

MECHAI VIRAVAIIDYA

Current Positions

- Founder and Chairman:
- Population and Development International (PDI)
 - Population and Community Development Association (PDA)
 - Mechai Viravaidya Foundation (MVF)
- Founder and Headmaster:
- Mechai Pattana School

Past Positions

- Senator, National Assembly, Thailand, 1987-1991, 1996-2000, 2000-2006
- Minister of the Prime Minister's Office, 1991-1992
- Deputy Minister of Industry, 1985-1986
- Cabinet Spokesman, 1986-1988
- Ambassador, UNAIDS, 1999-2009
- Visiting Scholar, Harvard Institute for International Development, Harvard University, 1988-1989
- CEO, Provincial Waterworks Authority of Thailand, 1982-1985
- Research Associate, Center for Population and Family Health, Columbia University, 1979-1981
- Senior Economist, Economic Cooperation Center for the Asian and Pacific Region (ECOCEN), 1971-1973
- Economist, National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB), Development Evaluation Division, 1966-1971

Current National and International Affiliations

- Member, UNAIDS High Level Commission on HIV Prevention¹
- Chairman, National Economic Stimulus and Community Empowerment Program
- Chairman, Thailand Environmental Institute
- Chairman, Napamit Climate Change Foundation
- Trustee, Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI)
- Deputy Chairman, Thai Rice Foundation
- Member, The National Committee for HIV and AIDS Prevention and Alleviation
- Member, The National Committee on Reproductive Health Development
- Trustee, Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation
- Member, PATH Foundation –Philippines

Past National Affiliations

- Chairman, Telephone Organization of Thailand (TOT)
- Chairman, Krung Thai Bank (Public Company Limited)
- Chairman, Petroleum Authority of Thailand Exploration and Production Public Co., Ltd. (PTT-EP)
- Chairman, Eastern Water Resources Development and Management Co., Ltd.
- Chairman, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
- Chairman, Tourism Authority of Thailand
- Chairman, National Public Information Committee
- Chairman, National Sports Authority
- Chairman, Advisory Committee on AIDS to the Prime Minister
- Member, National Environmental Board
- Member, National Cultural Commission
- Member, National Family Planning Committee

¹ Information on UNAIDS High Level Commission: http://mechaifoundation.org/Downloads/UNAIDS_Press_Release_July2010.pdf

- Member, Narcotics Control Board
- Member, National Research Council of Thailand on Social Sciences
- Member, National AIDS Prevention Committee
- Advisor to the Governor of Bangkok
- Chairman, Foundation for International Education
- Member, National Committee for Social Development
- Member, National Rural Development Committee (NRDC)
- Member, National Science Museum Organization
- Chairman, Business Day Newspaper
- Director, Capital Nomura Securities

Past Trustee of Universities

- National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA), Chairman of Council
- Mahidol University
- Ramkhamhaeng University
- Silpakorn University
- Khon Kaen University
- Suranaree University of Technology
- Webster University

Past International Affiliations

- Trustee, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Philippines
- Trustee, The Population Council, New York City, USA
- Trustee, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Gland, Switzerland
- Member, Global Commission on AIDS, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland
- Member representing Thailand, The ASEAN Eminent Persons' Group on Vision 2020
- Trustee, Population Services International, Inc., Washington DC, USA

Awards

- **Prince Mahidol Award for Public Health** (2009), for outstanding contributions in the field of public health for the sake of the well-being of the people. This prize was created in honor of His Royal Highness, Prince Mahidol, father of the current King of Thailand.
- **Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship** (2008), in recognition of the creative, innovative models for sustainable change which have yielded significant impact in tackling the world's most urgent and economic challenges. The award accompanies a prize of one million dollars US.
- **Gates Award for Global Health** (2007), the world's largest international health prize in recognition of pioneering programs in family planning, HIV/AIDS prevention, and awareness building. The award accompanies a prize of one million dollars US.
- **Nikkei Asia Prize for Regional Growth** (2007), awarded for efforts to raise the quality of living and income levels of poor rural communities in Thailand.
- **Time Magazine Asian Hero Award** (2006), to mark 60 years of publication in Asia, 60 Asians were recognized for their contribution over the past six decades. Mechai Viravaidya was chosen as one of sixty Asian Heroes in recognition of dedication to helping the rural poor of Thailand through family planning and by curbing the spread of the HIV epidemic through a combination of result-oriented policy making and grassroots educational campaigns.
- **Special Lifetime Achievement Award** (2006), from the Asian Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility.

- **International Co-operation Prize of the All China Population Award** (1998), in recognition of dedication to the population and family planning endeavour and promotion of friendship between Thailand and China.
- **United Nations Population Award** (1997), in recognition of the most outstanding contribution to the awareness of population questions and to their solutions.
- **Asiaweek Magazine Twenty Great Asians Award** (1995), recognized as one of twenty Great Asians during the period 1975-1995 for his pioneering work in family planning and HIV/AIDS prevention, as well as for his avant-garde vision of engaging the business sector in rural development (what is nowadays commonly known as “Corporate Social Responsibility” or “CSR”).
- **The Ramon Magsaysay Award** for Public Service (1994), in recognition for mounting creative public campaigns in Thailand to promote family planning, rural development, and HIV/AIDS prevention.
- **International Health Award for Outstanding Leadership** (1990), presented by the National Council for International Health USA, in recognition of his work in health, population, and development in Thailand, and for setting a standard for innovative and creative leadership for the international health community.
- **Hugh Moore Award** (1989), presented by the Population Action International USA for innovation and vision in the population field.
- **Margaret Sanger Award** (1985), presented by the Planned Parenthood Federation of America to honor significant contributions to the worldwide family planning movement.
- **Silver Shell Outstanding Citizen Award** (1982), Presented by the Public Relations Association of Thailand for achieving major attitudinal changes in society.
- **United Nations Gold Peace Medal and the Paul G. Hoffman Award** (1981), for achievements in advancement of family planning and integrated health and community well-being at the grassroots level in Thailand.

Honorary Degrees

- Honorary Doctorate of Community Development (2008) - Mahasarakham University, Thailand
- Honorary Doctorate of Commerce and Marketing (2007) - Thammasat University, Thailand
- Honorary Doctorate of Development Economics (2002) - The Nation Institute Development Administration (NIDA), Thailand
- Honorary Doctorate of Community Development (1997) - Khon Kaen University, Thailand
- Honorary Doctorate of Laws (1993) - The University of Melbourne, Australia
- Honorary Doctorate of Population and Development (1992) - The National Institute Development Administration (NIDA), Thailand
- Honorary Doctorate of Science in Health Education (1991) - Srinakharinwirot University, Prasarnmit, Thailand
- Honorary Doctorate of Medicine (1989) - Monash University, Melbourne, Australia
- Honorary Doctorate of Information Science (1989) - Ramkhamhaeng University, Thailand
- Honorary Doctorate of Social Sciences (1983) - Mahidol University, Thailand
- Fellow of the Trinity College Faculty (1999) - The University of Melbourne, Australia
- Fellow (HONORIS CAUSA) of the Australasian Faculty (1995) - Public Health Medicine of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians

Decorations

- Honorary Officer in the General Division (AO) of the Order of Australia (1995)
- The Commander’s Cross of the Order of the Federal Republic of Germany (1994)
- Knight Grand Cordon (Special Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant (1991)
- Knight Grand Cordon (Special Class) of the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand (1989)
- Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant (1986)
- Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand (1985)

Education

- Bachelor of Commerce, Melbourne University, Australia (1964)
- Geelong Grammar School, Victoria, Australia
- Vajiravudh College, Thailand

Family

- Married to Thanpuying Putrie Viravaidya, His Majesty the King's Deputy Principal Private Secretary
- Daughter: Sujima Viravaidya
- Son-in-Law: Krisada Saengchaiwutthikun
- Grandchildren: Mek and Mok (5-year old twins)

Contact Information

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