

สาส์น อธิการบดี มหาวิทยาลัยอัสสัมชัญ

Rabi day, on August 7 each year is named after the Father of Thai Laws. It is on this day Thailand's legal profession pays tribute to Prince Rabibhadanasak, the Father of Thailand's modern legal system. The Prince contributed his expertise and his life time work to reforming Thai Courts

which at the time he lived, were not too sophisticated and lagged behind international standards. The Thai justice system was complex with many cases awaiting judgments over long periods of time.

The Prince laid the foundations for modernizing Thai courts through the improvement of law practices in Bangkok, as well as revising civil and criminal procedure laws so as to satisfy international requirements. Moreover, special commissioners were empowered to establish city courts and judges were authorized to determine the levels of defendant penalties. Additionally, he announced the termination of special committees on land use and agricultural land cases and transferred the remaining unsolved cases from a special committee to the Ministry of Justice courts. His contribution also lies in the revision of procedural law in legal cases considering practical approaches in proceedings and certain requirements in appealing to the courts.

One of the Prince's most significant contributions in judicial reformation was reflected in his attempt to offer independence in case consideration. The judiciary thus, was enabled to exercise its power in carrying out judicial functions independently without the interference of an administrative constituent. Judicial independence demonstrated a standardized international practice that guaranteed justice and fairness of the courts which are counted as the ultimate and last resort of the public.

Prince Rabibhadanask assumed a significant role in establishing a law school under the Ministry of Justice's supervision in 1897. Due to his recognition of human resources necessities in the field of jurisprudence, he himself arranged class instruction to provide legal knowledge and ethical lessons to judges, as well as students in the Faculty of Law who would be likely to pursue careers as judges. His devotion to set up a school and compose the textbooks laid the essential foundation for further development of law as a discipline of study in Thailand.

He was perceived as a role model of professional ethics among judges. He emphasized a practice with competence and honesty and attempted to recruit people whose qualifications were eligible for the duty and integrity of judges.

It is indeed deeply fitting that Assumption University of Thailand joins the Dean, Associate Deans, the faculty, Staff and Students of Faculty of Law in paying deep respect and tribute to Prince Rabibhadanasak while recognizing that our joint efforts to emulate the Prince in his high standards of Judicial practice and education, can help the Thai society realize higher stands of civic sense and ethics.

(ภราดาบัญชา แสงหิรัญ)

อธิการบดี

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