



# *Rajaphruek & Bunga Raya*

50 years of everlasting friendship between Thailand and Malaysia 1957-2007



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*Message from  
His Excellency General Surayud Chulanont (Ret.)  
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand*

On the auspicious occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Thailand and Malaysia and the 50th Anniversary of Malaysian Merdeka, I have the honour to extend, on behalf of the Royal Thai Government and the people of the Kingdom of Thailand, best wishes and cordial expressions of goodwill to the Government and people of Malaysia.

Thailand and Malaysia established formal diplomatic relations on 31st August 1957, although our neighbourly relations can be traced back far beyond that date. These fifty years of our relations have allowed us to cultivate and enjoy close ties of friendship, as well as fruitful bilateral and multilateral cooperation in various areas of mutual benefit. The frequent exchanges of visits at all levels reflect the warm and friendly relationship between our two countries. In addition, Thailand and Malaysia have established several bilateral cooperation frameworks -- such as the Thailand-Malaysia Joint Commission (JC), the Joint Development Area (JDA) and the Joint Development Strategy for border areas (JDS) -- to promote every aspect of our bilateral relations, facilitate social and economic activities as well as uplift the living standards of people in the border areas. Furthermore, friendship associations, namely the Thai-Malaysian Association (TMA) and the Malaysian-Thai Association (MTA), have been set up to promote close relations and good understanding between the peoples and organisations of the two countries.

Together, Thailand and Malaysia have many times played an important and responsible role in the history and development of Southeast Asia, and beyond, through several regional and multilateral cooperation frameworks. One notable result of our efforts is ASEAN, which Thailand and Malaysia helped to establish in 1967. During its forty years, ASEAN has continuously advanced peace and stability in the region as well as contributed to the acceleration of regional economic growth, social progress and cultural development.

After fifty years of both good and hard times, Thailand and Malaysia have become more than neighbours with shared borders. We are now close friends and allies, bound together by strong historical ties and mutually beneficial responsibilities. Our peoples living along both banks of the Golok River are friends and families. The achievements made in building good understanding and mutual trust bear testimony to the strong convictions of our two countries and peoples. Therefore, the celebrations on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Thailand and Malaysia not only mark our success in the conduct of bilateral relations, but also herald a new era of closer and stronger relations. In this regard, it is my great pleasure and honour to be able to witness and share in the wonderful experience of these important celebrations with the Thai and Malaysian peoples.

General  (Ret.)  
(Surayud Chulanont)  
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand





**PRIME MINISTER  
MALAYSIA**

## *FOREWORD*

The year 2007 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Malaysia and Thailand. The establishment of these relations was marked by the opening of the Embassy of Malaysia in Thailand and the opening of the Embassy of Thailand in Malaysia in the year 1957.

On this auspicious occasion, I would like to warmly commend the Government of Thailand for publishing a noteworthy and important commemorative book entitled "Rajaphruek and Bunga Raya: Fifty years of Everlasting Friendship between Thailand and Malaysia 1957-2007". The commemorative book, which is printed both in the Thai and English languages, will be a valuable reference that reflects the close relations between the two countries. At the same time, it will provide the readers with a chronology of the development of relations from the beginning to the present time.

Thailand's role in this region is undoubtedly significant. Some hundreds of years ago, long before the emergence of nation states and the arrival of the Europeans in Asia, there was in Thailand a nation that had excelled in culture, tradition and history. At that time, the Malay states had already established a strong friendship with the Kingdom of Thailand. Since then, and after Malaysia achieved its independence in 1957, the relations have developed progressively encompassing many areas of mutual interest.

Malaysia and Thailand, together with the other nations in this region, maintain strong bonds of friendship, solidarity and cooperation. It is my hope that these strong links will be further strengthened in the years to come. I am confident that both Malaysia and Thailand can work closely together in building a more peaceful, prosperous and stable regional as well as international order.

I am confident that this commemorative book will serve its purpose well and contribute to the strengthening of the friendship between the people of Thailand and the people of Malaysia.

Abdullah Ahmad Badawi  
16th July 2007



*Message from  
His Excellency Mr. Nitya Pibulsonggram,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand*

The year 2007 is truly an auspicious and meaningful year in the history of Thailand and Malaysia. In Thailand, we are celebrating the 80th Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty the King of Thailand. In Malaysia, you are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Malaysia's Independence of "Merdeka". Both our countries will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of our Diplomatic Relations. It is indeed a year of celebration and joy for us all.

Although our diplomatic relations are only half a century old, the ties between our two peoples go back for many centuries. These ties are an outgrowth of the close interaction between the two peoples and cultures. Thais and Malays along the border areas have long frequented one another, bonded together by kinship and neighbourliness, long before international boundaries were drawn. Whether because of history, geography or culture, our two countries have a shared destiny. The prosperity and peace of one is inevitably tied to the peace and prosperity of the other.

It is thus not surprising that Thailand was one of the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with newly independent Malaysia on 31 August 1957. Through the years, the relations between the two countries have been warm and cordial, guided by common aspirations and shared interests of living together in peace and harmony. This closeness in our relations manifests itself in the numerous exchanges of high-level visits between the two countries, from members of the two Royal Families to Prime Ministers and other members of the cabinet.

There are also a number of "firsts" in our relations. The Thailand-Malaysia Joint Commission is the first Joint Commission that Thailand established with any country. Malaysia is the first, and, thus far, the only country with whom Thailand agreed to a Joint Development Area (JDA). The Joint Cabinet Retreat between our two cabinets was also a first for Thailand.

These close government-to-government relations, however, neither tell nor determine the full story of the Thai-Malaysian relationship. The activities of our respective private sectors, the efforts of our civil society and academia, our growing people-to-people ties -- all of them have been instrumental in forging a highly interdependent network of linkages between the two countries.

The potential for expansion of such links and interaction is almost limitless. One among the top priorities is the joint development of southern Thailand and northern Malaysia, including through the Joint Development Strategy for border areas. Here, the construction of a bridge across the Golok River, linking Buketa in Narathiwat to Bukit Bunga in Kelantan State, is symbolic of the unending efforts to link the two peoples in this shared destiny of peace and prosperity.





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Beyond the bilateral relations, Thailand and Malaysia continue to be close partners in promoting cooperation at the regional and global levels. As founding members of ASEAN, our two countries are natural allies in making an ASEAN Community progressive and people-oriented. Such close cooperation is found elsewhere, whether in the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle, the Asia Cooperation Dialogue or the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

Common challenges, from bilateral issues to regional or global ones, will continue to confront us, including along our common borders. This is only natural amongst neighbours. Between neighbours, however, no challenge is insurmountable. Between neighbours, moreover, there are shared opportunities: for greater trade and investment, for enhanced people-to-people contacts, growing tourism and private sector interactions. As close neighbours with a long history of ties, I am confident that Thailand and Malaysia will together continue to find ways to confront these challenges and develop these opportunities in a manner benefiting mutually our most important stakeholders -- the peoples of the two countries.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nitya Pibulsonggram". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

(Nitya Pibulsonggram)

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand



## Milestones of Relations

1863

His Majesty King Mongkut appointed William Thomas Lewis the first Consul of the Royal Thai Consulate in Penang.

1871

His Majesty King Chulalongkorn made a private visit to Malacca and Penang whilst on the way to Burma and India.



April 1890

His Majesty King Chulalongkorn made an unofficial visit to the southern provinces of Siam and Malaya, which were Penang, Kuala Lumpur and Malacca.

1917

Siam and Malaya were connected by rail for the first time.

24th September –  
10th October 1924

His Majesty King Vajiravudh and Princess Consort Suwatana paid a visit to Perak, Johore, Kuala Lumpur and Penang, with a two-day Official Visit on 29th – 30th September 1924.

26th–27th  
March 1956

The first Official Visit to the Kingdom of Thailand of the Chief Minister of the Federation of Malaya, Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra.

29th August 1957

The Kingdom of Thailand's first Ambassador to Malaya, Mr. Sunthorn Hongladarom, was approved by the Government of Malaya.

31st August 1957

Chief Minister of the Federation of Malaya Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra proclaimed the Nation's Independence at Stadium Merdeka. The Kingdom of Thailand and the Federation of Malaya established diplomatic ties on the same day.





### 3rd February 1958

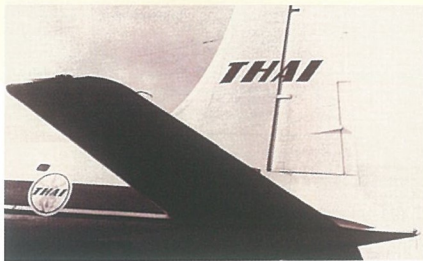
The British Government's Ambassador handed the former British Consulate in Songkhla over to the Governor of Songkhla who presented the premises on behalf of the Thai Government to the Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of Malaya to use as the Malayan Consulate in Songkhla.

### 1st July 1958

The first Ambassador of the Federation of Malaya to Thailand, Tuan Syed Sheh bin Syed Abdullah Shahabudin, presented his Letter of Credence to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej at Chakri Throne Hall.

### 5th May 1960

Thai Airways International Company launched its first flight to Kuala Lumpur.



### 20th-27th June 1962

The State Visit to the Federation of Malaya of Their Majesties King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Queen Sirikit of the Kingdom of Thailand.



### 1963

The Federation of Malaya changed its name to Malaysia after Sarawak, Sabah and Singapore joined the Federation.

### 24th February – 3rd March 1964

The State Visit to the Kingdom of Thailand of Their Majesties The Yang di-Pertuan Agong III and The Raja Permaisuri Agong of Malaysia.



### 25th March 1966

The Royal Thai Consulate in Kota Bharu officially opened and the First Consul was Mr. Wichet Suthayakom. The four-acre plot of land, which was formally the Palace of the Royal Consort of the Sultan, was purchased by the Royal Thai Government at the price of 250,000 ringgit.





4th October 1966

Thai Airways International Company launched its first flight to Penang.



8th August 1967

Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Singapore signed the Bangkok Declaration to establish the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).



14th–28th June 1971

The Official Visit to Malaysia of Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn, Prime Minister.

1st–8th February 1973

The State Visit to the Kingdom of Thailand of Their Majesties The Yang di-Pertuan Agong V and The Raja Permaisuri Agong of Malaysia.



21st–22nd May 1973

The Official Visit to Malaysia of Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn, Prime Minister, to preside over the opening ceremony of the bridge crossing the Golok River.

10th–14th June 1975

The Official Visit to Malaysia of M.R. Kukrit Pramoj, Prime Minister.

11th–12th February 1976

The Official Visit to the Kingdom of Thailand of Dato' Hussein Onn, Prime Minister.



4th March 1977

The Official Visit to the Kingdom of Thailand of Dato' Hussein Onn, Prime Minister.





6th March 1977

The Malaysian Government approved the elevation of the Royal Thai Consulate in Kota Bahru to Consulate-General. The first Consul-General was Mr. Prapoj Narintarakul Na Ayudhya.



23rd-26th  
February 1978

The Official Visit to Malaysia of General Kriangsak Chomanan, Prime Minister.

20th February 1979

The Official Visit to the Kingdom of Thailand of Dato' Hussein Onn, Prime Minister.

23rd-25th  
October 1979

The Official Visit to Malaysia of General Kriangsak Chomanan, Prime Minister.

23rd August 1981

The Official Visit to the Kingdom of Thailand of Dato' Seri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, Prime Minister.



6th-12th May 1983

The Official Visit to Malaysia of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn to attend the Fifth Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent of Countries within ASEAN in Kuala Lumpur as Guest of the Government of Malaysia.



15th-17th  
February 1984

The Official Visit to Malaysia of General Prem Tinsulanonda, Prime Minister.

17th-21st  
December 1985

The State Visit to the Kingdom of Thailand of Their Majesties The Yang di-Pertuan Agong VIII and The Raja Permaisuri Agong of Malaysia.





**7th–12th July 1986**

The Official Visit to Malaysia of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn.



**29th June 1987**

Air Chief Marshal Siddhi Savetsila, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand and Dato' Haji Abu Hassan bin Haji Omar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia signed an Agreement for the Establishment of a Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation.

**18th–19th September 1987**

The Official Visit to Malaysia of General Prem Tinsulanonda, Prime Minister.



**3rd–4th February 1988**

The First Meeting of the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation between the Kingdom of Thailand and Malaysia was held in Kuala Lumpur.



**2nd–3rd September 1988**

The Official Visit to Malaysia of General Chatchai Choonhavan Prime Minister.

**16th–17th May 1989**

The Second Meeting of the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation between the Kingdom of Thailand and Malaysia was held in Bangkok.

**4th–5th August 1989**

The Official Visit to Malaysia of General Chatchai Choonhavan, Prime Minister.

**26th–30th June 1990**

The Third Meeting of the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation between the Kingdom of Thailand and Malaysia was held in Penang.

**17th–21st December 1990**

The State Visit to the Kingdom of Thailand of Their Majesties The Yang di-Pertuan Agong IX and The Raja Permaisuri Agong of Malaysia.





23rd-24th February 1991

The Fourth Meeting of the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation between the Kingdom of Thailand and Malaysia was held in Phuket.

29th-30th May 1991

The Official Visit to Malaysia of Mr. Anand Panyarachun, Prime Minister.



12rd-16th February 1992

The Fifth Meeting of the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation between the Kingdom of Thailand and Malaysia was held in Langkawi.

6th-8th January 1993

The Official Visit to Malaysia of Mr. Chuan Leekpai, Prime Minister.

9th-10th July 1993

The Sixth Meeting of the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation between the Kingdom of Thailand and Malaysia was held in Bangkok.

19th August 1993

The Official Visit to the Kingdom of Thailand of Dato' Seri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, Prime Minister.

11th-15th April 1994

The Official Visit to Malaysia of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. After the visit, the Princess wrote a book entitled "Looi Pa Fah Fon".



21st April 1994

The Official Visit to Malaysia of Mr. Chuan Leekpai, Prime Minister.

24th-27th January 1995

The Seventh Meeting of the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation between the Kingdom of Thailand and Malaysia was held in Kuala Lumpur.

29th-30th May 1996

The Official Visit to Malaysia of Mr. Banharn Silpa-archa, Prime Minister.



## 27th-28th February 1997

The Official Visit to Malaysia of General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, Prime Minister.



## 16th-19th November 1998

The Official Visit to Malaysia of Mr. Chuan Leekpai, Prime Minister to attend the Sixth APEC Summit.



## 30th October 1999

The Official Visit to Malaysia of Mr. Chuan Leekpai, Prime Minister.

## 27th-30th March 2000

The State Visit to the Kingdom of Thailand of Their Majesties The Yang di-Pertuan Agong XI and The Raja Permaisuri Agong of Malaysia.



## 17th-19th March 1997

The Official Visit to Malaysia of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn to visit agricultural projects in the Cameron Highlands.

## 5th-6th August 1999

The Eighth Meeting of the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation between the Kingdom of Thailand and Malaysia was held in Bangkok.



## 14th-16th December 1997

The Official Visit to Malaysia of Mr. Chuan Leekpai, Prime Minister to attend the Second Informal ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur.

## 5th-6th February 1998

The Official Visit to the Kingdom of Thailand of Dato' Seri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, Prime Minister.

## 24th-26th April 2001

The Official Visit to Malaysia of Dr. Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister.



8th–11th July 2001

The Official Visit to Malaysia of Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn.

8th September 2001

The Official Visit to Malaysia of Her Royal Highness Princess Galyani Vadhana.

8th September 2001

The Official Visit to Malaysia of Dr. Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister, to attend the Opening Ceremony of the 21st SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur.

5th–7th July 2002

The Official Visit to the Kingdom of Thailand of Prime Minister Dato' Seri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad.



6th October 2002

The Official Visit to Malaysia of Dr. Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister.

21st–22nd  
December 2002

The Kingdom of Thailand hosted the First Joint Cabinet Meeting between Thailand and Malaysia in Songkhla.

24th–25th  
February 2003

The Official Visit to Malaysia of Dr. Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister, to attend the NAM Summit.

6th–8th March 2003

The Ninth Meeting of the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation between the Kingdom of Thailand and Malaysia was held in Kuala Lumpur.



27th–28th July 2003

The Official Visit to Malaysia of Dr. Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister, to attend the First Annual Consultation.

20th–21st  
October 2003

The Official Visit to the Kingdom of Thailand of Prime Minister Dato' Seri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad to attend the APEC Summit in Bangkok.





16th January 2004

The Official Visit to the Kingdom of Thailand of Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister, after being appointed Prime Minister.

12th April 2004

The Official Visit to Malaysia of Dr. Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister.

25th April 2004

The Official Visit to Malaysia of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit to attend the Silver Jubilee Celebration of the Sultan of the state of Kelantan.



5th August 2004

The First Joint Development Strategy for border areas Meeting (JDS) in Bangkok.

13th October 2004

The Official Visit to the Kingdom of Thailand of Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister, to attend the Second Annual Consultation in Phuket and to preside over the groundbreaking ceremony of the bridge across the Golok River on 14th October 2004.

15th November 2004

The Official Visit to Malaysia of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit to attend the Wedding Ceremony of the Crown Prince of the state of Kelantan and Ms. Kangsadal Pipitpakdi.

21st-22nd  
November 2005

The Official Visit to the Kingdom of Thailand of Tun Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, Former Prime Minister, and his wife Dr. Siti Hasmah binti Mohamad Ali as Guests of the Royal Thai Government.



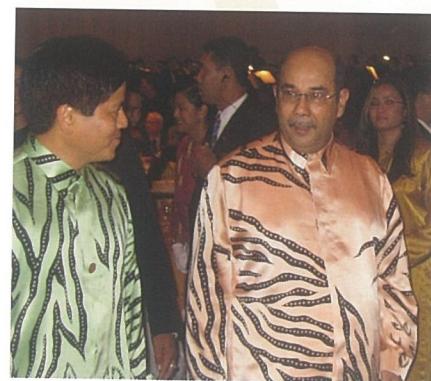
11th-14th  
December 2005

The Official Visit to Malaysia of Dr. Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister, to attend the Eleventh ASEAN Summit.



11th-14th  
December 2005

The First East Asia Summit Meeting (EAS) in Kuala Lumpur.





### 11th-14th June 2006

The Official Visit to the Kingdom of Thailand of Their Majesties The Yang di-Pertuan Agong XII and The Raja Permaisuri Agong of Malaysia to attend the Celebrations of the 60th Anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's Accession to the Throne.



### 18th October 2006

The Official Visit to Malaysia of General Surayud Chulanont (Ret.), Prime Minister.



### 11th-13th February 2007

The Official Visit to the Kingdom of Thailand of Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister.



### 27th-29th June 2007

The Tenth Meeting of the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation between the Kingdom of Thailand and Malaysia was held in Bangkok.



### 5th August 2007

The Official Visit to Malaysia of General Surayud Chulanont (Ret.), Prime Minister, to attend the Eighth Global 2007 Langkawi International Dialogue.

### 21st-23rd August 2007

The Official Visit to Malaysia of General Surayud Chulanont (Ret.), Prime Minister, to attend the Third Annual Consultation in Penang.

### 31st August 2007

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej graciously designated His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn to attend the Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Independence of Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur. This day also marked the 50th Anniversary of Thailand-Malaysia Diplomatic Relations.



*Malaysiaku Gemilang*





I

*The Seed of Friendship*

