

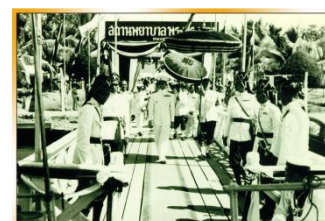
# Welcome to Raj PrachaSamasai Institute

## History & Background

**Raj PrachaSamasai Institute** (RPSI) formerly known as Prapradaeng hospital, was established in 1923. Her Majesty the Queen Mother Sri Sawarintra ordered the Thai Red-cross society to found “a Leprosy hospital with colony” at Poo Chao SamingPrai fort, Prapradaeng district, SamutPrakan province. The hospital first admitted 125 patients. It was started as a facility exclusively for patients suffering from the dread scourge of leprosy. Due to leprosy were prevalent in Thailand and there was the only one leprosy hospital named McKean, located in Chiang Mai not enough to support leprosy patients.

Later, His Majesty the King BhumibolAdulyadej had graciously given his private fund to build the institute to be the place of research, study and training on leprosy in Prapradaeng hospital's area. Their Majesties the King and the Queen came to lay a foundation stone of Raj PrachaSamasai Institute on January 16, 1958 and to inaugurate the building on January 16, 1960 and graciously given the auspicious named of the institute as “**Raj PrachaSamasai**” which means the king (**Raj**) and the people (**Pracha**) assist mutually (Samasai). According to the benevolences of H.M the King came to the institute on January 16 in 1958 and 1960. Therefore, 16<sup>th</sup> January of every year is marked as “Raj PrachaSamasai day” to celebrate honor and remind of H.M the King's compassion for his people.

Nowadays, Raj PrachaSamasai Institute has 150-bed capacity providing general medical care and still focusing on leprosy as a national program of leprosy. Moreover, the institute has extended its services to cover environmental & occupational disease as well.



Currently, Raj PrachaSamasai Institute, is a nationally and internationally renowned centre for leprosy, Environment & Occupation disease and for treatment of general conditions. More than 20 medical doctors and Specialists are available in various clinics i.e. Dermatology, Reconstructive Surgery, ENT, and Ophthalmology. Physiotherapists, Social Workers and Counselors combine their skill and experience to provide the required care. Modern facilities include X-ray, EKG; laboratories for Clinical Pathology, Histopathology, and Microbiology. An Orthopedic Workshop and footwear section manufactures a variety of Prosthetic and Orthotic Appliances, assistive and cosmetic devices as well as a variety of custom made footwear.

Out Patient Clinics open daily from Monday to Friday at the Prapradaeng and WatMakutkasatiyaram site. Registration is generally from 8.30 am to 2.30 pm. Saturday and Sunday from 8.30 – 12.30 (available only Prapradaeng). Inpatient facilities include both General

and Private Wards. Concessions and free treatment are offered to deserving patients. Inability to pay will not stand in the way of a leprosy patient getting treatment. Advance appointments can be made with specialists.

Both private consultations and general registrations are possible and advance booking is available for patients over the phone (call: 0 2386 8153 – 5 Ext. 0)

### What is leprosy?

Leprosy is a chronic skin and nerve disease caused by the organism *Mycobacterium leprae* (*M. leprae*). This is a bacterium from the same family as that which causes tuberculosis, but its behavior and the way it affects tissues is markedly different.

The leprosy bacillus has a predilection for cooler parts of the body, notably the subcutaneous areas of the skin where it damages hair follicles, sweat glands and superficial nerves causing a characteristic hairless, dry patch of abnormal or absent sensation, and very often accompanied also by discoloration of the affected area of skin. More dangerous though is when the bacilli attack larger "trunk" nerves at characteristic locations, causing much more extensive damage to the motor and sensory function subserved by that nerve. These results in classical presentations such as the "claw" hand, "drop" foot, staring eyes. Other deformities seen are a collapsed or sunken bridge of the nose, and infiltration of large areas of the body with the bacillus resulting in thickened folds of skin, which on the face, resemble those on the visage of a lion - the leonine face.



### Facts

- Leprosy is caused by germ and is curable.
- Leprosy can affect rich or poor, any age or sex, including infants.
- Early treatment of leprosy can be prevented disabilities and deformities.
- Leprosy patches can be pale or reddish or copper-coloured; they can be flat or raised.
- Leprosy patches **do not itch**, usually **do not hurt**; they lack sensation to touch or pain, heat; and can appear anywhere on the body.

แปลโดย ดร.นฤมล ใจดี