

ROYAL SOCIETY ACT,  
B.E. 2558 (2015)

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BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ, REX.

Given on the 7<sup>th</sup> Day of February B.E. 2558;  
Being the 70<sup>th</sup> Year of the Present Reign.

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej is graciously pleased to proclaim that:  
Whereas it is expedient to revise the law on Royal Institute;  
Be it, therefore, enacted by the King, by and with the advice and consent of  
the National Legislative Assembly, as follows:

**Section 1.** This Act is called the “Royal Society Act, B.E. 2558 (2015).”

**Section 2.** This Act shall come into force on the day following the date of  
its publication in the Government Gazette.<sup>1</sup>

**Section 3.** The Royal Institution Act, B.E. 2544 (2001) shall be repealed.

**Section 4.** The Royal Institute under the Royal Institute Act, B.E. 2544  
(2001) shall be the Office of the Royal Society under this Act.

The Royal Society under the Royal Institute Act, B.E. 2544 (2001) shall be the  
Royal Society under this Act.

**Section 5.** The Prime Minister shall have charge and control of the  
execution of this Act.

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\* Translation by Pakawat Hemrachatanant for the Office of the Royal Society.

<sup>1</sup> Published in the Government Gazette, Vol. 132, Part 10 a, page 1, dated 13<sup>th</sup> February  
B.E. 2558.

CHAPTER I  
GENERAL PROVISIONS

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**Section 6.** The Royal Society shall be the place for enrichment of all branches of knowledge as established by His Majesty King Prajadhipok, and have the objectives of conducting a study and research for dissemination, promotion and exchange of knowledge, as well as development, maintenance and provision of academic services for the benefits of the country and the people.

**Section 7.** The Office of the Royal Society shall be a government agency called with other name and ascribed the status of a Department, which is not attached to the Office of the Prime Minister, a Ministry or a Sub-Ministry under the law on organization of State affairs.

**Section 8.** The Office of the Royal Society shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) to study, research into and enrich all branches of knowledge and to disseminate the outcome thereof for the benefits of the country and the people;

(2) to exchange knowledge and arrange for academic cooperation with other domestic and foreign learned societies and academic institutions;

(3) to provide academic opinions, recommendations and consultation to the Prime Minister or the Council of Ministers;

(4) to organize an academic training and development program in connection with Thai language, local Thai languages and subjects of knowledge under section 10, and to confer advanced certificates, certificates, certificates of achievement and diplomas to persons who complete the training or academic development program in accordance with the Regulations of the Royal Society;

(5) to provide academic services to the government agencies, State enterprises, independent constitutional organs, public organizations, other State agencies, educational institutions, private organizations and the public;

(6) to carry out work in relation to the preparation of dictionaries, encyclopedias, alphabetic indexes and taxonomy, the coinage of academic terms in different subjects as well as the preparation of dictionaries of foreign academic terms in Thai language and other academic work;

(7) to prescribe various criteria in connection with the use of Thai language, the preservation of Thai language against deterioration and the promotion of Thai language as a national identity to ensure its more prominent position;

(8) to promote and support translation of all branches of knowledge from other languages into Thai language or from Thai language into other languages;

(9) to provide welfare, aids and other rights and benefits to members of the Royal Society in accordance with the Rules of the Royal Society;

(10) to perform other acts prescribed by law to be the power and duty of the Office of the Royal Society.

**Section 9.** Academic work of the Royal Society shall be categorized into the following academies:

(1) Academy of Legal and Political Science;

(2) Academy of Science;

(3) Academy of Arts.

The establishment of a new academy, the dissolution, amalgamation, renaming or separation of academies shall be effected by the Royal Decree.

**Section 10.** The determination of fields of knowledge in each academy and the division of a field of knowledge into subjects of knowledge shall be effected by the Regulations of the Royal Society.

**Section 11.** The Regulations of the Royal Society shall be published in the Government Gazette.

## CHAPTER II

### MEMBERS

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**Section 12.** There are 3 categories of members in the Royal Society, i.e.,

(1) associate fellows;

(2) fellows;

(3) honorary fellows.

**Section 13.** An associate fellow is a person who has the qualifications and is not under any of the prohibitions under section 14, and is qualified under section 15, and

applies for associate fellowship at one of the academies in accordance with the Regulations of the Royal Society and is so accepted by a resolution of such academy.

**Section 14.** An applicant for associate fellowship must have the qualifications and not be under any of the prohibitions as follows:

- (1) being of Thai nationality;
- (2) being not less than thirty-five years of age;
- (3) not being an incompetent person or a quasi-incompetent person;
- (4) not having been imprisoned due to a final judgment to a term of imprisonment, except for an offence committed through negligence or a petty offence;
- (5) not engaging in serious misconduct.

**Section 15.** An applicant for associate fellowship must be qualified as a person having knowledge and expertise in a subject of knowledge as evidenced by having obtained a degree, a certificate or an academic position not lower than that prescribed by the Regulations of the Royal Society, and have shown his or her competency on the basis of such qualification in any of the following manners:

- (1) having shown competency in the performance of work and thereby being recognized with evident honor in the academic, artistic or vocational field;
- (2) having invented or improved an invention, process or academic principle considered evidently useful by the Royal Society;
- (3) having composed or translated a book considered sufficiently quality by the Royal Society, provided that such book has already been published and distributed.

**Section 16.** The number of associate fellows that each academy may have, the criteria and procedures for the application, and the procedures for acceptance of associate fellows shall be prescribed by the Regulations of the Royal Society.

**Section 17.** A fellow is an associate fellow who is appointed, by the King as recommended by the Prime Minister upon the advice of the Royal Society, to be a fellow in any particular field of knowledge under the duties of the Royal Society.

**Section 18.** The number of fellows that each academy may have, the establishment of new fellowship positions, the appointment of fellows to the vacant positions as well as the selection of associate fellows for appointment to the newly-established

positions or vacant positions shall be in accordance with the criteria and procedures prescribed by the Regulations of the Royal Society.

**Section 19.** An honorary fellow is a qualified person having evidently distinguished reputation and honor in any particular field of knowledge under the duties of the Royal Society and having cooperated in carrying out academic work beneficial to the affairs of the Royal Society, who is appointed as an honorary fellow by the King as recommended by the Prime Minister upon the advice of the Royal Society.

**Section 20.** A member of the Royal Society shall be entitled to the rights and benefits as follows:

(1) associate fellows:

- (a) receiving subvention, welfare, aids and other rights and benefits as prescribed by Rules of the Royal Society;
- (b) wearing the emblem as prescribed by Rules of the Royal Society;
- (c) attending a meeting and expressing opinions or discussing in a meeting of the academy or a meeting of the Royal Society without having the right to vote;

(2) fellows:

- (a) receiving subvention, welfare, aids and other rights and benefits as prescribed by Rules of the Royal Society;
- (b) wearing the emblem as prescribed by Rules of the Royal Society;
- (c) being honored in a royal ceremony, ceremony or government assembly in the same manner as a government official who holds a position of a Director-General;
- (d) attending a meeting and expressing opinions or discussing in a meeting of the academy or a meeting of the Royal Society, and having the right to vote therein;

(3) honorary fellows:

- (a) wearing the emblem as prescribed by Rules of the Royal Society;
- (b) being honored in a royal ceremony, ceremony or government assembly in the same manner as a government official who holds a position of a Director-General;
- (c) attending a meeting of the Royal Society as a consultant.

**Section 21.** There shall be established a Welfare Fund for Members of the Royal Society in order to accumulate funds and spend them to provide welfare, aids and other rights and benefits for members of the Royal Society; it may have the following revenues:

(1) membership fees collected at the rate and in the time period prescribed by the Royal Society;

(2) revenues under section 31 paragraph two remitted to the Welfare Fund in the amount prescribed by the Royal Society;

(3) revenues from organization of activities or provision of services of the Welfare Fund;

(4) money or properties donated to it;

(5) subsidies or other revenues appropriated by the Government or State agencies;

(6) other revenues;

(7) fruits of the money or properties of the Fund.

Revenues of the Welfare Fund for Members of the Royal Society shall not be revenues required to be remitted to the Treasury as State revenues.

The donation made to the Welfare Fund for Members of the Royal Society shall be given the income tax exemption in the same manner as the donation made to a welfare fund within a government agency.

The management, finance, accounting and audit of the Welfare Fund for Members of the Royal Society shall be in accordance with the Rules of the Royal Society.

**Section 22.** A member of the Royal Society vacates office upon:

(1) death;

(2) resignation;

(3) lacking the qualifications under section 14 (1) or being under any of the prohibitions under section 14 (3) or (4);

(4) being imprisoned due to a final judgment to imprisonment, except for an offence committed through negligence or a petty offence;

(5) being removed by a resolution of the Royal Society passed by more than one-half of the total number of existing fellows in accordance with the criteria and procedures prescribed by Regulations of the Royal Society in any of the following cases:

(a) being absent from meetings of the academy of which he or she is an associate fellow or a fellow for a period of more than six consecutive months or being absent from four consecutive meetings of the Royal Society without any reasonable justification;

(b) engaging in serious misconduct.

In the case where a fellow or an honorary fellow vacates office, the President of the Royal Society shall submit a report to the Prime Minister for further informing the King.

**Section 23.** An incumbent fellow who is unable to normally perform duties owing to senility, disability or invalidity and a fellow who vacates office owing to being an incompetent person or a quasi-incompetent person, upon a resolution that such person deserves assistance passed by the academy to which he or she is attached, shall be entitled to special subvention in accordance with Rules of the Royal Society.

### CHAPTER III ROYAL SOCIETY

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**Section 24.** There shall be established a society in the Office of the Royal Society called the “Royal Society” consisting of:

- (1) President of the Royal Society under section 25 paragraph one, as the President of the Society;
- (2) two Vice-Presidents of the Royal Society under section 25 paragraph one, as Vice-Presidents of the Society;
- (3) all fellows as members of the Society.

The Secretary-General of the Royal Society shall be the secretary of the Society, and Deputy Secretary-General of the Royal Society shall be the assistant secretary.

**Section 25.** The Royal Society shall be convened to elect fellows for appointment as the President of the Royal Society and two Vice-President of the Royal Society. The names shall then be submitted to the Prime Minister for further submission to the King for appointment.

The criteria and procedures for election of the President of the Royal Society and the Vice-Presidents of the Royal Society shall be in accordance with Regulations of the Royal Society.

**Section 26.** The President of the Royal Society has the following powers and duties:

- (1) to be the representative of the Royal Society in the operation under section 8 (2) and (3);
- (2) to monitor and supervise the performance of academic work of the Royal Society to ensure the compliance with policies, regulation, rules and resolutions of the Royal Society;
- (3) to appoint a committee under section 36.

**Section 27.** The Vice-President of the Royal Society has the following powers and duties:

(1) to perform duties on behalf of the President of the Royal Society as entrusted by the President of the Royal Society;

(2) to act as the President of the Royal Society in the case where there is no person holding office of the President of the Royal Society or where there is one but he or she is unable to perform the duties.

**Section 28.** The President of the Royal Society and Vice-President of the Royal Society shall hold office for a term of two years and may be re-elected, but shall not hold office for more than two consecutive terms.

In the case where the President of the Royal Society or the Vice-President of the Royal Society vacates office upon expiration of the term, the President of the Royal Society or the Vice-President of the Royal Society who vacates office shall continue to be in office until the newly-elected President of the Royal Society or the Vice-President of the Royal Society, as the case may be, assumes the duties.

**Section 29.** In addition to vacating office upon expiration of term under section 28, the President of the Royal Society and the Vice-President of the Royal Society vacate office upon:

(1) resignation from office of the President of the Royal Society or the Vice-President of the Royal Society;

(2) vacation of membership of the Royal Society under section 22.

**Section 30.** In the case where the President of the Royal Society or the Vice-President of the Royal Society vacate office before the expiration of term, there shall be an election for a replacement; however, if the remaining term of office of the President of the Royal Society or the Vice-President of the Royal Society is less than ninety days, the election for a replacement is not required to be held. The person elected shall hold office for the remaining term of office of the person whom he or she replaces.

**Section 31.** The Royal Society has the following powers and duties:

(1) to lay down policies for the performance of academic work under the powers and duties of the Office of the Royal Society;

(2) to consider and endorse the establishment, dissolution, amalgamation, renaming or separation of academies;



(3) to consider and endorse the determination of fields of knowledge in an academy and the division of a field of knowledge into subjects of knowledge;

(4) to consider and endorse the issuance of regulations and rules pertaining to operation of the Royal Society;

(5) to elect the President of the Royal Society and Vice-Presidents of the Royal Society, as well as to pass a resolution to endorse the proposal for appointment of fellows and honorary fellows;

(6) to consider, endorse and approve the matters pertaining to the affairs of the Royal Society as proposed by the President of the Royal Society;

(7) to issue regulations on collection of costs, fees and service charges in provision of academic services and organization of academic trainings and development programs and other regulations;

(8) to perform other acts prescribed by law to be the power and duty of the Royal Society.

All revenues received from the collection of costs, fees and service charges in provision of academic services and organization of academic trainings and development programs shall be spent on the operation under the powers and duties of the Royal Society and in accordance with section 8, without having to be remitted to the Treasury as State revenues.

**Section 32.** A meeting of the Royal Society shall be in accordance with the Regulations of the Royal Society.

Meetings of the Royal Society shall be convened at least four times a year in order to deliberate, consider and carry out the matters in accordance with the powers and duties prescribed by this Act.

**Section 33.** Fellows in each academy shall be convened to elect one fellow in their academy to be the Head of Academy and another one to be the Academy Secretary. The President of the Royal Society shall then submit the names to the Prime Minister for appointment by issuing a Notification of the Royal Society.

The criteria and procedures for election of Heads of Academy and Academy Secretaries shall be in accordance with Regulations of the Royal Society.

**Section 34.** The Head of Academy and Academy Secretary shall hold office for a term of two years and may be re-elected, but shall not hold office for more than two consecutive terms.

The provisions of section 28 paragraph two, section 29 and section 30 shall apply to the holding of office and vacation from office of the Head of Academy and Academy Secretary *mutatis mutandis*.

**Section 35.** A meeting of an academy shall be in accordance with Regulations of the Royal Society.

In a meeting of each academy, fellows and associate fellows have the duty to attend the meeting and have the duty to present academic work that he or she studies to the academy in accordance with the Rules of the Royal Society.

**Section 36.** There shall be one or several academic committees of the Office of the Royal Society for different subjects of knowledge, which are appointed by the President of the Royal Society for the performance of activities under the powers and duties of the Office of the Royal Society.

In addition to the academic committees under paragraph one, the President of the Royal Society shall have the power to appoint other committees for taking any action within the powers and duties of the Royal Society.

Members of the academic committee under paragraph one and members of other committee under paragraph two shall receive the remuneration as prescribed by the Council of Ministers.

**Section 37.** There shall be an Executive Board of the Office of the Royal Society consisting of:

- (1) President of the Royal Society as Chairperson;
- (2) Vice-Presidents of the Royal Society as Deputy-Chairpersons;
- (3) Heads of Academy and Academy Secretaries as members;
- (4) three members appointed by the Royal Society from qualified persons in human resource management, management and administration, and law who are not members under (3);
- (5) Secretary-General of the Royal Society as member and secretary, and Deputy Secretary-General as member and assistant secretary.

The Executive Board of the Office of the Royal Society shall have the following powers and duties:

- (1) to be liaison for the implementation of directions and policies set out by the Royal Society;

(2) to provide academic and administrative recommendations and consultation to the Office of the Royal Society;

(3) to screen matters proposed by fellows prior to their submission to the Royal Society for consideration;

(4) to perform other duties as entrusted by the Royal Society.

The appointment and term of office of members under paragraph one (4), performance of work and meetings of the Board under paragraph one shall be in accordance with the Regulations of the Royal Society.

**Section 38.** There shall be one Secretary-General of the Royal Society as the commanding officer of the government officials who is responsible for the performance of official functions of the Office of the Royal Society and for the performance of duties to implement the policies, regulations, rules or orders of the Royal Society, the President of the Royal Society and the Executive Board of the Office of the Royal Society. There shall also be the Deputy Secretary-General who shall assist in the commanding and the performance of official functions.

The Secretary-General of the Royal Society and Deputy Secretary-General of the Royal Society shall be civil servants.

The Secretary-General of the Royal Society shall be appointed from civil servants who have knowledge and expertise in a subject of knowledge under the duties of the Office of the Royal Society and in administration of State affairs. The appointment shall be proceeded in accordance with the law on civil service.

## TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

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**Section 39.** Associate fellows, fellows and honorary fellows holding office on the date of publication of this Act in the Government Gazette shall be associate fellows, fellows or honorary fellows, as the case may be, under this Act.

**Section 40.** The committees of the Royal Institute which perform duties on the date of publication of this Act in the Government Gazette shall be committees of the Office of the Royal Society under this Act.

**Section 41.** The persons holding office of the President of the Royal Institute, Vice-Presidents of the Royal Institute, Heads of Academy and Academy Secretaries

on the date of publication of this Act in the Government Gazette shall be the President of the Royal Society, Vice-Presidents of the Royal Society, Heads of Academy and Academy Secretaries under this Act until the expiration of the term of office.

The person holding office of the Secretary-General of the Royal Institute on the date of publication of this Act in the Government Gazette shall be the Secretary-General of the Royal Society under this Act.

The person holding office of the Deputy Secretary-General of the Royal Institute on the date of publication of this Act in the Government Gazette shall be the Deputy Secretary-General of the Royal Society under this Act.

**Section 42.** All regulations, rules, directives, notifications and orders issued under the Royal Institute Act, B.E. 2544 (2001) which are in force on the date of publication of this Act in the Government Gazette, shall remain in force insofar as they are not contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act until the regulations, rules, notifications or orders issued under this Act come into force.

Countersigned by

General Prayut Chan-o-cha

Prime Minister

**Remark:** The grounds for promulgation of this Act are as follows. It is expedient to rename the “Royal Institute” to the “Royal Society” which is the former name that has been used since its establishment by His Majesty King Prajadhipok on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of April B.E. 2469 in order to honor and celebrate the occasion of His Majesty’s 120<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary. It is also expedient to improve the powers and duties of the Royal Society as well as the administration of its academic affairs to be more prevalent in the academia of the country and to the general public, and to establish the Welfare Fund for Members of the Royal Society and prescribe that the revenues received by the Royal Society from the provision of academic services and organization of trainings can be spent on the operation pursuant to the powers and duties of the Office of the Royal Society without having to be remitted to the Treasury as State revenues so that the administration of academic work will be more flexible. It is therefore necessary to enact this Act.