



Guide to Parliament

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Preface

The book titled, “Guide to Parliament” has been translated by English Division, Bureau of Foreign Language from the Thai version published by the Division of Information, Bureau of Public Relation, the Secretariat of the House of Representatives.

Objectives of English publication are to provide general public an introduction to the Parliament of Thailand. The history of the Parliament and other important places, paintings as well as sculptures inside the Parliament is described in this book.

The Bureau of Foreign Languages is highly convinced that the book titled, “Guide to Parliament” will be of considerable benefits to visitors and general public who are cordially welcome during their visit to the Parliament.

Assoc.Prof. Pornsom Sirisambandh
Director of Bureau of Foreign Languages
Secretariat of the House of Representatives

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History of the National Assembly of Thailand

The National Assembly, or the Parliament, of Thailand is the main institution in the democratic government of the country, with His Majesty the King as the Head of State. The Parliament, regarded as one of the three institutions representing sovereign power in the country's administration, is comprised of legislative, executive and judicial power.

On June 27, 1932,
His Majesty King Prajadhipok signed
the 1932 Temporary Act for Siam's
Administration.



On June 24, 1932, the reign of King Prajadhipok or King Rama VII, a group known as “Khana Ratsadorn” (made up of army and navy members, and civilians) revolted against the country's administration, and transformed it from an absolute monarchy to a democratic form of government. The group used the Ananta Samakom Throne Hall as a commander center for discussions relating to the country's administration and the change of mechanism for administration.

Khana Ratsadorn nominated the first group of 70 members of the House of Representatives. On June 28, 1932, the first parliamentary sitting took place at the upper hall of Ananta Samakom Throne Hall. From that time, the Throne Hall had been used for parliamentary sessions.

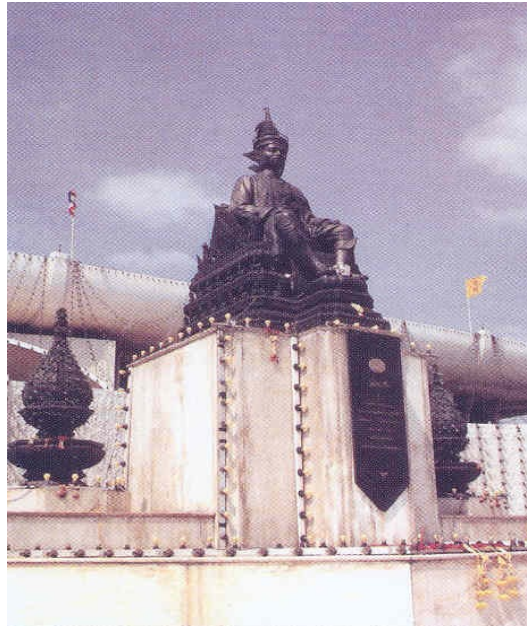


The group of army and navy members, and civilians called, “Khana Ratsadorn”, revolted against the country’s administration, transforming it from an absolute monarchy to a democratic form of government.

As the Thai population grew, the number of members of the House of Representatives rose correspondingly, in parallel to the increase. As a result, the Ananta Samamkom Throne Hall could no longer provide adequate services for parliamentary undertakings. Therefore, a new Parliamentary Building was constructed at the North of the Throne Hall, and came into operation for parliamentary sessions since September 19, 1974.

The Royal Statue of King Prajadhipok

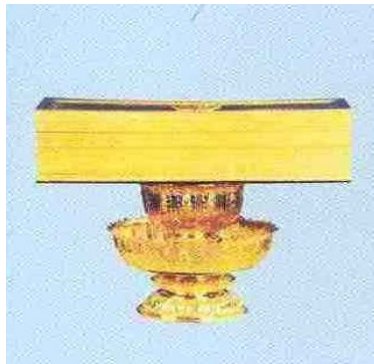
The Royal Statue of King Prajadhipok is situated in front of the Parliament Building 1. His Majesty King Prajadhipok, a King with great mercy in sacrificing his royal power to the Thai people, led the country to a constitutional democratic form of government.



The Royal Statue of King Prajadhipok

Museum of the Thai National Assembly

Museum of the Thai National Assembly is situated under the base of the Royal Statue of King Prajadhipok which is located in front of the Parliamentary Building 1. The museum displays exhibits and documents depicting the history of the Thai parliamentary system, and the evolution of the democratic form of government in Thailand.



Museum of the National Assembly of Thailand provides exhibitions and information concerning the democratic form of government in Thailand.

Parliamentary Buildings

Parliamentary Building 1 is a three-storeyed building situated behind the Royal Statute of King Prajadhipok. It is comprised of



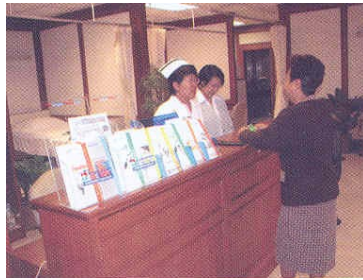
First Floor Parliament Information Point

Providing Parliamentary information service for the Members of the House of Representatives, the officials and the general people



Reception room for the Members of the House of Representatives

Providing facilities for guests/visitors to meet the Members of the House of Representatives



First Aid Room

Providing first aid service for the Members of the House of Representatives and the officials



Ticket Reservation Room

Providing plane, bus and train tickets for the Members of the House of Representatives



Post Office



Press Release Room

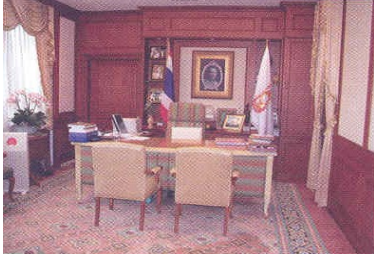
For Members of the House of Representatives and Members of the Senate to issue press releases

Multimedia Room

The Multimedia room offers Thai National Assembly videos, and honorable guests who make courtesy calls to the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Members of the House of Representatives and the Members of the Senate. It also hosts lectures and introduction to Thai National Assembly for guests such as students, and individuals from state and private agencies, as well as the general public.



Second Floor



Office of the President of the National Assembly



Reception room for the Prime Minister and the Ministers

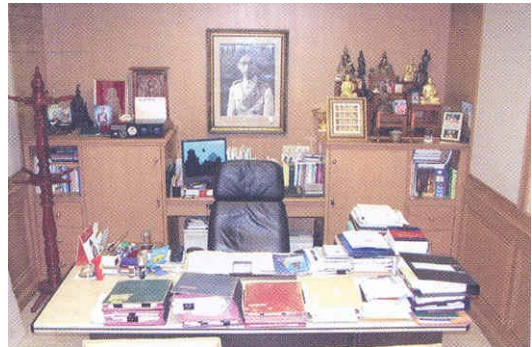


Office of the Government Whip



Cafeteria for the Members of the Parliament

Office of the Secretary-General of the Secretariat of the House of Representatives



Reception room for the Members of the House of Representatives



The Assembly Hall

The Assembly Hall is the most important part of the Parliament, since the enactment of the law for the country, and the approval on major legislative issues occur in this place.

The Hall is large, and round-shaped, under a dome. It is constructed in modern architectural style, providing space, utility, convenience, sophisticated light and sound system, and atmosphere.

All seats are installed with microphones, and electronic voting buttons controlled by a computer system.



Third floor



Office of the First Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives



Office of the Second Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives



Office of the Leader of the Opposition the House of Representatives



Office of the Chairman of the Opposition Whip

E – Knowledge Service providing information for Members of Parliament





**Parliamentary Meeting System and Closed
Circuit Television Control Room**



Offices of Committees' Chairpersons



Parliamentary Building 2 is a three-storeyed building comprising office of the Vice-Speaker of the House of Representatives, Committees' meeting rooms and offices of Committees' Chairpersons.

Parliamentary Building 3

Parliamentary Building 3 is a seven-storeyed building comprising the National Assembly Library, Budgetary meeting room, offices of Committees' chairpersons and Committees' meeting rooms.



The National Assembly Library



Budgetary meeting room



Offices of Committees' Chairpersons

Parliamentary Club Building

Parliamentary Club Building offers a restaurant with a wide range of food and beverages, and a fitness center for Members of Parliament



Parliamentary Television Studio (Studio I)

Parliamentary Television Studio is located on the second floor of Parliamentary Club Building. Its function is to record television programs of the Parliament.



Parliamentary Radio Broadcasting Studio

Parliamentary Radio Broadcasting Studio is located at the Small Parliamentary Club Building behind the Parliamentary Building I. Its function is to broadcast radio programs of the Parliament.

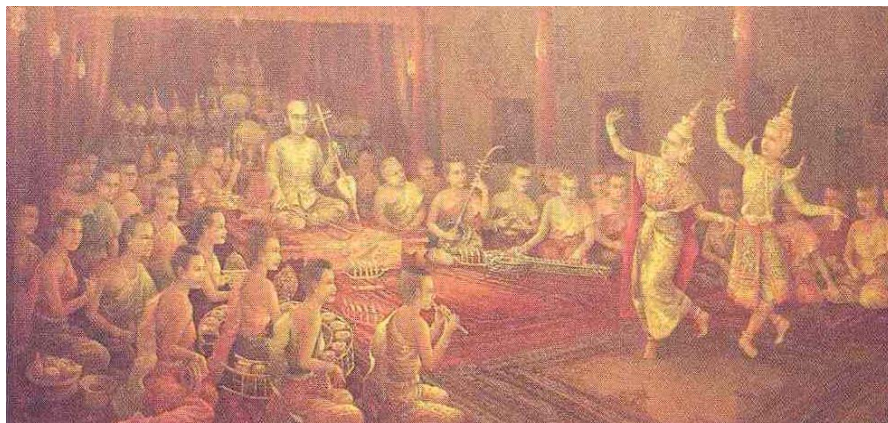


PAINTINGS OF HIS MAJESTY'S ACTIVITIES

There are 50 paintings within the National Assembly Hall showing major activities of Kings Rama I – IX of the Chakri Dynasty. Many are oil paintings by several famous artists, and were given to the Secretariat of the House of Representatives by a sub-committee on the Thai Kings for the Rattanakosin bicentennial celebrations in 1982. The intention was for the people to remember the sacrificial deeds of all Thai Kings for the country and the Thai people.



**King Rama I
establishing the city and
the royal palace.**

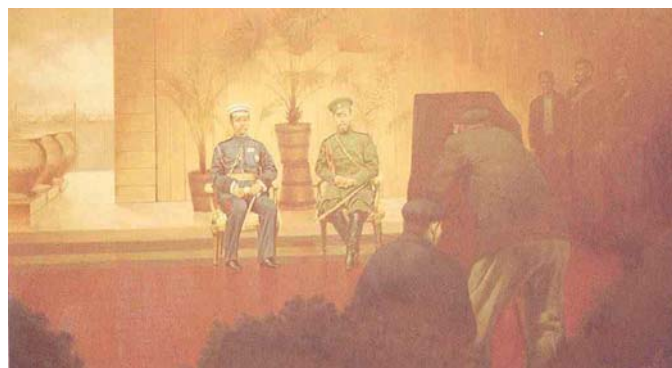


**King Rama II promoting
Thai music and dances**



King Rama III directing the port and royal Chinese junk commerce.

King Rama IV observing and solipse of the Sun at Tambon Wakor.



King Rama V visiting Russia and having a photograph of himself with Sar Nicholas II taken.



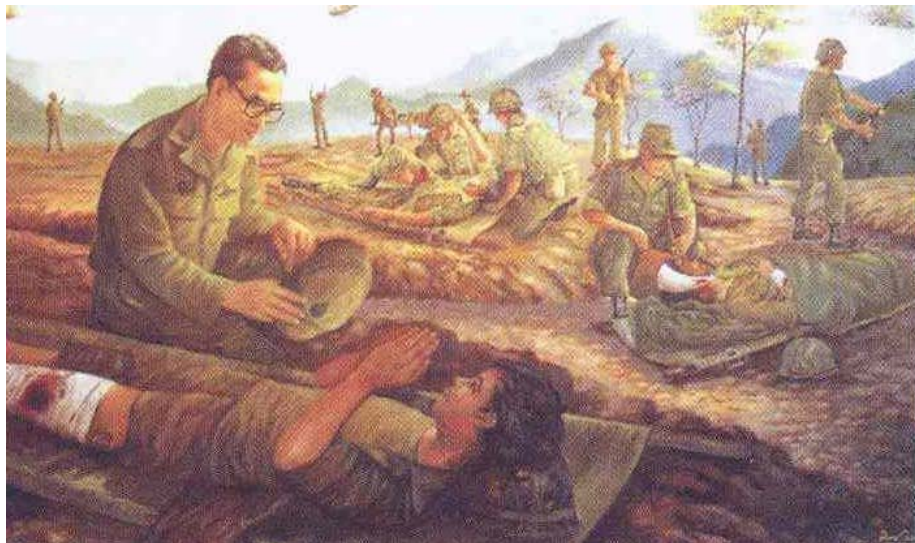
King Rama VI organizing groups of student scouts in various regions of the Kingdom



King Rama VII inaugurating the Pathom Borom Rajanusorn Bridge.



King Rama VIII visiting his subjects in Sampeng.



**King Rama IX visiting soldiers who suffered injuries
in the line of duty for national security.**

Paintings and Sculptures

Oil painting on the second and the third floor of the Assembly Hall display significant royal activities of the Kings in Chakri Dynasty, ranging from Kings Rama I to IX.



The painting of country with red background represents the violence.



The picture of pots containing traditional Thai medicine, representing peace and settlement of disputes.



The picture of leaves sprouting from branches, symbolising the beginning of prosperity of the country.



The picture of dharmachak (a circle of dharma) and symbols of other religions, such as a cross and vine, representing moral principles in the hearts of the people of the country.



The picture represents trade and economy on the basis of equality.



The picture of the constitution, the supreme law, on a bundle of grains, symbolizing a society of farmers.

The picture of the sun shining brightly, symbolizing unity leading the country to prosperity.

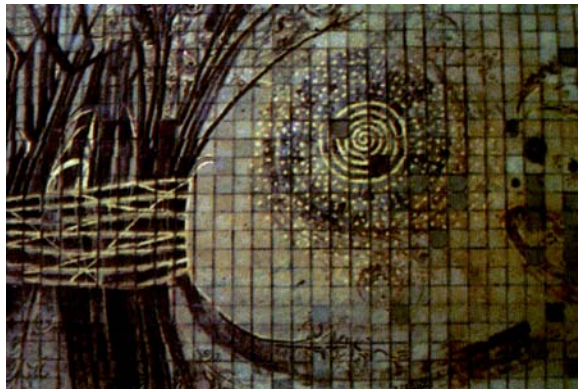


The picture of the inscription stone of King Ramkhamhaeng with an excerpt describing the fight between King Ramkhamhaeng and Khun Samchon on elephants' backs, depicting the sovereignty of Thailand, security and readiness of the Thai people to defend themselves





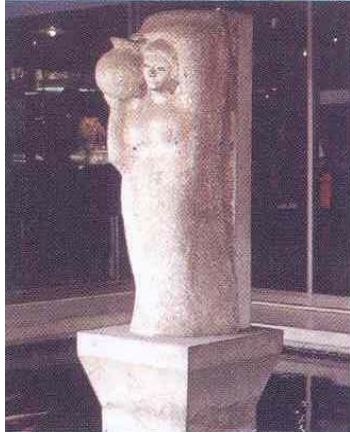
The picture of sculptural works on the exterior of the wall of the Parliament Club Building showing the people's jubilation and happiness after achieving a long-awaited objective.



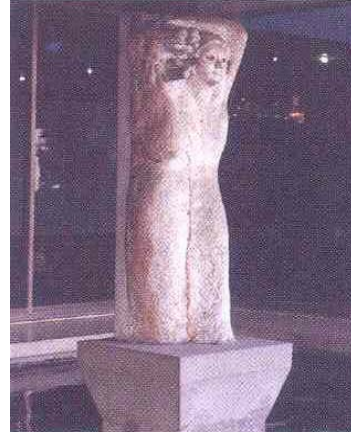
Within the Parliament Club, there are paintings on terracotto mosaic representing the harmony which is the power and armour to protect attacks by enemies. The branches of various kinds of plants symbolize unity of members. The enemy is potrayed as a crab (the symbol of cancer) waiting to destroy the plants on the right.

The picture on the left shows divisiveness as a result of various forms of agitation once there is no unity.

The Stone Sculptures around the Parliamentary Building 1



The “water-jar carrying lady” sculpture at the front, right corner represents “water”.



The “wooden-stick carrying lady” sculpture at the front, left corner represents “earth”.



The flame-shaped sculpture at the left corner represents “industrial power”



The bird sculpture at the rear, right corner represents “wind, cool, tranquility and peace”.

Gatehouse

It is located on the left side of the entrance to the Parliament, and is used for providing information and for issuing identity cards to visitors before entry to the Parliament.



Gatehouse

Beside the Secretariat of the House of Representatives at Thanon [U-Thong Nai, Khet Dusit, Bangkok, there are four offices of the Secretariat of the House of Representatives as follows:

1. Tipco Tower, floors 16th, 17th, 19th and 20th, Thanon Rama 6, Sam Sen Nai, Khet Phaya Thai, Bangkok
2. Thai Military Bank Building, Phaya Thai Branch, Thanon Phaya Thai, Khwaeng Thung Phaya Thai, Khet Rajchathewi, Bangkok
3. The Building of the Secretariat of the House of Representatives, Thanon Pradipat, Bangkok
4. Deeprom Building, Thanon Sukhothai, Khet Dusit, Bangkok