

### BJD to Activity & The Prosthesis Foundation in Thailand

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In the last decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, World Health Organization (WHO) declared the famous slogan of “Health for All” in the year 2000. The message got through and was well accepted by every national health personnel and organization. The effect manifested itself years later in promoting health and life expectancy. The incidences of aging citizens are observed. However, the value of health should not be placed only on longevity. Rather, the most important issue is on Quality of Life (QOL).

To promote the awareness of bone and joints problems and to improve the health-related QOL, Bone and Joint Decade (BJD) is one of the organizations that have been concerned with this subject since the early 2000. This activity has been endorsed by the United Nations (UN) and WHO in order to propagate the task force among the nations.

Coordinating with the following domestic organizations, Thailand is one of the countries that promptly recognized and complied with the BJD recommendations:

1. The Ministry of Public Health of Thailand
2. The Royal College of Orthopaedics Surgeons of Thailand
3. The Royal College of Physiatrist of Thailand
4. The Arthritis Foundation
5. The Thai Osteoporosis Foundation
6. The Thai Rheumatism Association
7. The Sports Medicine Association of Thailand
8. The Thai Society for Surgery of the Hand
9. Bone and Joint Decade Foundation (Thailand)

10. Foundation of Crippled and Disabled Children Under the Patronage of H.R.H.the Princess Mother
11. Prosthesis Foundation by H.R.H. the Princess Srinakarin the Princess Mother
12. Nurse Association of Thailand under the patronage of H.R.H. the Princess Mother
13. Occupational Therapist Association of Thailand
14. Physical Therapist Association of Thailand
15. Rotary Club International 3350
16. Social Welfare Council of Thailand Under the Royal Patronage
17. Traumatologist Association of Thailand.

Promotion of QOL, which is the main objective of BJD, was evidently executed via the Prosthesis Foundation of H.R.H. Srinakarin, the Princess Mother in Thailand.

According to the National Statistic Bureau in Thailand, life expectancy has been obviously increased. The number of the disabled by age and sex is shown in Table 1.

Evidence of musculo-skeletal disorders is also recognized especially on amputees.

The QOL is more readily concerned with providing artificial limbs for less privileged amputees.

With tireless effort of the volunteer medical service in the rural area of Thailand for several years, H.R.H. Srinakarin, the Princess Mother, established the Prosthesis Foundation of Thailand in 1992. The Foundation was chaired by the late H.R.H.Princess Galyani Vadhana Krom Laung

Table1 Statistic of disablement (registered) from 1 November 2004 to 31 January 2008 \*

Age	Sex		Total
	M	F	
New Born - 18 Yrs.	59,835	44,629	104,464
15 - 59 Yr.	262,545	173,047	435,592
60 Yr. up	117,317	93,025	210,342
Total	439,317	310,701	750,398

\* Bureau of National Promotion and Development on QOL of the Disablement (4<sup>th</sup> July 2008)

Naradhiwas Rajanagarindra, the King’s Elder Sister. The main objective of the Foundations is to procure artificial limbs to less privileged amputees free of charge, regardless of racial, national or religious status.

Under the efficient work of Dr.Terdchair, Jivagate, the secretary general, has devoted his time and expertise to fabricating the conventional and modified type of functional artificial limb by using local materials in order to conform with the socio-economic condition of the amputees and their terrain of living.

The remarkable work of Prostheses Foundation is the regular contribution to promoting the QOL of amputees in the rural area via the “mobile team,” which was scheduled in coordination with the local authority, such as a provincial hospital where the average of 200 amputees were collected for each trip. The trips were designed annually to pay homage to each royalty’s birthday. There are about six trips in a year. The caravan of about six trucks packed with equipment and supplies are accompanied by 40-60 staff (6-8 physicians). Usually on Sunday morning, the 1<sup>st</sup> working day begins with registration, history taking, examination and socket mold preparation followed by fabrication of the prosthesis subsequently. On Wednesday a trial and gait analysis are made. On Friday morning the finished individual prostheses are allocated to the



Figure1 Procurement of 664 Prostheses (16-26 July 2006)



Figure 2 Certificate, Guinness World Record

amputees who need them. The extra agriculture type of artificial limb is also provided besides the conventional limb so that the workers can do field work.

On the gracious occasion to celebrate H.M. the King 60th years ascension to the throne, the maximum of 664 limbs were provided within ten

days (16-26 July 2006). This particular activity was recorded in the Guinness book of the world.

Over the 16 years of the continuous work, the foundation procured about 20,000 limbs for the amputees. The site of working location for the mobile team is rotated geographically around the country upon the request. It takes about three years to make the cycle working. The foundation has courteously extended the contribution also to the neighboring countries i. e. :- Myanmar , Laos, Malaysia and Ache.

To promote QOL on the principle of S A F E (Simple, Available, Functional and Economic), the R & D was also carried out in order to obtain the products and components for the best in assistive technology. The Technicians, Physicians and Engineers joined together from various institutes to provide solutions when needed.

Continuing education was also provided for the technicians and interested professionals at the annual scientific meeting.

The work of the foundation has demonstrated the multidisciplinary approach to the task that could be regarded as the Inter Professional Education and Work.