

Honorable Ambassador PISAN Man a wa pat
Distinguished career. Mark of high regard for U.S. Thai relationship

Guests: Inglesby, Cicero, Toner, Jon Andrus (VP Sabin Found) Nana, Leigh

Many asked to describe our 6 day visit to Thailand the Mahidol Award Ceremony
High point HRH Princess MAHA SHAKRI SIRINDHORN –Medal present.
Throne room + reception 250 people
DR. ENDO –Japan, statin
Banquet of 250-300 on behalf of the King

Stayed at Mandarin Oriental Hotel—
Lectures –Fac. of Medicine; Staff of Public health
Dinners—Minister of Public Health; Minister of Medicine
Small reception by the Prime Minister
Reception at the American Embassy
Tours

Award exemplifies an adage of Prince Mahiol

True success is not in the learning, but in its application to the benefit of mankind

Recognition of the 850 international staff from 58 countries and upwards of 200,000 national

Smallpox – most feared/ lethal disease of mankind; goes back to Phaorohs 3500 years
Program decided by WHA – to begin in 1967 with a target of 10 years and a budget of \$2.4 million –not enough to buy the 300 million doses of vaccine needed yearly.

Doubted by Director General and many others – NO DISEASE CAN BE ERADICATED

All the problems one can imagine with 3 civil wars; floods, famines, refugees numbering in the millions; political bureaucracy at national levels and international no less.

At the beginning – 1967 – Thailand played a unique role, little known. Vaccine prod. and last case 1962. But much of Asia a problem – notably Indonesia and India (expand)
Thailand hosts the 1st international conference – some 21 Asian nations.

Demonstration that despite density of pop., developing health services, spx elim can be done
Donation of one million doses of vaccine

10 years, 9months, 26 days- last case of spox. WHA declares erad. In May 1980
It took rough 2 to 3 years before widespread belief "It really happened" Vaccine stopped.
Haled by scientific organizations, historians, as greatest medical achievement of 20th Century
The Mahidol Award is one of the most important of all international recognition. Honor for me.