

## Royal Institute Act, B.E. 2544 (2001)

Translation

Bhumibol Adulyadej, Rex.

Given under our Hand this 31st Day of October, B.E. 2544 (2001);

Being the 56th Year of our Reign

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej is graciously pleased to proclaim that:

Whereas it is desirable to revise the law on the Royal Institute;

Be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the National Assembly, as follows:

### Section 1

This Act shall be cited as the "Royal Institute Act, B.E. 2544 (2001)".

### Section 2

This Act shall come into force as from the day following the date of its publication in the Government Gazette.

### Section 3

The followings shall be repealed:

- (1) The Royal Institute Act, B.E. 2485 (1942);
- (2) The Royal Institute Act (No. 2), B.E. 2487 (1944).

### Section 4

The Royal Institute established under the Royal Institute Act, B.E. 2485 (1942), shall become the Royal Institute under this Act.

### Section 5

The Prime Minister shall be in charge of this Act.

## Chapter 1

### General Provisions

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### Section 6

The Royal Institute shall be a government agency with a different title and a departmental status, but not attached to the Office of the Prime Minister, ministry or bureau, pursuant to the law on national government organization.

### Section 7

The Royal Institute shall be invested with the following authority:

- (1) To study, research into and maintain all kinds of knowledge, and distribute the beneficial outcomes to the Nation and its people;
- (2) To exchange knowledge and provide academic cooperation with the domestic and foreign learned organizations and academic institutes;
- (3) To render to the Prime Minister or Council of Ministers academic opinions, recommendations and advice;

- (4) To provide academic services to the government agencies, state enterprises, constitutional independent agencies, public organizations, other state agencies, educational institutes, private agencies and the public;
- (5) To carry out work as to the publication of dictionaries, encyclopedia, alphabetic indexes and taxonomy, the academic coinage, the translation of foreign academic terms into Thai language and other academic affairs;
- (6) To regulate the usage of Thai language, preserve Thai language against degeneration and enhance the value of Thai language which is the identity of the Nation;
- (7) To carry out other activities placed under the authority of the Royal Institute by the laws.

### **Section 8**

The academic affairs of the Royal Institute shall be divided into the following academies:

- (1) The Academy of Moral and Political Sciences;
- (2) The Academy of Science;
- (3) The Academy of Arts.

The establishment of the new academies and the dissolution, consolidation or separation of the existing academies shall be effected by the royal decrees.

### **Section 9**

The determination of the academic fields in each academy and the division of each field into branches shall be effected by the ordinances of the Royal Institute Senate.

### **Section 10**

The ordinances of the Royal Institute Senate shall be published in the Government Gazette.

## **Chapter 2 Members**

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### **Section 11**

The members of the Royal Institute are of three types:

- (1) Associate fellows;
- (2) Fellows;
- (3) Honorary fellows.

### **Section 12**

An associate fellow is a person who is qualified under Section 13 and Section 14, and applies for an associate fellowship in any specific academy according to an ordinance of the Royal Institute Senate and is so accepted by a resolution of such academy.

### **Section 13**

An associate fellowship applicant must be of the qualifications and not be attacked by the disqualifications as follows:

- (1) Being a Thai national;
- (2) Having attained the thirty fifth year of age;
- (3) Not being an incompetent or quasi-incompetent person;

- (4) Not having been sentenced by a final judgment to imprisonment, save where the sentence was in consequence of a negligent offence or misdemeanor;
- (5) Not seriously failing to maintain good behavior.

#### **Section 14**

An associate fellowship applicant must be qualified as an expert in any specific academic field, with a degree, certificate or academic position not lower than that prescribed in an ordinance of the Royal Institute Senate, and must have exhibited his own competence on a basis of such qualification in any of the following manners:

- (1) Having carried out academic, artistic or vocational work with ability to the extent bringing about recognized honor to himself;
- (2) Having originated or improved an invention, method or academic principle which is of recognized use according to the opinion of the Royal Institute;
- (3) Having composed or modified a written work which is considerably good according to the opinion of the Royal Institute and has been published.

#### **Section 15**

The number of the associate fellows in each academy and the criteria and procedure on their recruitment and acceptance shall be set forth in an ordinance of the Royal Institute Senate.

#### **Section 16**

A fellow is an associate fellow appointed as a fellow in any specific academic field subject to the authority of the Royal Institute by the King upon the advice of the Prime Minister following a recommendation of the Royal Institute Senate.

#### **Section 17**

The number of the fellows in each academy, appointment of new fellows, filling of vacant fellowships and selection of associate fellows to fill the newly established fellowships or vacant fellowships shall be governed by the criteria and procedure determined in an ordinance of the Royal Institute Senate.

#### **Section 18**

An honorary fellow is a person of recognized qualification, reputation and credit in any specific academic field subject to the authority of the Royal Institute and having cooperated with the Royal Institute on an academic work of use to its business, and is appointed as such by the King upon the advice of the Prime Minister following a recommendation of the Royal Institute Senate.

#### **Section 19**

A member of the Royal Institute shall enjoy the following rights and benefits:

- (1) Associate fellow:
  - (a) To be entitled to allowances according to the rules of the Royal Institute;
  - (b) To wear the official brooches pursuant to the rules of the Royal Institute Senate;
  - (c) To attend and express opinions or debate amongst the meetings of the academies or Royal Institute Senate, but not entitled to vote thereat;
- (2) Fellow:
  - (a) To be entitled to allowances according to the rules of the Royal Institute;
  - (b) To wear the official brooches pursuant to the rules of the Royal Institute Senate;
  - (c) To be esteemed at the same level as a government officer of director general rank when attending the royal ceremonies or official ceremonies or parties;

- (3) Honorary fellow:
  - (a) To wear the official brooches pursuant to the rules of the Royal Institute Senate;
  - (b) To be esteemed at the same level as a government officer of director general rank when attending the royal ceremonies or official ceremonies or parties;
  - (c) To attend the meetings of the Royal Institute Senate as an advisor.

### **Section 20**

A member of the Royal Institute shall vacate his membership upon:

- (1) Death;
- (2) Resignation;
- (3) Lacking the qualification under Section 13 (1) or being attacked by the disqualification under Section 13 (3) or (4);
- (4) Being sentenced by a final judgment to imprisonment, save where the sentence is in consequence of a negligent offence or misdemeanor;
- (5) Removal resolved by not less than two third of the total number of the fellows present at a meeting of the Royal Institute Senate on any of the following grounds:
  - (a) For six consecutive months or more and without justifiable reason, having been absent from the meetings of the academy of which the person in question is a member;
  - (b) Seriously failing to maintain good behavior.

In cases a fellow vacates office; the President of the Royal Institute shall refer the matter to the Prime Minister to further be forwarded to the King for his acknowledgement.

### **Section 21**

An incumbent fellow who is incapable of regularly discharging his functions due to senility, disability or infirmity, or a fellow vacating office on account of being adjudged incompetent or quasi-incompetent shall be entitled to special living allowances pursuant to the rules of the Royal Institute, if he is found deserving such assistance by his academy.

## **Chapter 3**

### **Operation**

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### **Section 22**

There shall be an assembly in the Royal Institute, called "Royal Institute Senate", and consisting of:

- (1) The President of the Royal Institute under Section 23, paragraph 1, as Chairperson;
- (2) The two Vice Presidents of the Royal Institute under Section 23, paragraph 1, as Vice Chairpersons;
- (3) All fellows as Senators.

The Secretary General of the Royal Institute shall serve as Secretary of the Senate, and the Deputy Secretaries General, Assistant Secretaries.

### **Section 23**

The Royal Institute Senate shall elect one fellow to be appointed as President of the Royal Institute, and two, as Vice Presidents. It shall then submit a list of the electees to the Prime Minister who shall then forward it to the King for further appointment.

The criteria and procedure for election of President and Vice Presidents of the Royal Institute shall be set forth in an ordinance of the Royal Institute Senate.

### **Section 24**

The President of the Royal Institute shall be invested with the following authority:

- (1) To represent the Royal Institute in the activities under Section 7 (2);
- (2) To supervise the administration of academic business of the Royal Institute in pursuance of the policies, ordinances, rules and resolutions of the Royal Institute Senate;
- (3) To set up the committees under Section 34.

### **Section 25**

The Vice Presidents of the Royal Institute shall be given the following authority:

- (1) To render certain duties on behalf of the President as authorized by the President;
- (2) To act as the President ad interim in cases the office of President is vacant or its holder is incapable of functioning.

### **Section 26**

Each of the President and Vice Presidents of the Royal Institute shall be in office for a term of two years and may be reelected, but none of them may hold office for more than two consecutive terms.

In the event that the President or Vice President of the Royal Institute vacates office on grounds of term expiry, he shall continue to be in office until the newly elected President or Vice President, as the case may be, assumes office.

### **Section 27**

In addition to term expiry under Section 26, the President or Vice President of the Royal Institute shall vacate office upon:

- (1) Resignation from the office of President or Vice President;
- (2) Vacation of membership under Section 20.

### **Section 28**

In the event that the President or Vice President of the Royal Institute vacates office prior to the expiry of his term, an election shall be held to have the vacant office filled. But if the remaining term of the President or Vice President in question is less than ninety days, the election may be withheld. The electee shall be in office for the remaining period of his predecessor.

### **Section 29**

The Royal Institute Senate shall have the following authority:

- (1) To lay down the policies concerning academic work under the authority of the Royal Institute;
- (2) To approve the determination of academic fields in the academies and the division of each field into branches;
- (3) To approve the establishment, consolidation or separation of academies;
- (4) To approve the enactment of the ordinances and rules on the administration of business of the Royal Institute;

- (5) To elect the President and Vice Presidents of the Royal Institute, as well as to approve the appointment of the fellows and honorary fellows;
- (6) To approve and endorse the activities within the scope of functions of the Senate as proposed by the President of the Royal Institute.

### **Section 30**

The conduct of meetings of the Royal Institute Senate shall be governed by an ordinance of the Royal Institute Senate.

There shall be at least four meetings a year to discuss, consider and carry out the matters pursuant to the authority herein prescribed.

### **Section 31**

The fellows in each academy shall elect one amongst themselves to serve as the chair of their academy, and another one, as the secretary of the same. The President of the Royal Institute shall submit a list of the electees to the Prime Minister for further appointment. Such appointment shall be effected by an announcement of the Royal Institute.

The criteria and procedure on election of the chairs and secretaries of the academies shall be determined in an ordinance of the Royal Institute Senate.

### **Section 32**

The chairs and secretaries of the academies shall each be in office for a term of two years and may be reelected, but may not hold office for more than two consecutive terms.

With respect to the chairs and secretaries of the academies, the provisions of Section 26, paragraph 2, Section 27 and Section 28 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the holding and vacation of office.

### **Section 33**

The conduct of meetings of the academies shall be governed by an ordinance of the Royal Institute Senate.

The fellows and associate fellows bear the duty to attend the meetings of their respective academies and shall be entitled to present their academic studies thereat, subject to the rules of the Royal Institute Senate.

### **Section 34**

In the Royal Institute, there shall be one or more academic committees in charge of each academic branch. The committees are set up by the President of the Royal Institute and obliged to undertake certain business within the scope of authority of the Royal Institute under Section 7 (5) and (6).

In addition to the academic committees under paragraph 1, the President of the Royal Institute shall be empowered to set up other committees to carry out any activities within the scope of authority of the Royal Institute Senate.

The members of the academic committees under paragraph 1 and other committees under paragraph 2 shall be entitled to remunerations as determined by the Council of Ministers.

### **Section 35**

There shall be a Royal Institute Promotion Board consisting of:

- (1) The Vice President of the Royal Institute designated by the President of the same, as chairperson, and the other Vice President of the Royal Institute as vice chairperson;
- (2) The chairs and secretaries of all academies as members;
- (3) The fellows not being the chairs or secretaries of the academies as members, said each one of them being appointed by each academy;
- (4) The Secretary General of the Royal Institute as member and secretary, and the Deputy Secretaries General of the same, as members and assistant secretaries.

The Royal Institute Promotion Board shall be charged with the duty to render advice and recommendations to the Royal Institute through its President, and to cooperate on and support the administration of business of the Royal Institute.

The appointment and terms of office of the members under (3), as well as the administration of business and conduct of meetings of the Board under paragraph 1 shall be subject to the rules of the Royal Institute Senate.

### **Section 36**

There shall be one Secretary General of the Royal Institute, being the chief of the government officers in the Royal Institute, being responsible for the administration of its official business and being obliged to exercise his own duties in conformity to the policies, ordinances, rules and resolutions of the Royal Institute Senate. There may also be the Deputy Secretaries General of the Royal Institute.

The Secretary General and Deputy Secretaries General of the Royal Institute shall be the ordinary civil officers.

The Secretary General of the Royal Institute shall be appointed from an ordinary civil officer of knowledge and expertise in any of the academic fields subject to the authority of the Royal Institute and in the field of public administration. The appointment shall be proceeded with in pursuance of the law on civil service.

## **Transitory Provisions**

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### **Section 37**

The associate fellows, fellows and honorary fellows incumbent on the date of publication of this Act in the Government Gazette shall become the associate fellows, fellows and honorary fellows under this Act, as the case may be.

### **Section 38**

The committees of the Royal Institute active on the date of publication of this Act in the Government Gazette shall become the committees under this Act.

### **Section 39**

The President of the Royal Institute, Vice Presidents of the Royal Institute, chairs of the academies and secretaries of the academies elected under Section 20 of the Royal Institute Act, B.E. 2485 (1942), and incumbent on the date of publication of this Act in the Government Gazette, shall remain in their respective offices until the expiry of their terms.

The Secretary General of the Royal Institute elected under Section 20 of the Royal Institute Act, B.E. 2485 (1942), and incumbent on the date of publication of this Act in the Government Gazette, shall vacate his office and assume the office of Vice President of the Royal Institute under this Act until the term of his former office of Secretary General expires.

The holding of offices of the officers under paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not constitute the terms of office under this Act.

### **Section 40**

Pending enactment of an ordinance of the Royal Institute Senate determining the academic fields in each academy pursuant to Section 9, the provisions of Section 8, Section 9 and Section 10 of the Royal Institute Act, B.E. 2485 (1942), shall apply for the time being.

### **Section 41**

Pending enactment of an ordinance of the Royal Institute Senate on conduct of meetings according to Section 30, paragraph 1, the provisions of Section 24 of the Royal Institute Act, B.E. 2485 (1942), shall apply for the time being.

## Section 42

All rules, regulations and announcements which have been issued under the Royal Institute Act, B.E. 2485 (1942), and the Royal Institute Act (No. 2), B.E. 2487 (1944), and which are effective on the date of publication of this Act in the Government Gazette, shall remain in operation to the extent not contrary to or inconsistent with this Act, until they are replaced by the ordinances or rules under this Act.

Countersigned by:

Police Lieutenant Colonel Thaksin Shinawatra

Prime Minister

### Remark:

The grounds for promulgation of this Act are as follows:

The Royal Institute Act, B.E. 2485 (1942), has been in force for so long. Also, the functions of the Royal Institute in respect of the conduct of study and research and the provision of academic services to the Government, state agencies and people, have considerably been extended, especially the work of improving and revising the Royal Institute Dictionary, for the sake of its completion and modernity, and for the purpose of serving as a standard of correctly and regularly writing, pronouncing and using Thai words, the work of publishing encyclopedia, alphabetic indexes and taxonomy, academic coinage, translation of foreign academic terms into Thai language in the interest of public education, and the work of researching into foreign books and texts and promoting the regular use of Thai technical terms instead of those in foreign languages, with a view to promoting the identity of Thai language. So as to respond to the prevailing roles, missions, duties and circumstances of the Royal Institute, it is expedient to improve the organizational structure and system of administration of academic and executive business and to increase the authority of the Royal Institute with respect to the creation of academic work. It is therefore necessary to enact this Act.

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