

LAUDATIO Honorary Membership

Prof.Dr. Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn Mahidol

The Board of Directors decided unanimously to give the Honory Membership to Professor Dr. Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn Mahidol.

Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn Mahidol, born in 1957, is the youngest daughter of Their Majesties King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Queen Sirikit of Thailand.

She made her B.Sc in Organic Chemistry with First Class Honours, she finished her PhD at the Mahidol University in Bangkok and made a post doctoral training at the University in Ulm, Germany.

As a qualified scientist, she has always attached the greatest importance to the role of science in social and economic development, and accordingly originally conceived the idea of creating a national institute to assist in the development of Thailand.

H.R.H. Princess Chulabhorn is now Professor of Chemistry at Mahidol University where she joined the faculty in 1985. Her special research interests are in the chemistry of natural products and in Thai medicinal plant, environmental health problems of developing countries and cancer research. She was the third person in the world to be awarded UNESCO's Einstein Medal for her continuous effort in promoting scientific collaboration in Asia and the Pacific, and she was the first Asian to be invited to join the Royal Society of Chemistry, in England, as an Honorary Fellow. She is also chairperson of the Working Group on the Chemistry of Natural Products collaborative programme between the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and the National Research Council of Thailand.

H.R.H. Princess Chulabhorn has received international recognition for her scientific accomplishments in her appointment to various United Nations posts, namely special advisor to the United Nations Environment Programme and member of the Special High-Level Council for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction of the United Nations. In addition, she has also been visiting professor at universities in Germany, Japan and U.S.A., and has received numerous honorary doctoral degrees from universities in U.S.A., U.K., Japan and elsewhere. Recently she has received the 2002 Environmental Mutagen Society-Hollaender International fellow Award.

In 2006 Her Royal Highness received the Nagoya Special Award Gold Medal in recognition of her vision and for her dedication and efforts in promoting science in general and organic chemistry in particular. In 2007 Her Royal Highness was awarded the Albert Hoffmann Centennial Gold Medal from the University of Zurich for her outstanding contribution to the Chemistry of Natural Products. In 2008 Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn received Special Award in recognition of her contributions to science from the World Academy of Art and Science. Earlier this year Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn was awarded the Honorary Visiting Professorships from Fudan University and Nanjing University in China.

GA is awarding Professor Dr. Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn Mahidol the Honorary Membership in recognition of her important contributions to medicinal plant research, her continuous effort in promoting scientific collaboration, and her long and intense engagement to solve environmental health problems of developing countries.