

Specail Report

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Thai Dietetic Association, 1974-2024

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On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Thai Dietetic Association (TDA), TDA would like to express our sincere thanks to the key contributors of TDA, TDA honorary advisory committee members, advisory committee members, dietitian members, TDA alliances and also the Asian Federation of Dietetic Associations (AFDA) with 12 national dietetic association members for our great collaboration and support that have made TDA widely recognized as the organization for dietetics professionals in Thailand. The purpose of this article

is to document the history of TDA, the development of dietetic profession in Thailand and what activities TDA organized to celebrate the TDA's 50th Anniversary.

Furthermore, on this special occasion, the Committee members of TDA would like to express its sincere gratitude to Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn for her great intention and commitment to achieving food and nutrition equity and a good quality of life for all.



Photo 1: Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

Her Royal Highness's successful approach to food and nutrition improvement, especially among

schoolchildren, mothers, infants, and young children in remote and deprived communities, can inspire

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those in the field and be more widely useful. Here is one example of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's work on food and nutrition development.

Empowering our Future through Agriculture for School Lunch Project: An Initiative of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

*by Colonel Ass. Prof. Dr. Nantaporn Viravathana,
Advisor to the Office of Her Royal Highness Princess
Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's Projects*

The Agriculture for School Lunch Project was launched in Thailand in 1980 by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, who followed in the footsteps of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit in improving the living conditions of Thai people. Most of them lived in remote and deprived communities, as well as those marginalised due to cultural or religious differences.

Her Royal Highness began the project by giving priority to children, as they are the most vulnerable and the hope for Thailand's future. To combat malnutrition among children, Her Royal Highness introduced a small-scale integrated farm to schools in remote areas instead of providing children with ready-to-eat meals. Children are assigned to work on the school farm. Produce from the school farm was used

The Story of TDA 50 Years Leading Up to Thai Dietetic Association Today

The Birth and Founding of Thai Dietetic Association

TDA was first established as the Thai Dietetic Club with the initiation of Assistant Professor Rasami Kantasewi who gathered personnel working in the field of nutrition and diet therapy and established the Thai Dietetic Club on February 2, 1974. Asst. Prof. Rasami was elected as the first president of Thai Dietetic Club and had supported the activities of the club all along. On March 18, 2005, the Thai Dietetic Club changed its status to the Thai Dietetic Association and became the Thai Dietetic Association of Thailand (TDA) on June 23, 2008. It is a non-profit professional organization. Assistant Professor Dr. Sunard Taechangam was elected as the first president of TDA. The objectives of TDA are to: promote the development of the dietetic profession, the quality dietetic practices and education of Thailand while also

as ingredients for children to prepare their own lunches.

According to Her Royal Highness's initiative, the Agriculture for School Lunch Project not only provides children with good meals but also equips them with knowledge, skills, and a positive attitude towards agriculture and nutrition, as well as vocational skills and environmental awareness while they are working on school agriculture. This process is known as learning by doing. Participation is also a key to sustainability. The project gave children, teachers, parents, and other community members the opportunity to work together, thus enhancing the development of the community. Over time, the aim of the Agriculture for School Lunch Project has shifted from a focus on agriculture for better nutrition to holistic development—to enhance the potential of children and youth in a balanced manner so that they grow up to be productive members of their communities and the nation. It is now known as a sustainable development model for achieving a better quality of life.

The project is currently being implemented in 901 schools, covering 1,514 villages in 52 provinces with 142,348 learners. Moreover, due to their effectiveness, Her Royal Highness's initiatives have expanded beyond the borders of Thailand to improve the quality of life, covering 79,133 learners in 107 schools in 10 countries in Asia.

enhancing the skills and potential of Thai dietitians, establish and promote a network of regional collaboration and linkages for nutrition and dietetic activities in Thailand, promote a network of scientific information exchange in nutrition and dietetics through organize meetings, workshops, conferences. and link with international organization of nutrition and dietetics.

The seven key contributors (Photo 2) supported the establishment and participation of TDA including Professor Emeritus Dr. Aree Valayasevi, Professor Emeritus Dr. Wichai Tanpaichitr, Professor Emeritus Dr. Kraisit Tantisirin, Assistant Professor Rasami Kantasewi, Mrs. Rujira Sammasut, Assistant Professor Dr. Sunard Taechangam, and Assistant Professor Dr. Chanida Pachotikarn. In addition, there were several important contributors that supported TDA including Professor Emeritus Dr. Khun Sakorn Thanamit, Associate Professor Chaowalit Rattanakul, Professor Emeritus Dr. Thep Himathongkam, and Professor Emeritus Dr. Surat Komindr (Photo 3).



Prof. Emer. Dr. Aree
Valayasevi



Prof. Emer. Dr. Vichai
Tanpaichitr



Prof. Emer. Dr. Karisid
Tantisirin



Ass. Prof. Rasami
Kantasewi



Mrs. Rujira
Sammasut



Ass. Prof. Dr. Sunard
Taechangam



Ass. Prof. Dr. Chanida
Pachotikarn

Photo 2: The Seven Key Contributors Supported the Establishment and Participation of TDA



Assoc. Prof. Chaowalit
Rattanakul



Prof. Emer. Dr. Khun
Sakorn Thanamit



Prof. Emer. Dr. Thep
Himathongkam



Prof. Emer. Dr. Surat
Komindr

Photo 3: The Four Important Contributors Supported TDA

TDA has built the relationship with dietetic and nutrition networks including the dietetic professional country members of Asian Federation of Dietetic Associations (AFDA) and International Confederation of Dietetic Associations (ICDA). TDA is one of the dietetic professional associations that co-founded the AFDA in 1991. AFDA consists of 12 country members of professional dietetic associations and AFDA celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2021. TDA also holds an experience in organizing international event, the 5th Asian Congress of Dietetics in 2010 (ACD 2010). It is with great pride that TDA hosted the 5th ACD. TDA was honored to have Minister of Public Health Jurin Laksanawisit, presided over the opening ceremony. With the successful hosting of the ACD, we received a good feedback from our AFDA members for organizing and hosting such a wonderful 5th ACD in Bangkok. The group members from Taiwan attended the congress reflect that this meeting was informative, intuitive, they enjoyed the warm hospitality, the delicious Thai cuisine, and they brought home lots of wonderful memories. Dr. Chwang Lei-Chii, Honorary President of AFDA mentioned that TDA set a benchmarking model for AFDA country members to follow. In addition, TDA became the 46th member of ICDA in 2022 and also participated in the ICDA activities: attending International Congress of Dietetics (ICD),



Photo 4: AFDA and the 12 AFDA Country Members



Photo 5: The Asian Dietitians' Activities

Registration/Licensing of Dietitians in Thailand

In 2016, TDA and academic institutions that offer the Nutrition and Dietetics programs submitted a proposal to the Department of Health Service Support, Ministry of Public Health, to consider the field of Dietetics as a field of Medical Practice. Later, on June 20, 2020, His Majesty the King graciously issued a Royal Decree defining the field of Dietetics as a branch of Medical Practice in 2020, in accordance with the Medical Practice Act B.E. 2542 and its amendments, and announced in the Government Gazette, Volume 137, Part 46 A, Page 40, dated June 23, 2020 (Photo 6 -7). There are 2550 dietitians passed the first registration examination out of 2577 eligible

members applying for the registration and taking the examination. Currently, there are 3,728 registered dietitians obtained a dietitian license. The Bureau of Sanatorium and Arts of Healing, Department of Health Service Support, Ministry of Public Health has appointed/elected the Dietetic Professional Committee. The Dietetic Professional Committee has issued an order appointing 4 Subcommittees for Dietetic Professional Disciplines. The Dietetic Professional Subcommittees consist of 1) Registration and Knowledge Examination, 2) Academic and Professional Standard Development, 3) Professional Ethics and Laws, and 4) Dietetic Educational Institution Assessment.



Photo 6: Dietitians Received a Royal Order



Photo 7: The First Meeting of the Professional Committee to Enact a Royal Decree on 2020

TDA also plays a role in collaboration with the Dietetic Professional Committee, the Bureau of Sanatorium and Arts of Healing, Department of Health Service Support, Ministry of Public Health, in developing work standards so that registered dietitians, nutritionists and dietitians who are licensed as a practitioner of the Arts of Healing can use them as a guideline in their work and keep up with changes in public health.

The Nutrition and Dietetics Program in Thailand

In 1955, Kasetsart University was the first university in Thailand to offer a bachelor’s degree in Home Economics with some courses in food and nutrition but a few courses in dietetics. In 1966, the Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University, offered a bachelor’s degree in Nutrition and Dietetics, with a

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300-hour internship. Later in 2000, the Institute of Nutrition, Mahidol University, in collaboration with the University of Toronto and St. Michael’s Hospital, Canada, offered a full-scale dietetics program, with a master’s degree in Nutrition and Dietetics, focusing on developing students’ skills in clinical dietetics and research, with a 900-1,000-hour internship. In the year 2005, the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, Chulalongkorn University, offered a full-scale bachelor’s degree in Nutrition and Dietetics. Currently, there are 11 universities in Thailand that offer bachelor’s degree programs in Nutrition and Dietetics, and 1 university that offers master’s degree program. The dietetic students who complete the accredited Nutrition and Dietetic program with 900 hour internship are eligible to apply for the registration examination to get a dietitian license.



สมาคมนักกำหนดอาหาร
THE THAI DIETETIC ASSOCIATION

1974



Thai Dietetic Association (TDA) was founded in 1974 as “Thai Dietetic Club” on 2nd February 1974 with 400 members

1976



The First Dietetic Meeting

1978



The First Journal of Dietetics

1991



TDA Co-Founded the Asian Federation of Dietetic Associations (AFDA) in 1991

2005



Thai Dietetic Club Changed to Thai Dietetic Association on 18th March 2005

2008



Thai Dietetic Association Changed to Thai Dietetic Association of Thailand (TDA) on 23rd June 2008

2009

TDA Organized the First Examination for Certified Dietitian of Thailand (CDT) on 31st October 2009. January 2024, there are 3,030 TDA Members Passing CDT Examination

2010



TDA Organized the 5th Asian Congress of Dietetics (ACD 2010)

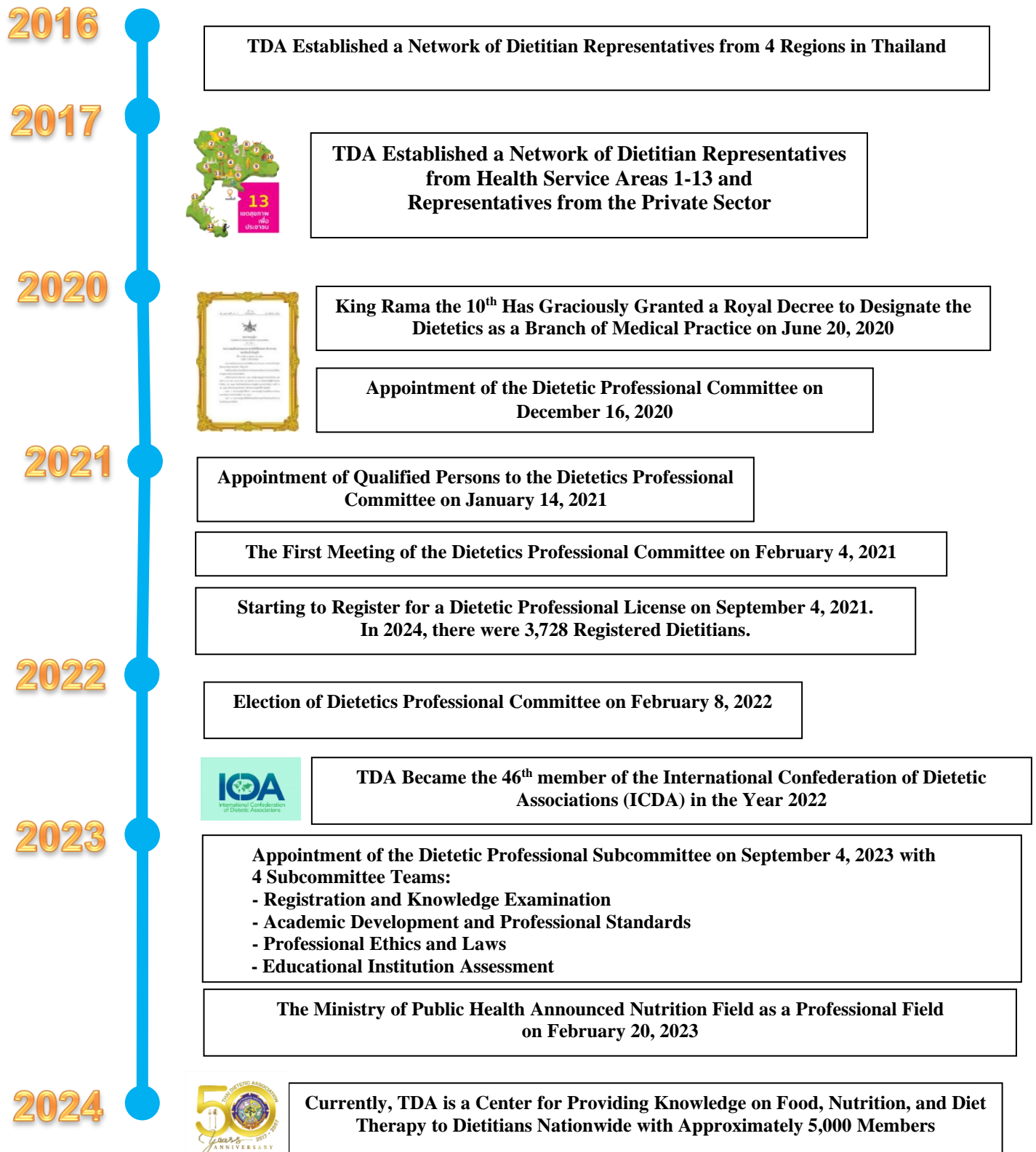


Photo 8: Timeline of Thai Dietetic Association, 1974-2024

The Born of Dietetic Profession in Thailand

Assistant Professor Rasami Kantasewi

The pioneer of dietetic profession and also the first dietitian in Thailand, is Assistant Professor Rasami Kantasewi, a graduate of the Faculty of Arts Chulalongkorn University in 1950. She received a scholarship to study dietetics at Park Ville College, USA. and did a dietetic internship at Standford

Hospital for 1 year. After returning to Thailand, she worked as a dietitian at McCormick Hospital, Chiang Mai for 3 years. In 1957, she transferred to Kasetsart University, Bangkok to work as a lecturer in food, nutrition and diet therapy under the Department of Home Economics for 10 years.



**Photo 9: Assistant Professor Rasami Kantasewi
The Pioneer of Dietetic Profession in Thailand and Her Lovely Family**

In 1965, the Faculty of Medicine, Ramathibodi Hospital was built. Professor Emeritus Dr. Aree Valayasevi, who was a co-founder of the Faculty, wanted someone with knowledge of food, nutrition and dietetics to work with in providing foodservices to hospitalized patients. He invited Asst. Prof. Rasami to work at Ramathibodi Hospital. Later in 1967, she transferred from Kasetsart University to work at Ramathibodi Hospital. Later, she received a Rockefeller scholarship to study hospital food administration at the University of Columbia, Kansas City, Missouri, U.S.A. In 1968, Asst. Prof. Rasami returned to Thailand and made plans to set up Division of Nutrition and Dietetics. She was well aware that there was no curriculum in Nutrition and Dietetics in Thailand at that time, no any course related to diet therapy, administrative and foodservice management for hospitalized patients, which was one reason why those working as dietitians at that time were not aware of their true duties as a dietitian.

On May 3, 1969, Ramathibodi Hospital, was opened for operation. In the early stages of the hospital's opening, Asst. Prof. Rasami devoted herself very hard to her work. Asst. Prof. Rasami initiated and gathered personnel working in the field of nutrition and diet therapy and established the Thai Dietetic Club in February 2, 1974. She received good support

from Professor Emeritus Dr. Aree, who was the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Ramathibodi Hospital at that time. He also allowed the use a part of the Nutrition and Dietetics office as the Thai Dietetic club's office. Asst. Prof. Rasami was elected as the first president of Thai Dietetic Club and had supported the activities of the club all along. She was the one who inspired the Thai medical community to realize the importance and necessity of using nutrition care process as well as medical nutrition therapy in treating patients with nutrition problems and made the physicians recognized the roles of dietitians for providing nutrition and diet therapy as well as diet counseling to patients. In 1974, she received a scholarship from the Netherlands government to study and observe the teaching activities and curriculum of nutrition and dietetics program in Netherlands. Upon returning from the Netherlands, she devoted her time to developing the nutrition and dietetic work under her responsibility.

A 4-month short-term training program "Diet Therapy and Administrative-Foodservice Management" for dietitians and nutritionists working in the hospital, was initiated in 1988 by Asst. Prof. Rasami and her team, along with the distinguished lecturers of the Faculty of Medicine, Ramathibodi Hospital. They realized the importance of providing

training especially nutrition therapy, so that dietitians and nutritionists could apply their knowledge to maximize the benefits of patients. Asst. Prof. Rasmi kindly gave advice in preparing the curriculum. In 1989, the first batch of students of the Diet Therapy and Administrative-Foodservice Management Program was opened under the direction of Mrs. Rujira Sammasut, the head of the Division of Nutrition and Dietetics at that time. The training program has been in operation for 33 batches until now.

Asst. Prof. Rasami retired in 1984. She continuously joined as a special lecturer for the training program. She passed away on June 13, 1998. Asst. Prof. Rasami's good deeds that were evident are worthy of being considered as a role model of dietetic profession to be followed. Most importantly, she was the one who ignited the path for those working as dietitians and nutritionists in the hospital to realize the importance of their work and to have the opportunity to work in accordance with their position and responsibilities. This allowed dietitians to participate in patient care, and made doctors and medical personnel begin to realize the importance of the dietitian profession, and led to advancement in this dietetic career.

Associate Professor Chaowalit Rattanakul

The another pioneer of dietetic profession in Thailand is Associate Professor Chaowalit Rattanakul. She is one of the founding member and Advisory Board of TDA. In addition, she is also a pioneering member of the Thai Nutrition Society. Assoc. Prof. Chaowalit has been in the dietetics field since 1953. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy from Mahidol University, and received a scholarship from the British Council, Thailand to continue her studies in nutrition at the College of Domestic Science, Glasgow, Scotland. Her 6-months clinical nutrition internship covered both in-patient and out-patient at the University College Hospital (London University), Guy's Hospital, Middlesex Hospital, Children's Hospital, and London Hospital in the United Kingdom. In 1961, Assoc. Prof. Chaowalit received another scholarship from Columbia University, New York to further her studies in Public Health, where she had the opportunity to train in the community settings at the Department of Health, Westchester County, New York and at the American Heart Association.

She taught Chemistry at Trium Udom Suksa School before she continued her nutrition degree in the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

She, then, taught Home Economics at Srinakarinviroj University for 21 years until retirement at age 60, where she was Head of Department of Home Economics. Assoc. Prof. Chaowalit's passion in teaching in nutrition, she did not stop at retirement. She continued to work in this field as a volunteer clinical dietitian at Chulalongkorn University Renal Unit, Police Hospital Department of Medicine, Baan Paew Hospital CAPD clinic, and Sirintorn Medical Center Dialysis Unit, providing Medical Nutrition Therapy to patients and in-services on food safety for hospitals' employee in food service department. She wanted to empower hypertensive patients to do self-care for prevention of disease progress. With this practice in mind, she has donated blood pressure machines to the renal units and out-patient units in several hospitals, which are available for loan for interested patients who cannot afford to purchase one. Furthermore, Assoc. Prof. Chaowalit is also a special lecturer on Preventive Measures for Diabetes and Diabetes Against Renal Progression for Vientien University Medical School, Lao. She is a tour lecturer for "Fight Against Diabetes" program sponsored by "Equal"; an honorary member and a special lecturer for the Rotary Club of Phayathai Bangkok; and is a volunteer speaker for the Elderly Club of Samutprakarn and for Chui Chee Foundation. In addition to the volunteer work as a clinical dietitian and special lecturer, Assoc. Prof. Chaowalit has been involved in several research and experimental projects, including the use of FOS in therapeutic diets, the use of combizym in Blenderized Diets to improve formula concentrations.

Assoc. Prof. Chaowalit's accomplishments covered both aspects of education and nutrition practice:

- She translated "Nutrition in Action" and "Nutrition Education in Action" both by Dr. Ethel Austin Martin, which was sponsored by UNICEF, used as a teaching tool in Institutions throughout Thailand.
- She integrated 2 compulsory courses, "School Food Science" and "Human Nutrition" for all students of the Bachelor of Education curriculum with a minor in Nutrition, which combined food sanitation with diet in health and disease topics.
- She wrote papers on school foodservice with emphasis on its nutritional and educational contribution to children, and School Lunch Program based on recommendations from the International Bureau of Education of UNESCO.
- She was a strong voice in the Thai Home Economics Society to recommend the Ministry

of Education to initiate a free school lunch program based on the recommendations from the International Bureau of Education of UNESCO.

- She wrote a handbook for renal patients, made an educational CD of the Thai Renal Food Exchange, and numerous educational tools such as pamphlets and posters on dietary practices.
- She conducted courses on renal diet for renal nurses throughout Thailand.

Assoc. Prof. Chaowalit's motto in life was "students were her VIPs during her teaching days, and patients were her VIPs after her retirement"; in which she continued to work hard in the clinical field and was a role model to every student she has taught. Her ultimate goals for her patients were to prevent diabetes and hypertension's disease progress and complications, for her patients' to have improved quality of life, and for her community to be as green and as healthy as possible. As a teacher and clinical

dietitian, Assoc. Prof. Chaowalit's proudest moments were seeing her students' success in both academia and personal lives, and seeing improvement and stabilization in her patients' conditions. Assoc. Prof. Chaowalit received many recognitions and awards including: Outstanding teacher from Srinakarinviroj University, capable and dedicated nutritionist /dietitian from Police Hospital, valuable contributor to the foundation from the Kidney Foundation of Thailand under Royal Patronage, and conscientious teacher from renal unit of Chulalongkorn Hospital.

At the opening ceremony of the 5th ACD in 2010, Minister of Public Health Jurin Laksanawisit presented "a Lifetime Achievement Award" from TDA to Assoc. Prof. Chaowalit for her significant contributions to the advancement of the field of dietetics as well as her years of dedication and tireless service to all. This prestigious symbol of recognition by her peers was appropriate and well deserved.



Photo 10: At ACD 2010, Minister of Public Health Jurin Laksanawisit presented a plaque of honor to Assoc. Prof. Chawalit Rattanakul who has dedicated herself to the Thai dietetic profession

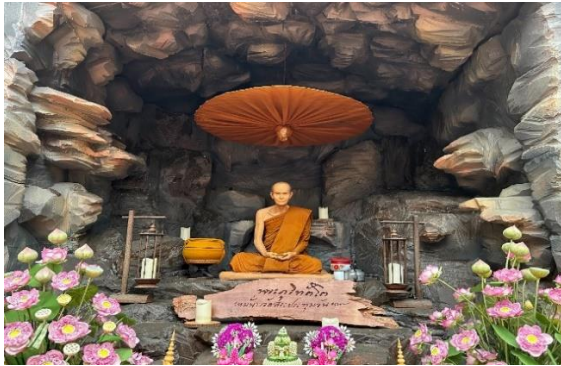


Photo 11: Luang Pu Man Phurittuto, The Headmaster of the Forest Temple Family

On the occasion of Thai Dietetic Association's 50th Anniversary of founding on February 2nd, 1974,

TDA organized a merit-making ceremony to present food and talipot fan to 9 monks for good fortune on February 17th 2024 at Wat Pathumwanaram Ratchaworawihan. The honorary advisory committee and advisory committee of TDA including Professor Emeritus Dr. Kraissid Tantisirin, Professor Emeritus Dr. Thep Himathongkam, Professor Emeritus Dr. Kriang Tangsanga, Mrs. Rujira Sammasut, Assistant Professor Dr. Sunard Taechangam and Mr. Niti Yimyam joined the event, along with the committee and the former committee members of TDA. Thank you to all those who attended the merit-making ceremony. May the benefits of this merit affect everyone who joined in making merit. Be an inspiration to all. Be happy with wealth, good fortune, prosperity, and good health.



Photo 12: TDA Presented Talipot Fan to 9 Monks



Photo 13: Professor Emeritus Dr. Kraissid Tantisirin Honored to Preside over the Merit-Making Ceremony



Photo 14: TDA Honorary Advisory Committee, Advisory Committee Members and the TDA Committee Participated in the Merit-Making Ceremony for the 50th Anniversary of TDA



Photo 15: The Symbol of the TDA 50th Anniversary

The Symbol of TDA 50th Anniversary

TDA has designed a specific symbol for TDA 50th anniversary celebration (Photo 15). The meaning of the TDA 50th Anniversary Symbol is as follows:

The Number 50 is 50 years, arranged in a connected line similar to the infinity symbol, conveying the existence, steadily advancing endlessly.

The Gold Color conveys progress, the wealth of professional value, and steadily advancing endlessly.

The Spoon and Fork are placed in a circle, conveying the plate-spoon and fork, equipment used for food consumption, linked to the TDA logo, showing the association's mission, leading to healthy food consumption and appropriate consumption for diseases.

The TDA Logo is placed in the number 50 years, conveying the 50th anniversary of the Thai Dietetic Association.

The Lines, interlocked into the number 50, represent cooperation in developing TDA towards progress, for healthy food consumption and appropriate consumption for diseases, throughout the 50th year and forever in a sustainable manner.

The Curved Lines, interlocked in a circle, mean providing academic services that meet the needs of Thai society and connecting to the international community.

The Thai Dietetic Association 50th Anniversary Celebration

With this special occasion, TDA arranged a 50th Gold Anniversary Celebration event on the evening of April 28th, 2024, and also organized the 44th TDA Annual Academic Conference 2024 on April 28th – 30th, 2024 at the Berkeley Hotel, Pratunam, Bangkok. TDA has prepared a 50th anniversary commemorative book and a 50th anniversary glass as the token of appreciation for our honorary guests who have supported TDA and also attended the TDA 50th Anniversary Celebration event. Furthermore, our distinguished guests including Professor Emeritus Dr. Kraisid Tantisirin, Professor Emeritus Dr. Thep Himathongkam, Professor Emeritus Dr. Kriang Tangsanga, Professor Dr. Surat Komindr, Professor Dr. Shigeru Yamamoto, Dr. Thares Krasanairawiwong, Dr. Akom Praditsuwan, and Dr. Chwang Leh-Chii, they kindly wrote the congratulatory remarks for TDA 50th Anniversary in the 50th Anniversary commemorative book. TDA committee members would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude for their concern and kindness

There were about 200 honored guests participated in the celebration event. TDA was delighted to have honored guests from alliances in Thailand as shown in Photo 16 including the private partners in Thailand that have supported TDA activities and provided research funds, and also TDA dietitian members from various hospitals in Thailand. Moreover, TDA was grateful to have 15 foreign guests joined the event including our distinguished guests from AFDA country members; Japan Dietetic Association (JDA), Chinese Dietetic Society (CDS, Taiwan), Malaysian Dietitians' Association (MDA) as well as the private stakeholders from Japan that have supported the TDA Dietetic Research Awards. We got good feedback from our guests that they enjoyed very much to join the celebrating of TDA 50th Gold Anniversary. The performance was wonderful with a good show. The food was delicious with the authentic Thai cuisine and nice decoration. Dr. Chwang Lei-Chii, Honorary President of AFDA and President of CDS, Taiwan, commented that TDA did such a wonderful job, and everyone in TDA and alliances would appreciate and remember this significant day.



Photo 16: The Alliances of TDA in Thailand



Photo 17: TDA 50th Anniversary Commemorative Book



Photo 18: TDA 50th Anniversary Glass



Photo 19: TDA 50th Anniversary Portable Stainless Steel Water Bottle

The Souvenirs for TDA 50th Anniversary and Attending TDA Conference 2024



Photo 20: Opening Ceremony of TDA 50th Gold Anniversary Celebration



Photo 21: TDA Committee Members and Honored Guests joined the TDA 50th Anniversary Celebration

TDA 50th Gold Anniversary Celebration Event



Photo 22: Special Puppet Show



Photo 23: Contemporary Performance



Photo 24: Drum Sabatchai Performance



Photo 25: Four Regions Performance



**Photo 26: Ramwong Performance & Guests
Joining the Performance**



Photo 27: Live Music Performance

The Beautiful and Memorable Performances

As mentioned before, TDA organized the 44th TDA Annual Conference 2024 themed “Application of Diet Therapy into Lifestyle Medicine: What we should know”. The conference offered in hybrid meeting platform. There were about 1,600 dietitians and nutritionists attended the conference with 930 onsite participants and 670 online participants. TDA also prepared a 50th anniversary portable stainless steel water bottle as a souvenir to TDA members, dietitians and nutritionists, who joined the academic conference 2024.

To celebrate TDA 50th Anniversary, TDA was honored to have Dr. Opas Karnkawinpong, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Health, presided over the opening ceremony and also gave a special lecture “Lifestyle Medicine: The Importance of Nutrition and Dietetics”. Furthermore, there were 3 special symposia with the 4 invited speakers from abroad. The first symposium was AFDA symposium “What is the Next Path of Asian Dietetic Profession? - Opportunities for Asian Dietetic Challenges”

presented by Dr. Chwang Lee-Chii, Honorary President of AFDA and & Honorary President of CDS, Taiwan; Dr. Teiji Nakamura, President of AFDA and President of JDA; and Madame Mary Easaw, MDA member. The second symposium was “What Dietitians Need for the Future: Evidence-Based Dietetics” presented by Professor Dr. Shigeru Yamamoto from Graduate School of Jumonji University, Japan, and the last symposium was “Symposium of Asian Young Dietitian Network (AYDN)” presented about the establishment and activities of Asian Young Dietitians Network by AYDN members. TDA was delighted to have 19 AYDN members from 12 countries, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam, participated in the Conference. This is especially a stimulating experience for our young dietitians. TDA is looking forward to the new generation of competent young dietitians and wishing them a successful career



Photo 28: His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn



Photo 29: The Exhibition of Timeline for TDA History

The Exhibition of The 44th TDA Annual Academic Conference 2024



Photo 30: Opening Ceremony of TDA Annual Conference 2024



Photo 31: Proceeding of TDA Conference 2024



Photo 32: AFDA symposium - Dr. Chanida Pachotikarn, Dr. Chwang Lee-Chii, Dr. Teiji Nakamura, Mrs. Mary Easaw



Photo 33: Symposium "What Dietitians Need for the Future Evidence-Based Dietetics" Professor Dr. Shigeru Yamamoto



Photo 34: Symposium of Asian Young Dietitian Network



Photo 35: The 19 AYDN Members from 12 Countries

In addition, Professor Emeritus Dr. Maitree Suttajit kindly wrote an article “Lifestyle Care and Dietetics in G6PD Deficiency” as a compliment for TDA 50th Anniversary. He reviewed information on the causes and mechanisms including methods to

prevent life risk in G6PD enzyme deficiency (Photo 36). TDA Committee would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to Professor Emeritus Dr. Maitree Suttajit for the informative article and his kindness.

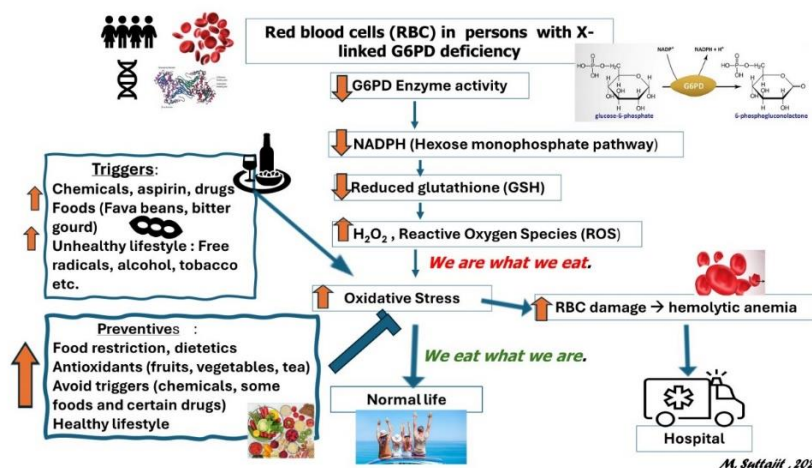


Photo 36: The Causes and Mechanisms including Methods to Prevent Life Risk in G6PD Enzyme Deficiency

Conclusion

In celebration of the TDA 50th Anniversary, give us a chance to reflect on our Thai Dietetic Associations’ history and events, our founders and pioneer leaders as well as the members of TDA who have made great contributions to nutrition and dietetics promotion in Thailand and also to look at the challenges and future directions to come. Our dietetic professions have come a long way with many challenges in the last five decade but yet a unique opportunities for innovation and collaboration among us to promote the value of the dietetic professions that

we can make a difference in health and well-being through food, nutrition and dietetics.

On this occasion, the TDA committee members would like to thank the devoted and committed pioneers and many colleagues that have been untiringly devoted themselves during the past 5 decades. There have been inspiring collaborative events of dietetics through active participation of all TDA members and to upgrade dietetic profession and network linkages for TDA. Especially the TDA members from Nutrition and Dietetic Departments all over the country in 13 health districts who actively

participate regional networking of dietetics among TDA members and have combined the power of unity of the teams and have worked together with good ethics in their professional practice, continuous development and professional advancement. Make the dietetic profession and TDA acceptable to medical professional and the general public and further make the Thai Dietetic Profession move forward to the international level.

Furthermore, we do hope that our Asian dietetic professional members of the National Dietetic Associations in Asia have to join our hands together to enhance health and well-being in Asian population through the innovative evidence-based dietetic practices. Lastly, TDA would like to thank AFDA that brings us to work together toward our mutual vision, moving forward together to accomplish our common goal and to further develop the AFDA through further cooperation of the dietetic associations of each country.

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