

## **Biography of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn**

### **BIRTH**

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn was born on 2 April 1955 to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, King Rama IX, and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit of Thailand and is the younger sister of the current His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua, King Rama X of Thailand.

### **EDUCATION**

HRH graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree, first class honor, gold medal in History from Chulalongkorn University, Thailand in 1976, a Master of Arts in Oriental Epigraphy (Sanskrit and Cambodian) from Silpakorn University in 1978, and a Master of Arts in Pali and Sanskrit from Chulalongkorn University in 1980.

HRH obtained a doctoral degree in Development Education from Srinakharinwirot University (former College of Education) in 1987. The principle of using education as a means of community and social development which Her Royal Highness has acquired during her doctoral studies, together with her former experiences in the field, has served as a solid base for her subsequent involvement in community development activities ever since.

HRH continued to pursue life-long learning by attending several training courses and workshops to enhance her knowledge and skills in effective integrated development. These subjects include computer, cartography, meteorology, survey and photogrammetry, remote sensing and geographic information system and nutrition. In her own wide-ranging academic pursuits, Her Royal Highness has ensured what she has learned can benefit the people with whom she works.

### **LANGUAGES**

In addition to her knowledge in different languages such as Pali, Sanskrit and Cambodian, Her Royal Highness is communicative in both English and French and has been learning Chinese, German and Latin.

### **WORK EXPERIENCE**

HRH started her academic career teaching history at Chulachomkiao Royal Military Academy (CRMA) in 1980 as a lecturer in the Department of Law and Social Sciences in the Academic Division of CRMA, and later became the Director of the Department of History in 1987 until now. HRH was promoted to the highest military rank "General", and following in 2000, was granted the professional title as "Professor" due to her insights and knowledge.

## ROYAL DUTIES

In addition to the teaching career, HRH has rendered public service continuously since her early youth. HRH has acquired first-hand experiences in working for Their Majesties the King and Queen's development projects in such fields as health and hygiene, education, water resource development, agriculture and cottage industry by regularly accompanying Their Majesties on visits to remote areas since the age of sixteen (in 1970). From these experiences, she has developed special interests in agricultural extension to improve school children nutritional conditions; supporting education from pre-school to tertiary levels; and mother and child care. She has also concentrated on helping the handicapped, especially in using information technology (IT) to develop independent living and learning skill.

HRH went on to foster several significant initiatives : providing basic education for school children in remote border areas, promoting plant genetic preservation and gene bank projects, instituting IT efforts to assist the handicapped to achieve independent living, and developing nutritional campaigns to improve the well-being of Thai people. Some of these projects, begun more than three decades ago when she was in her twenties and they are ongoing to this day.

Since 1990, Her Royal Highness has led cooperation programmes in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, following by the development for post-primary education in the Kingdom of Cambodia, and presently, her initiatives extend to more cooperation in many countries such as educational and academic cooperation with the People's Republic of China, royal scholarships for students in the People's Republic of China and Tibet, to name a few. Among all her initiatives implemented, most of them are well funded and managed. Moreover, she is not a distant benefactor, her consistent visits to the project sites to monitor their progress help her gather the latest information and assess programme developments.

HRH has inspired those who have followed her life and work to be a part of this charitable deed. Many people, companies, associations and organizations, including those from foreign countries, continuously present her with money or essential resources for implementing her initiatives. Hence, Her Royal Highness founded the **H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Charity Fund** with aims to support projects that improve people's life condition including programmes that relieve those suffering from catastrophe.

HRH runs several philanthropic organizations and foundations.

- Executive Vice President of the Thai Red Cross Society since 1977;
- Executive Chairman of the [Chaipattana Foundation](#) (in charge of His Majesty's development and environmental preservation projects),

- **Ananda Mahidol Foundation** (to promote higher education), the King Rama II Foundation (to conserve and promote Thai Culture);
- President of the **Sai Jai Thai Foundation**(to support disabled veterans),
- **Prince Mahidol Award Foundation** (to award prizes annually to members of the international community for outstanding performances in the fields of medicine and public health);
- Adviser of the Committee of **Thai Junior Encyclopedia Project** by Royal Command of H.M. the King.

Her Royal Highness' dedication is also acknowledged worldwide. She, therefore, was granted **Honorary Awards** and **Honorary Titles** from many institutions and organizations including FAO Special Ambassador for Zero Hunger, and WFP Goodwill Ambassador for the School Feeding Programme.