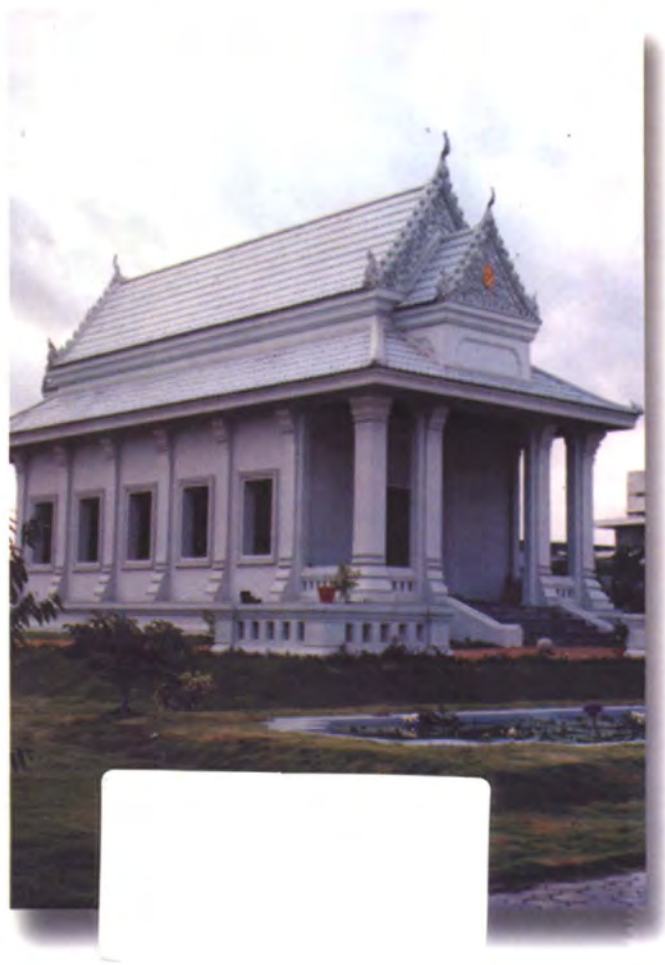




RAMA IX
GOLDEN JUBILEE TEMPLE



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Location

Rama IX Golden Jubilee Temple is located on 999 Soi Rama IX Golden Jubilee 19, Rama IX Road, Huai Kwang District, Bangkok. The area is rectangular shaped and covers an area of 8-2-54 *rai* (about 3.45 acres). The distance on the north side is 234 metres and lies next to the Thai-Japanese Association and a vacant private land. The east side extends 61.5 metres alongside Lad Phrao Canal. The south end stretches 217 metres bordering a road to be paved for the entrance way. The west side, with a distance of 65 metres, is adjacent to the Rama IX Golden Jubilee School



The First Royal Initiative: The Foundation of Rama IX Golden Jubilee Temple



His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej gave an initiative to experiment with waste water treatment by increasing oxygen in the water at Rama IX Lake. The lake covers an area of 130 *rai* (5.2 acres) and is located on land belonging to the Bureau of the Crown Property. The project started in March 1988 and involved many agencies, namely, the

Office of the Royal Development Projects Board (RDPB), the Royal Irrigation Department, the Bureau of the Crown Property, and Bangkok Metropolitan Administration. The objective was to treat polluted water in Lad Phrao Canal by increasing oxygen in the water and leaving the sediment to settle before releasing the treated water back into the canal.

On 15 August 1988, His Majesty proposed that the project be expanded further onto other parts of the land under the Bureau of the Crown Property and the surrounding areas.

The work involved adapting the landscape, developing the community around Rama IX Lake, and building a temple to serve as a site for Buddhist monks to





perform their religious activities, and to be a spiritual centre as well as a focal point where people gather to conduct various activities in a cooperative manner.

Later, Miss Juangchan Singhaseni who owned a piece of land near the project site wished to donate it to the Chaipattana Foundation for constructing a temple. On 8 February



1990, during an audience with His Majesty the King, Miss Juangchan Singhaseni presented the land totalling 8-2-54 *rai* (3.4 acres) to His Majesty. Finally, on 9 August 1991, the Chaipattana Foundation was given permission from the Religious Affairs Department to build a temple which Somdej Phra Yannasangvorn, the Supreme Patriarch, represents as patron for the clergy side; Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn is patron for the layman side.

Her Royal Highness appointed a Subcommittee to oversee construction of the Rama IX Golden Jubilee Temple, with Mr. Jari Tulayanond, who is a board member of the Chaipattana Foundation, serving as the Chairman with authority to supervise the construction in accordance with the Royal initiative. On 24 June 1998, His Majesty graciously fixed the size of the temple to be 12.60 metres wide and 22.10 metres long.





On 21 April 1993, Miss Juangchan Singhaseni donated another piece of land with an area of 5 *rai* (2 acres) next to the temple, for constructing a school. The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration was responsible for the construction work. The school consists of 36 rooms, for the kindergarten to the elementary level. This was later expanded to the junior high school level.





The Starting Point: Implementation of His Majesty's Initiative



The Rama IX Golden Jubilee Temple was built in 1995 according to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's wish to use the Temple as a model for construction of small temples to serve as centres of spiritual unity for local communities. The temple is also intended to be a place for conducting religious rites and other activities in order for monks to preach moral and ethic values which would help to develop the community.

His Majesty the King graciously assigned Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn to perform, on his behalf, the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Ordination Hall at Rama IX Golden Jubilee Temple on 1 July 1996. On 26 November 1997, Her Royal Highness signed an appointment order forming the Advisory Committee and the Administrative Committee of Rama IX Golden Jubilee Temple. These committees were assigned to formulate plans, control and monitor the projects implementation, as well as to coordinate with relevant government and public organizations.

The name of Rama IX Golden Jubilee Temple was graciously given by His Majesty the King. This temple is different from other temples in its small size, the use of an economical budget, and a design that is simple but highly efficient. The temple consists of an Ordination Hall, a multi-purpose hall, a pond, residences for the abbot and the other five monks, a kitchen and other essential buildings. Every building is painted white, representing purity, cleanliness and beauty; however, the Ordination Hall was designed with a blend of ancient and modern style architecture that considers practicality as the most important factor.



Ordination Hall: A Blend of Special Characteristics



The Ordination Hall of the Rama IX Golden Jubilee Temple which houses the Pangmanvichai Buddha Image, was built in a special form of architecture emphasizing its usefulness. All of the building materials are locally made. The structure is built with ferroconcrete and windows using decorated aluminum. The gable is designed with a cement-sculptured seal of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the ninth Rama King. The roof spiral is also patterned in a cement sculpture. The glass is not decorated with gold leaves, but the constituent parts on the roof are made of cement in a leaf design. The walls and columns are built using cement bricks and painted in white. The roof tiles are made of white steel sheets. The door and window frames are made of aluminum. The panel is made of glass. The pathway around the Ordination Hall is laid with stone and sand. The building characteristic is a mix between traditional Thai and contemporary architecture, emphasizing the Rattanakosin style. The original design took reference from three ordination halls in the Rattanakosin Era, namely the Rajathivath Temple in Bangkok, Pathom Chedi Temple in Nakhon Pathom Province, and Chalermprakiet Temple in Nonthaburi Province. These ordination halls are prototypes of the sculpture's pattern that decorates the gable of the Ordination Hall at the Rama IX Golden Jubilee Temple.



Pangmanvichai Buddha Image: the Temple's Main Buddha Image



On 3 January 1998, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously conducted the molding ceremony of Pangmanvichai Buddha Image, the main Buddha Image of Rama IX Golden Jubilee Temple. The design of this Buddha Image was examined and modified by His Majesty himself.

The main Buddha Image was designed by Gp. Capt. Arwut Nguenchuklin, an architect from the Fine Arts Department. Initially he designed 7 models, each one having different characteristics. The Chaipattana Foundation then submitted all the models to His Majesty for consideration. Among these, His Majesty chose the Pangmanvichai model (meaning victory over evils) and made small modifications. The Subcommittee on the Construction of the Temple then



commissioned Professor Nonthivath Chandhanaphalin, Dean of Silpakorn University's Faculty of Painting, to mold the image.

The Pangmanvichai Buddha Image has a height of 180 centimetres measuring from the base, and a width of 120 centimetres, with disciple images placed on both the left and right sides. The Pangmanvichai Buddha Image is characterized by the Rattanakosin style, resting on a raised marble base. The image itself is made of gold and brass, and is a mixture of idealism and realism, with the hair representing the former and the yellow robe representing the latter. These special characteristics are very beautiful and delicate.





The Abbot: Rama IX Golden Jubilee Temple

Somdej Phra Yannasangvorn, the Supreme Patriarch, permitted Phra Rajsumonmune (Aphipol Aphipalo), assistant to the abbot at Bawornnivesviharn Temple, to assume the position of abbot at Rama IX Golden Jubilee Temple beginning on Asarnha Bucha Day (19th July 1997). In addition to the abbot, there are 7 other monks.

Phra Rajsumonmune (Aphipol Aphipalo), the abbot of Rama IX Golden Jubilee Temple, passed the fifth grade of the Royal Pali examinations. He was born in Nakhon Pathom Province. He entered Buddhism when he became a novice at Senha Temple, Muang District, Nakhon Pathom Province. Later, he moved to study at Bawornnivesviharn Temple in 1954 (when of proper age, he was assigned to hold an administrative position). He was an assistant to the abbot at Bawornnivesviharn Temple and served as secretary to the Chief of the Regional (Dammayudika) 4-5-6-7. He was then appointed secretary to the Chief of the Regional (Dammayudika) of Bangkok and Samutprakarn, at the time Somdej Phra Yannasangvorn, who later became the Supreme Patriarch. (Today, the Supreme Patriarch no longer holds this position.) Afterwards, when Somdej Phra Yannasangvorn was appointed to the position of the Supreme Patriarch, Phra Rajsumonmune became his secretary. Finally in 1997, he was officially commissioned to assume the role of the abbot at the Rama IX Golden Jubilee Temple, devoting his life to His Majesty the King since then.





Rama IX Golden Jubilee Temple: A Model of Development (*Baan-Wat-Ratchakarn* or *Bor-Wor-Ror*) in modern society

Since its establishment, Rama IX Golden Jubilee Temple has carried out an important task of acting as the centre of community development, similar to the temple's role in ancient history. The duties are as follows.

- To be an example for the construction of small temples upholding peace, tranquility and simplicity in the urban community
- To develop the community around Rama IX Lake
- To be the spiritual resort for the community to encourage its attachment with Buddhism
- To be the centre of spiritual unity for the community to perform various activities or public affairs together
- To be the centre for disseminating the Buddhist teachings
- To be a place for conducting religious activities and preaching morals as well as ethics
- To be an example of coordination and cooperation between community (*Baan*), temple (*Wat*), and school and government agencies (*Ratchakarn*) in helping to develop the community





Centre of Spiritual Unity and Development of the Quality of Life

From the beginning, Rama IX Golden Jubilee Temple has strictly adhered to its above-mentioned roles.

The activities of Buddhist monk and novice

Being a small temple, there were originally only 7 monks residing at the temple during the Buddhist Lent. However, now, the number has been increased to 14 monks. The routine activities of the monks and novices include the following:

- Maintain the temple in a clean, neat and peaceful condition for their convenience in performing religious duties and for the public when learning about and practising Buddhist teachings;
- Emphasize the practice of meditation, which trains the mental strength, in order to set an example for other persons who are interested in such doctrine practice and to be ready to instruct others.





Preaching and training activities



- To provide Buddhist teachings on every universal Sabbath Day (Buddhist Holy Day) which falls on the 8th and 15th of the lunar calendar;
- To lead Buddhist followers in conducting major religious rites on religious holidays, such as Maka Bucha Day, Visakha Bucha Day, Buddhist Lent Day, and Asarnha Bucha Day;
- To preach Buddhism for youth by selecting well-educated monks and novices to teach Buddhism to students studying at Rama IX Golden Jubilee School during the religion class. Lectures are also arranged outside the classroom in order to enhance right perspectives for youth;
- To arrange morals and ethics training courses for youth. This activity emphasizes meditation to develop the mind and sensibility in youth. Therefore, they could restrain themselves, concentrate on education, possess high morals, behave in a good manner, and be useful to the public as much as they can. The training can be categorized into 3 areas -



- 1) Meditation session for students at Rama IX Golden Jubilee School on suitable occasions.
- 2) Meditation session for community youth, most of whom are children of the people living near the temple. The training takes place daily, in the evening. The children are led in making prayers and learning the moral precepts. They are then advised about the foundation of Buddhism and practise meditation.
- 3) The Khao Kon Batr Project involves selecting students from Rama IX Golden Jubilee School to take turns to have meals at the temple. The students are also involved in the temple's activities, such as Buddhist teaching, meditation, sermons and temple cleaning.



Activities to enhance knowledge on Buddhism, morals and ethics

The activities are set for introducing youth to the temple, religion and morals using media that are both informative and entertaining.

- 1) A library is arranged to provide a place for reading, with books on Buddhism, morals and ethics.
- 2) An audio-visual technical room is organized for VDO viewing on Buddhism and the Royal activities of His Majesty the King.



From Temple to School: Centre of Knowledge



The Rama IX Golden Jubilee School is the first Royal Demonstration School in Bangkok. It is situated on an area of 5-0-01 *rai* (about 2 acres) which Miss Juangchan Singhaseni kindly donated to the Chaipattana Foundation. Recognizing the importance of education in the development of manpower and the progress of the country, His Majesty then conferred the land to the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration for constructing a school. The school provides education for children from the kindergarten and elementary, to junior high school level, with an aim to expand services and education opportunities to Bangkok youth. The school is equipped with necessary buildings, personnel, teaching tools, academic curriculum and modern technology. The Rama IX Golden Jubilee School was graciously named by His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej and started teaching in the 1996 academic year to commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary (Golden Jubilee) Celebration of His Majesty the King's Accession to the Throne.



The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration carried out the construction of the Rama IX Golden Jubilee School from 1993 until 1996. Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, on behalf of His Majesty the King, graciously unveiled the school sign on 1 July 1996. The Rama IX Golden Jubilee School consists of one 3-storey building and one 5-storey building, connected in an L-shape facing the eastern direction, and comprising 36 rooms. It is open from the kindergarten 2-3 level, to the elementary level from grades 1 to 6. The school has been teaching since 17 May 1996. An additional 7-storey building has been constructed to accommodate the increasing number of students.

The Role of Temple and Thai Society in the Future

Rama IX Golden Jubilee Temple was built to be an example of "Bor-Wor-Ror" principle, a mix between *Baan* (Community), *Wat* (Temple), and *Ratchakarn* (School) in a manner to support each other. It is a model for development in the present and for the future. The school also acts as the centre for shaping the community into possessing strong minds and consolidating social unity.



The Future Implementation: 3 Forces towards Accomplishment



From now on, an example of cooperation in many activities to develop society, in an integrated and supportive manner among *Baan-Wat-Ratchakarn* can be tangibly seen at the community around Rama IX Lake. Every party carries out its regular functions. "*Baan*" is the residential area for members of the family, "*Wat*" is the place for religious practice and preaching Buddhism for monks, and finally, "*Ratchakarn*" is the place to provide knowledge for the children living in the community. It is hoped that the community, the temple and the school will continue to work together under various activities for the benefits of the community as in the traditional practice in the past.



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