bilateral relations to strategic partnership with the signing of the Thailand - United Kingdom Strategic Partnership Roadmap and the Air Services Agreement. These multidimensional collaborations have continuously fostered dynamic and progressive relations between the two kingdoms.

/As Thailand ...

As Thailand and the United Kingdom commemorate the 170th anniversary of diplomatic relations this year, the opportunity arises for us to not only reflect on the successful advancement of existing bilateral relations, but also to join hands to expand cooperation in various dimensions including trade, investment, science and technology, public health, agriculture, environment, and people-to-people relations to further deepen our ties in the years ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'P' followed by a long horizontal stroke that curves upwards at the end.

(Paetongtarn Shinawatra)
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand