



Royal Rain, *Drops of Life*

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This article is the accumulation of occurrences during February and March 2005, regarding the “**drought**” conditions in Thailand. I have routinely gathered data and information by watching, reading and listening to various types of media for several weeks, which continuously presented news on “**drought**” conditions.

This year, the drought is quite severe. It has occurred in almost every part of the country with an estimated lost yield of up to 23,698 million baht.

The total agricultural area of 33.22 million *rai* (13.29 million acres) in 71 provinces, 696 districts, 61 subdistricts, 5,340 tambons and 44,519 villages was greatly damaged, causing more than 11 million people to gravely encounter calamitous conditions. It had been so critical that a great number of villagers had water left for less than 10 days.



Some people had to travel on foot from their village to carry buckets of water from shallow ponds, which are located 2-3 kilometers away, back to the village. Some traveled 5 kilometers by a homemade truck to bring the life-saving water back to their village.

Cultivated crops withered and died, leaving villagers with a loss.

Livestock died due to the lack of water.

Fermented fish were needed especially in Sakon Nakorn Province, because with water sources dried up, the fish was not as abundant as before.

Thailand had never faced anything this severe before.

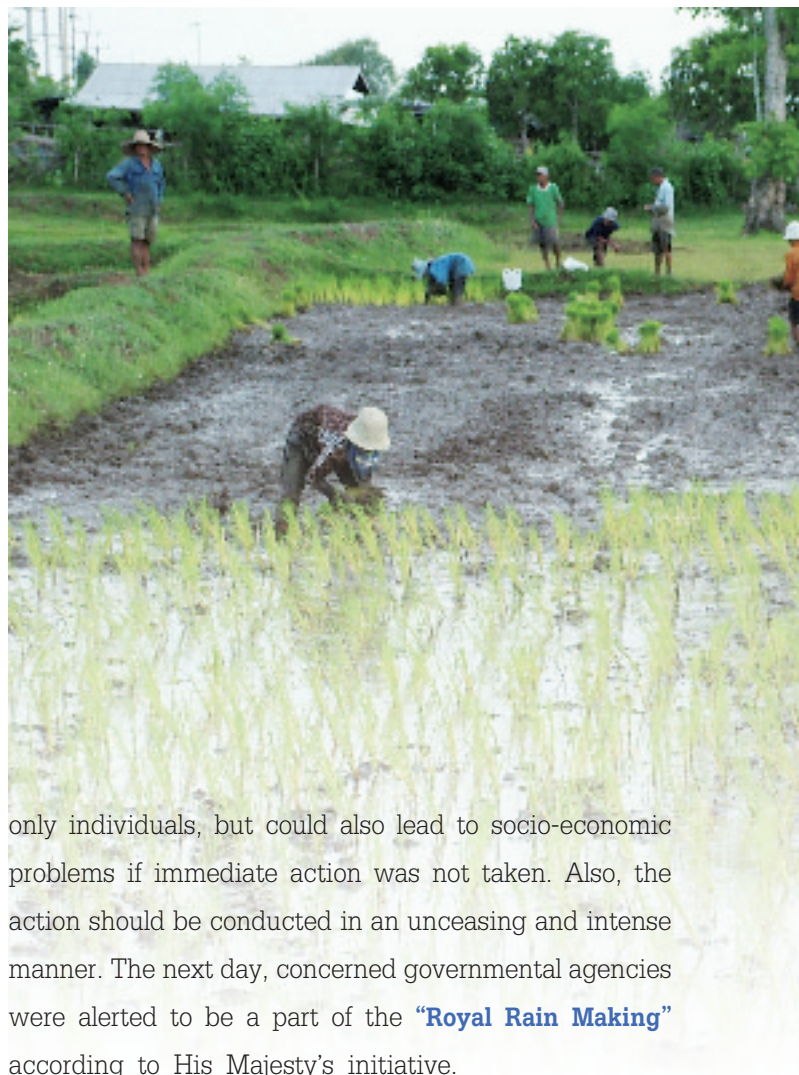
The villagers were upset. The hospitals' water supply was decreased, creating problems for patients.

Animals were also affected, even those in zoos. The zoos had to transfer all the water from the salt lick to be kept in the water tank for the animals in the zoos.

All living beings were struggling for their lives and didn't know where to turn.

Thais are fortunate to have a caring King who, whenever disasters strike, he always lends a helping hand.

On the occasion of presenting the list of cabinet members to His Majesty, on 11 March 2005, the Prime Minister was advised to immediately make the **"Royal Rain"** to relieve the serious drought which affected not



only individuals, but could also lead to socio-economic problems if immediate action was not taken. Also, the action should be conducted in an unceasing and intense manner. The next day, concerned governmental agencies were alerted to be a part of the **"Royal Rain Making"** according to His Majesty's initiative.

Owing to his great concern over the plights of his subjects, His Majesty decided, on 16 March 2005, to establish the **"Royal Rain Making Center"** at Hua Hin District, Prachuab Kirikhan Province in order to ease the drought conditions occurring around the country **His Majesty personally advised and monitored every step of the actions.**

As soon as I finished reading the news, I was stunned and numerous thoughts began coming to my mind.

Thai people are truly blessed with His Majesty's great benevolence.

After contemplating all the thoughts, an idea occurred to me, **"What are we doing?"**

"His Majesty again?"



During 20-21 March 2005, all of the staff participated in the training. His Majesty also gave advice to the pilots and technicians to create common understanding, and to guide their actions so as to proceed in the same directions, as well as to suggest safety precaution.

22 March 2005 was the “D Day”, or the day to launch the making around the country. Since then, the making has been performed constantly in every part of Thailand that is suitable for the rain-making.

Three days later, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives stated that there had been a certain amount of rainfall in 10 provinces, especially in Prachuab Kirikhan and Petchaburi which are located in the Pranburi river basin, resulting in an increase of the water level in Khaen Krachan Dam. Although other areas received only scattered showers, a high of 140 cubic meters of water was eventually stored.

On 29 March 2005, every part of the country received rain, leaving the suffering from water shortages behind, and the critical conditions in some areas were finally ended.





Up till now, there are no guarantees that next year, or the year after, the drought conditions will not return to haunt us.

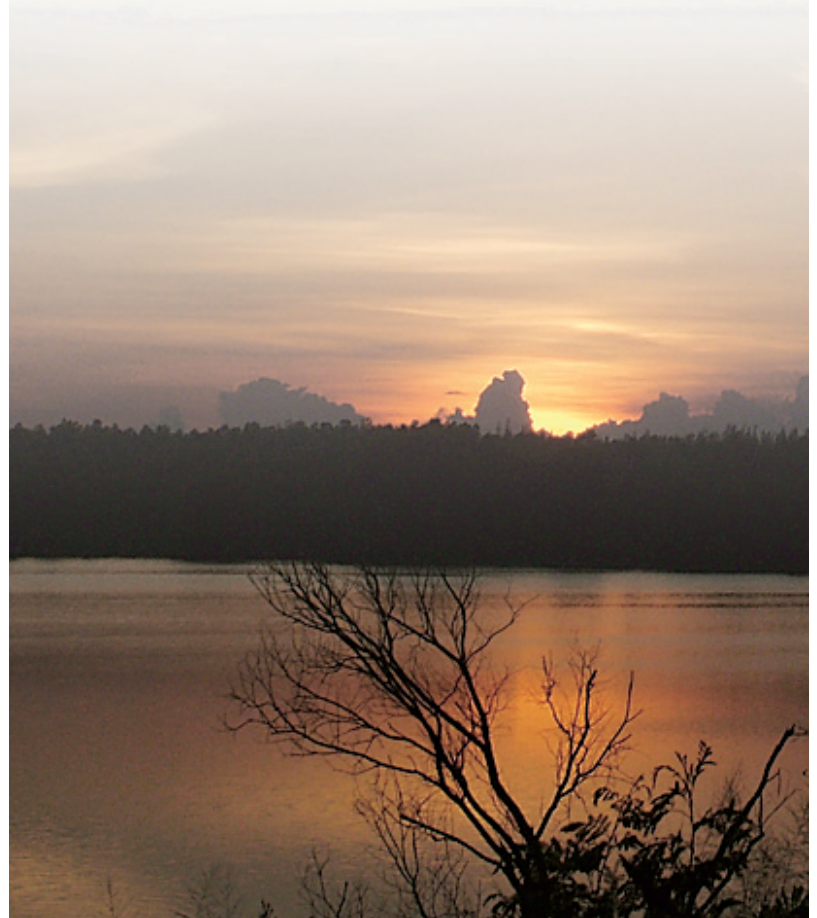
His Majesty, therefore, created a long term plan to prevent this disaster from striking again in the years to come by asking the **Royal Rain Making** to continue its operation all year round, even in the rainy season to increase the inflow and to maintain the water level in the dams at 80% of the total amount of the reserved water in every water resource. In this way, water for consumption and for agricultural purposes will be sufficient for all through the next year and the long dry spell, like the one that happened in the year 2547, will also be prevented. In the past, when dry seasons started, people often hastily rustled up the Royal Rain operation a few months before the situation became severe, but still too late to obtain a sufficient amount of water for everyone.

On 12 April 2005, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives revealed that this year drought conditions had been 80-90% alleviated and a number of the affected provinces has decreased from 71 to 16.

At the end of April and the beginning of May, the dry spells had gradually lessened. This year, the rainy season started in the middle of May, which is earlier than the previous years, due to a high level of humidity in the air caused by the Royal Rain.

Everything returned to its normal state through His Majesty's gracious assistance.

All living beings began to lead their normal lives once again.





By recovering from the critical crisis within 2 months, His Majesty accordingly helped minimize the social and economic losses, and the figure which estimated that the total losses would reach over ten thousand million baht, as well as the lost morale of his subjects, has also been relieved.

His Majesty’s Devotions and Sacrifices to Lead His Subjects to Live with Contentment

A number of foreign news agencies reported on His Majesty’s ingenuity in inventing and developing techniques to create artificial rain. They were amazed by his ingenuity and concerns over his subjects’ hardship. These qualities are rarely seen in any other Kings or other countries’ leaders. The BBC news also broadcast via radio, television and websites throughout the world that these techniques, which were invented by His Majesty and have been in operation for several years,



have now been overwhelmingly profitable, especially as they can make the rain fall accurately and directly on the designated areas.

This year, it is hoped that water will be plentiful, as it was foretold by the “Royal Oxen” in the plowing ceremony. After the oxen ate grass, corn, beans and sesame, it was predicted that water will be abundant all year round.

When the water is plentiful, everything became fresh, bright and alive. The Thai way of life both in the city and countryside will move forward with contentment, **owing to His Majesty’s benevolence.**

It is true that **“Water is Life”.**

