

The Ministry of Culture, Government of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Royal Kingdom of Thailand are organizing, for the first time, two parallel exhibitions on two great personalities, Mahatma Gandhi and His Majesty the King of Thailand. Entitled 'wia-Bapu: Love for the Nation', these unique exhibitions will be open to visitors from 3rd December 2014 to 4th January 2015 at the Rattanakosin Exhibition Hall. The exhibitions seek to highlight the immense contributions made by Mahatma Gandhi and His Majesty The King of Thailand to their respective nations and people. Both have received immense love from their people and are recognized as the father of their respective nations. In India, Mahatma Gandhi is affectionately called 'Bapu' and the birthday of His Majesty is recognized as Father's Day in Thailand. ('wio' in Thai and 'Bapu' in Hindi mean father).

Mahatma Gandhi is an international icon for truth and non-violence. His birthday (2nd October) is commemorated all over the world as the 'International Day of Non Violence'. Mahatma Gandhi provided steadfast leadership for the freedom struggle of India and helped in the development of self-sustaining communities while striking a balance with nature and simple living through personal example and service.

His Majesty has initiated countless national development guidelines to solve his people's problems and remedy their plight in various aspects. All these focused on the happiness and benefits of the population through sustainable development based on ecological equilibrium as a result of environmental development that goes hand in hand with equilibrium in the economic and social systems through development of remote, rural areas as a means to reduce inequalities. Of more importance is human development where people are provided with principles in thinking as well as rules of practical conduct in leading their lives while adhering to the 'Sufficiency Economy' philosophy, with righteousness and knowledgeableness being the foundation of every action and activity.

The exhibitions present a unique digital engagement format allowing viewers to interact at various levels. Multi touch interfaces allow presentation in the latest technologies, enhancing viewer experience, particularly to younger generations. Apart from the use of interactive panels, the exhibitions showcase an engagement wall, which would act as a handover point to lead visitors into the next exhibition and its digital interactive installations. The visitor navigation is designed to ensure an engaging experience with real world feel and charm.

The exhibitions impart valuable messages of the leaders through a real time quiz and video displays commenting on the similar subjects few generations' apart in the fields of Environmental Protection/Balanced Production, Rural development/Poverty Eradication and Self Reliance/Sufficiency Economy. All in all its a modern digital experience with wisdom of the past that can help the future.

The exhibitions are open to the public free of cost.









(Bangkok – 26 November 2014)