Eleven Examples of Major ICT Leadership from HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

Prof. Dr. Srisakdi Charmonman¹
and Pornphisud Mongkhonvanit²
Siam Technology College, Thailand
¹charmonman@gmail.com, www.charm.SiamTechU.net
²pornphisud@gmail.com, www.SiamTechU.net

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jintavee Khlaisang
Chulalongkorn University, Thailand
jintavee.m@chula.ac.th, portal.edu.chula.ac.th/jintavee

Abstract - HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn is highly well versed in Information and Communications Technologies (ICT). She has shown her major ICT leadership in so many areas. However, due to the limited amount of time of 15 minutes available for presentation of this paper at Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Congress in June 2015 (PSC 2015), only 11 examples which Prof. Srisakdi is associated with will be included in this paper. More examples will be included in the version to be published in the Special Issue of the International Journal of the Computer, the Internet, and Management at the end of the year 2015. The first example is when HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn presided over the opening of the Conference on Computers in Ratanakosin Era in the year 1982. The second example is the Royal Visit to King Mongkut’s Institute of Technology Ladkrabang in 1987. The third example is when HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously opened the first International Internet Gateway for the private sector in 1995. The fourth example is also in 1995 when HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously granted royal permission for Prof. Srisakdi and associates to present to HRH her first Internet server. The fifth example is in 1996 when HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously presided over the opening of the Satellite Station for DLF at Krikangwol Palace where Prof. Srisakdi provided the Internet connection. The sixth example is when HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously opened IT Trade and SEARCC in 1996. The seventh example is when HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously presided over the Royal Blessing of the Foundation Stone for Srisakdi Charmonman IT (SCIT) Center in 2002. The eighth example is in 2004 when HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously presided over the opening of SCIT which was declared to be the Center of Excellence in IT Education. The ninth example is when HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously presided over the Internet VDO Conference from SCIT to the US and the UK in 2004. The tenth example is in 2006 when HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously opened Lumpini Learning Center. The eleventh example is in 2010, when HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn was elected a member of the Inaugural Hall of Fame at Asian Institute of Technology.

Keywords - HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, PSC 2015, Royal ICT Expertise, Royal ICT Projects, AIT Hall of Fame

I. INTRODUCTION

HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn earned her PhD in Educational Development from Srinakharinwirot University in the year
In the year 1986 [1]. Then in the year 2000, she was granted the professional title as "Professor" due to her insights and knowledge on the subject of History [2]. In September 2004, UNESCO called Her Royal Highness "IT Princess" [3]. One of the most important part of IT is the Internet. So, let us talk about the Internet and Thailand first. From the paper "KSC: The Only Major ISP in the World with Profits from Day One" [4], Prof. Srisakdi is the first national of Thailand who got to use the Internet when it was born and that was in the United States in 1969. At that time, the US Department of Defense (DOD) Advanced Research Project Agency (ARPA) established ARPANET as an experimental network to support research. From 1968 to 1973, Prof. Srisakdi was Director of Graduate Studies in Computer Science at the University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, USA, and also Director of several research projects supported by the US National Science Foundation (NSF). As an example, Fig. 1. shows a group of Computer Science Department Heads from universities in the US joining a teach-the-teacher conference organized by Prof. Srisakdi in his capacity as the NSF-funded project director. All NSF-funded research project directors were encouraged to use the Internet which was also funded by NSF after its birth from DOD.

Fig 1. Charmonman was the Project Director for ICT Teach-the-Teacher Program in the US in 1973

In the year 1986, Prof. Srisakdi became a C-11 (highest level in government) Professor of Computer Engineering at King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang (KMITL), actually, the very first C-11 Professor in Engineering in Thailand [5].

II. CONFERENCE ON COMPUTERS IN RATANAKOSIN ERA IN 1982

The first example of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's ICT leadership is as shown in Fig. 2. HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously presided over Computer in Ratanakosin Conference and Exhibition [6], which was organized by the Ministry of Science with Prof. Srisakdi as the Chairman of the Organizing Committee. The keynote address was given by Prof. Srisakdi, H.E. Anand Panyarachun (who later became the Prime Minister of Thailand), and Khunying Kalaya Sophonpanich (who later became the Minister of Science of Thailand).

Fig 2. Conference on Computer in Ratanakosin Era

III. ROYAL VISIT TO KING MONGKUT’S INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY LADKRABANG IN 1987

The second example of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's ICT leadership is as shown in Fig. 3. HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously followed HM the King to King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang (KMITL). Prof. Srisakdi, in his capacity as President of KMITL Faculty
Senate, was granted royal permission to present two software packages he directed the developments. The first package is eLearning for teaching Thai alphabets to kids [7]. The second package is for translating Thai language into English and vice versa [8].

Fig 3. Royal Visit to KMITL

IV. THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL INTERNET GATEWAY AT PRIVATE UNIVERSITY IN 1995

The third example of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's ICT leadership is as shown in Fig. 4 [9]. On 19 January 1995, HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously activated the server at Assumption University to connect to the server in the United States at the bandwidth of 64 Kbps. The number of Internet users at Assumption University (AU) at that time was over 20,000, including all students, and faculty and staff members. It should be noted that at the time just before AU became online, all Internet users in Thailand was only a few thousands.

As a matter of fact, the first international Internet Gateway in Thailand was at Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) which was an international educational institution established by the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO). AIT got a grant from Australia to pay for telephone call a few minutes a day to connect an AIT computer to an Australian server to exchange electronic mails. In that sense, the AIT or SEATO gateway was only a part-time and not a full-time gateway. By the way, Prof. Srisakdi got the highest grade in the first graduating class of AIT in 1961. SEATO gateway provided Internet services for only a few organizations, such as NECTEC, Chulalongkorn University, and Assumption University (AU). Because Prof. Srisakdi was the President of AIT Alumni Association at that time and he was Honorary Vice President of AU, he made AU one of the first users of the Internet from AIT. Later, on the government side, NECTEC and Chulalongkorn University became full-time international Internet gateway. Then the first international Internet gateway for the private sector was established at AU with Prof. Srisakdi as the project originator and Director.

Fig 4. The First Private Sector International Internet Gateway
V. HRH FIRST INTERNET SERVER IN MARCH 1995

The fourth example of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's ICT leadership is as shown in Fig. 5. In March 1995, HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously granted royal permission for Prof. Srisakdi with executives from Internet KSC (The first and largest Internet Service Provider at that time and owned by Prof. Srisakdi), Assumption University, Communication Authority of Thailand, and Telephone Organization of Thailand, to present to her the computers, router, bandwidth, and etc. for HRH first Internet server with 15 terminals [10]. Prof. Srisakdi is the Owner and Chairman of KSC Internet, the largest Internet Service Provider (ISP) in Thailand at that time. In Fig. 6, Prof. Srisakdi made a presentation on how to use the Internet for PINE eMail system and how to search for information. The computer terminal was Radio Shack TRS 80 which Prof. Srisakdi hand carried from the US to present to HRH. At the time HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn started using eMail in March 1995, the most popular eMail system was "PINE", a freeware, text-based email client introduced in the year 1989 at the Washington University [11]. Some 20,000 Internet users at ABAC (ABAC then but AU now) at that time used PINE.

VI. THE SATELLITE STATION FOR DISTANCE LEARNING AT KRIKANGWOL PALACE

The fifth example of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's ICT leadership is the Satellite Station for Distance Learning at Krikangwol Palace [12]. In the year 1995, with the royal initiative of HM the King, the Satellite Station for Distance Learning was opened at Wang Kraikangwol School. HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously granted royal permission for Prof. Srisakdi to provide Internet connection to the project.
In Fig. 7, HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously opened the Satellite Station for Distance Learning, and graciously granted royal permission for Prof. Srisakdi to be in audience.

VII. IT TRADE AND SEARCC 1996

The sixth example of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's ICT leadership is on 3 July 1996 when HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously presided over IT Trade and SEARCC’ 96 Conference and Exhibition organized by the Computer Association of Thailand (CAT) Under the Royal Patronage of HM the King together with the Association of Thai ICT Industry (ATCI) and South East Asia Regional Computer Confederation (SEARCC) at Queen Sirikit National Convention Center as shown in Fig. 8. SEARCC was established in Singapore by a group with Prof. Srisakdi in his capacity as the President of CAT as a member.

VIII. ROYAL BLESSING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE FOR SCIT IN 2002

The seventh example of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's ICT leadership is on 27 June 2002 when HRH Princress Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously blessed the foundation stone of Srisakdi Charmonman IT (SCIT) Center at the Bangna campus of Assumption University [13] as shown in Fig. 9.
IX. ROYAL OPENING OF Srisakdi Charmonman IT Center

The eighth example of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn’s ICT leadership is as shown in Fig. 10. HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously presided over the opening of Srisakdi Charmonman IT Center on 20 August 2004 [14]. H.E. Surapong Suebwonglee, the Minister of Information and Communications Technology, reported to HRH that SCIT was the Center of Excellence in IT education. Prof. Srisakdi is the Founder of ICT Ph.D. and Master's programs at Assumption University, which produced thousands of graduates. SCIT has rooms with 400, 100, 60, and 40 Internet terminals to provide Internet training for public and private organizations.

X. INTERNET VDO CONFERENCE FROM THAILAND TO US AND UK 2004

The ninth example as shown in Fig. 11 [14], HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously presided over the Internet VDO Conference from SCIT to the US and the UK. The party in the US was Georgia Institute of Technology where Prof. Srisakdi Charmonman got his Ph.D. in Computations in the year 1964. The party in the UK was the International Computer Limited (ICL) which appointed Bangkok Data Center (BDC) the sole agent in Thailand. Prof. Srisakdi was the General Manager of BDC which is a part of the Royal Turf Club of Thailand Under the Royal Patronage of HM the King.

XI. LUMPINI LEARNING CENTER FOR KIDS IN BANGKOK

The tenth example as shown in Fig. 12. In the year 2006, HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously opened Lumpini Learning Center in the public library where kids can enjoy toys and use the Internet for entertainment and education (edutainment).
XII. INAUGURAL HALL OF FAME AT AIT IN 2010

The eleventh example of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's ICT leadership is as shown in Figs. 13 and 14.

HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn was elected a member of AIT Inaugural Hall of Fame and graciously presided over the opening of the Hall of Fame [15]. In addition to HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, there are other members of the Hall of Fame including Prof. Srisakdi with the citation as the graduate with the highest grade from the first graduating class of AIT, Father of the Internet in Thailand, Father of eLearning in Thailand, Asian Computer Man, the first C-11 (the highest level of government officials in Thailand, higher than the Provincial Governors) Professor of Engineering in Thailand, Fellow of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, and etc.

XIII. CONCLUDING REMARKS

HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn is highly well versed in Information and Communications Technologies. She has shown her major ICT leadership in so many areas. However, due to limited amount of time of 15 minutes available for presentation at Princess Maha Chakri Congress in June 2015, only 11 examples of her ICT leadership are included in this version of the paper. All parties concerned should search Google from time to time to find out more and more of HRH ICT leadership which all of us are sure will be highly beneficial to our country and the world.

REFERENCES

(Arranged in the order of citation in the same fashion as the case of Footnotes.)

Eleven Examples of Major ICT Leadership from HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

[4] Charmonman, S. and Wongwatanasin, K. “KSC: The Only Major ISP in the World with Profits from Day One”. Invited paper presented to Flemings Information Technology Conference’99, April 19-20, 1999, Rihga Royal Hotel, New York City, USA. This paper was modified from the one presented in New York by taking into account the comments and suggestions from the participants.


