



Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's Initiatives on Science and Technology Education

By

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Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand started her first development project in 1980 in three Border Patrol Police schools. It was a small project to promote agriculture for school lunch. Ever since, children and youths have been Her Royal Highness' main target of development. At present, the school project has expanded to cover about 600 schools, mostly in the remote areas, and to take care of all aspects of development, like health, sanitation, education quality, environment and natural resource conservation, and community development.

The practical use of science and technology for development and the improvement of science and technology education for the children are important aspect of Her Royal Highness' development projects. Basic science and mathematics are essential to all, but more importantly logical thinking, science process skills and scientific methodology have to be developed in all children, for which active teaching and learning method is used. S&T education is an integral part, not a separate entity, of the total development of human person in Her Royal Highness' education development projects.

Following these ideas, H.R.H.Princess has initiated many projects on S&T education, for example, science in rural schools (SiRS), science in schools (SIS), science school for the talented (SS), school agriculture, school botanical gardens, school environment and natural resource conservation, IT for education development, technological skill development, science education for the blind, Princess Jubilee Awards for outstanding schools in science activities, etc., some of which will be elaborated in the lecture.

The special characteristics of H.R.H. Princess' projects on science and technology education are:

- School is the center of development,
- Science and technology education is for all,
- Universities cooperate, and research is needed,
- Active teaching and learning method is the key,
- Science and technology are for better livelihood and community development,
- Science and technology education promotes creativity and new technology