

# Message from the Chairman of the Academy of Science



Distinguished readers, professors,  
and researchers:

Quite often, the general public understands that the Royal Society of Thailand is an agency that works in languages, language translation, and writing dictionary of Thai language. This statement is only half true. In addition, when it comes to the Academy of Science of the Royal Society, there are questions and doubts as to what kind of agency it is, and what its functions are in the Royal Society. The following information helps understand the roles of the Academy of Science, the Royal Society of Thailand.

As stated in Section 6 of the Royal Society Act B.E. 2558, that *“The Royal Society shall be the place for enrichment of all branches of knowledge as established by His Majesty King Prajadhipok, and have the objectives of conducting a study and research for dissemination, promotion and exchange of knowledge, as well as development, maintenance and provision of academic services for the benefits of the country and the people.”* In addition, according to the powers and duties of the Office of the Royal Society, assigned in Section 8 of the Royal Society Act, the Royal Society has defined its vision as: *“The mission of the Royal society is to be the main institution of the National Intellectual Network and is a knowledge development organization that can be an academic reference.”*

As you can see, the overall mission of the Royal Society is to develop and maintain all subjects of knowledge, where language is only a part of the mission. However, language is very essential since it is a tool for communicating and conveying culture and knowledge. Therefore, the language is necessarily involved in all branches of subject. Under section 9 of the Royal Society Act, in order to perform its academic activities, the Royal Society is divided into three academies: 1) Academy of Moral and Political Sciences, 2) Academy of Science, and 3) Academy of Arts. It should be noted that there are 3 categories of members in the Royal Society, i.e., 1) Associate Fellow, 2) Fellow, and 3) Honorary Fellow.

## THE ROYAL SOCIETY ACT, B.E. 2558 (2015)

Section 8. The Office of the Royal Society shall have the following powers and duties:

- (1) To study, research into and enrich all branches of knowledge and to disseminate the outcome thereof for the benefits of the country and the people;
- (2) To exchange knowledge and arrange for academic cooperation with other domestic and foreign learned societies and academic institutions;
- (3) To provide academic opinions, recommendations and consultation to the Prime Minister or the council of Ministers;
- (4) To organize an academic training and development program in connection with Thai language, local Thai language and subjects of knowledge under section 10, and to confer advanced certificates, certificates of achievement and diplomas to persons who complete the training or academic development program in accordance with the Regulations of the Royal Society;
- (5) To provide academic services to the government agencies, State enterprises, independent constitutional organs, public organizations, other State agencies, educational institutes, private organizations and the public;
- (6) To carry out work in relation to the preparation of dictionaries, encyclopedias, alphabetic indexes and taxonomy, the coinage of academic terms in different subject as well as the preparation of dictionaries of foreign academic term in Thai language and other academic work;
- (7) To prescribe various criteria in connection with the use of Thai language, the preservation of Thai language against deterioration and the promotion of Thai language as a national identity to ensure its more prominent position;
- (8) To promote and support translation of all branches of knowledge from other languages into Thai language or from Thai language into other languages;

For the Academy of Science, we set our vision as: "*The Academy of Science has the mission to study, research, nurture, and enrich all branches of knowledge in Science, Technology, and Innovation, and to disseminate the acquired knowledge for the benefit of the country and the people.*" The Academy of Science is a collection of very successful scholars, experts, outstanding scientists, and eminent researchers of Thailand. Most of them are/were outstanding lecturers of Thailand, and many are/were former chief executive officers of Thailand science and technology institutes. Currently the academy has 57 fellows and 24 associate fellows. The Academy of Science consists of six academic fields of knowledge (in 51 subject areas), which are as follows:

- 1) Field of Engineering, with 12 fellows and 4 associate fellows;
- 2) Field of Technology, with 5 fellows and 4 associate fellows;
- 3) Field of Natural Science, with 15 fellows and 5 associate fellows;
- 4) Field of Science, Agriculture Technology, and Veterinary Science, with 15 fellows and 4 associate fellows;
- 5) Field of Medicine and Dentistry, with 15 fellows and 4 associate fellows;
- 6) Field of Health Science, with 3 fellows and 4 associate fellows.

Details and curriculum vitae of the Academy of Science members can be found on the web site of the Royal Society. (<https://science.royalsociety.go.th/>)

### **Activities of the Academy**

To perform academic functions in accordance with the powers and duties assigned in the Royal Society Act, one among the main activities is coining technical terms in Thai. The Academy of Science also conducts two academic projects annually: the Rajbundit Sunjorn (On-the-Road Royal Fellow Colloquium) project and the Arsom Kwam-Kit (Brainstorming Hermitage) project. Aiming at communicating and sharing knowledge to the general public, the Academy of Science publishes the Academy of Science Bulletin. These routine activities are elaborated as follows.

#### **(1) Writing Dictionaries of Scientific and Technical Terms.**

These tasks are performed in accordance with the power and duties set out in Section 8 (6) of the Royal Society Act B.E. 2558 (2015). The Academy of Science has 23 scientific and technical dictionary committees in various academic areas and two taxonomy committees. The committee members would select terms and provide short explanations. For the year 2020 and 2021, the number of technical terms/words coined and explained in Thai was 6,590 and 7,637, respectively.

#### **(2) The Rajbundit Sunjorn Project (On-the-Road Royal Fellow Colloquium)**

This project is meant for organizing academic seminar on important topics concerning current problems of the country. The meeting is led by members of the Academy, in cooperation with our academic networks. It is usually organized at the co-hosting institute. Opinions and conclusions are summarized and posted in the academy's bulletin and also forwarded to related government units. This activity is performed in accordance with the authorities set forth in Sections 8 (1), (2) and (5) of the Royal Society Act, with the following objectives:

- a) To accumulate academic results related to science, technology, and innovation, from studies, researches and participations of the Academy's members working with parties from the public and other faculties and academia.
- b) To set brainstorming forum to obtain knowledge, opinions, and experiences on current problems of the country, especially on aspects of the national strategy, government policy, and national socioeconomic issues.
- c) To create national and international networks of cooperation with relevant academic agencies or institutions in order to enhance the competency of relevant authorities

- d) To reinforce the operational efficiency of the Royal Society's mission in terms of cooperating with and providing knowledge to relevant authorities, academics, as well as interested citizens.

### **(3) The Arsom Kwam-Kit (Brainstorming Hermitage) Project**

This project consists of seminars for brainstorming and preparation to work out important policy recommendations on major issues of the country. Currently the Academy has chosen to conduct in four area forums, namely,

- 1) Forum for energy;
- 2) Forum for health;
- 3) Forum for foods and agriculture; and
- 4) Forum for geology and environmental science.

Objectives and goals of the Brainstorming Hermitage project are in accordance with the authority and mission under Sections 8 (1), (2), and (3) of the Royal Society Act, as follows:

- a) Brainstorming seminars to share and exchange knowledge, opinions, and experiences on problems facing the country, in line with the issues of national strategic plan, government policy, and socioeconomic issues.
- b) A network in cooperation with relevant national and international academic agencies or related institutions, in order to promote the competency of relevant agencies.
- c) Integration of exchanged knowledge and experiences for dissemination in order to provide academic reference.
- d) Obtaining conclusions in the form of report or white paper or suggestions as a part of policy recommendations for presentation to relevant authorities.
- e) Being a forum for presenting research results by the Society members and members of academia in relevant disciplines.

### **(4) The Academy of Science Bulletin**

The Academy of Science Bulletin is a journal with short articles aiming to disseminate knowledge acquired by members of the Academy of Science, in accordance with the authority and duties of the Royal Society Act, Section 8 (1), (2) and (5). The bulletin has these following objectives:

- a) To publish short articles, in science, technology, and innovation, with cutting-edge knowledge that is useful to the general public. The writing style is simplified so that readers in general can understand the content. They can also be used as academic references.

- b) To publish articles containing knowledge and research results of the academy members. These may also be articles adopted from academic lectures in the regular meetings of the Academy of Science.
- c) To publish academic articles compiled from discussions or academic conferences organized or co-organized by the Academy of Science of The Royal Society of Thailand, such as the On-the-Road Royal Fellow Colloquium.
- d) To publish academic articles compiled from Ashram Kwam-Kit Project.

This bulletin is published in the form of e-journal on the web site of the Academy of Science, the Royal Society. It should be emphasized that the bulletin is created in order to compose and disseminate academic works and knowledge for the benefit of the country and the people.

## **Other Academic Activities and Performances**

Here, other regular activities of the Academy of Science are outlined.

### **(1) Articles published in international journals**

This output reflects the academic excellence and strength of the Academy of Science members, whose outstanding research are published in high standard international journals. The number of published articles, for examples, in the years 2019 and 2020 was 162 and 210, respectively, and the number keeps increasing. This endeavor not only shows the continuity to enrich the knowledge in science, technology, and innovation for the country, according to Section 8 (1) of the Royal Society Act, but also increases the reputation of Thailand and the Royal Society.

### **(2) Articles in the journal of the Royal Society**

The Journal of the Royal Society is a forum for the communication as well as sharing knowledge among all disciplines under the three academies of the Royal Society. Articles published in the journal are selected from excellent verbal presentations at the Academy of Science's two meetings per month. Good articles from external scholars are also published in the journal.

### **(3) Academic lectures within the Academy**

In order to exchange and enrich knowledge, every month two meetings are organized, where three academic lectures are presented in each meeting by members of the academy. Video recordings of the lectures are posted on the Academy of Science channel. Later, the contents of some lectures will be published as articles in the Academy of Science Bulletin or as journal papers in the Journal of the Royal Society.

#### **(4) Articles published in national journals and conferences**

The research outputs of the members are also encouraged to be published in national journals or presented in national conferences, in order to communicate and share the knowledge with other scholars in the country.

#### **(5) Host or co-host international conferences**

By Section 8 (2) of the Royal Society Act, the Academy may consider to be a host or co-host of international conferences, in order to exchange knowledge, arrange and strengthen academic cooperation with domestic and foreign academic institutions.

#### **(6) The Academy of Science web site and YouTube channel**

To publicize the activities and disseminate knowledge of the Academy, a web site and YouTube channel of the Academy have been set up. These provide channels for presenting research results of the Royal Society members, as well as communicating with the general public.

Finally, on behalf of the Academy of Science, the Royal Society, I do hope that the aforementioned elaborations of the Academy's activities and academic performances will contribute to the understanding of the Academy's mission. For those who are interested in working with the Academy, it can be done by participating in activities of the Academy or applying for membership of the Academy. The time of application will be announced on occasions.

Thank you for your attention.

**Professor Wanlop Surakamponorn, Ph.D.**

**Chairman of the Academy of Science,**

**The Royal Society of Thailand.**

(<https://science.royalsociety.go.th/>)