

Dr Supachai Panitchpakdi
Doctor of Social Sciences *honoris causa*
Citation

In recent years, the world has become a smaller place. The process of what has been loosely termed "globalization" has facilitated the movement of people, investment and trade across international boundaries, and so successful and widespread has this process been that now we often take this newly liberalised environment for granted. But these changes, which have in many ways improved the lives of millions of people throughout the world, would not have taken place were it not for the efforts of certain individuals who have dedicated their careers to the ideals of investment and trade liberalisation.

Mr Chancellor, we have one such person with us today. He is Dr Supachai Panitchpakdi, recipient today of an honorary degree of Doctor of Social Sciences.

Dr Supachai received his Master's degree and thereafter his PhD in Economic Planning and Development at Erasmus University in Rotterdam. His doctoral dissertation at Erasmus was completed under the supervision of Professor Jan Tinbergen - the first Nobel laureate in economics.

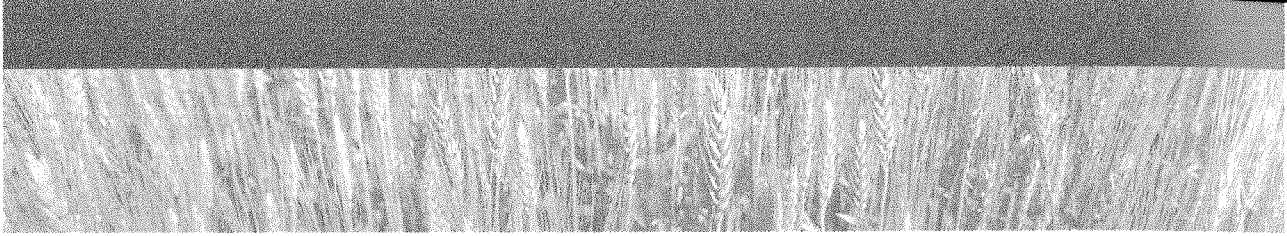
Dr Supachai began his professional career at the Bank of Thailand in 1974. There, his expertise in economics and financial matters was soon recognised, and he was appointed Director of the Financial Institutions Supervision Department.

In 1986, he decided to enter the world of Thai politics and run for Parliament. After a successful campaign, he was elected Member of Parliament and subsequently appointed as Deputy Minister of Finance. During his first term in office, he introduced the value-added tax system, laid the foundation for the establishment of the country's Export-Import Bank, and improved channels for the utilisation of state enterprises' funds for the government. He also helped devise strong fiscal disciplines which subsequently led to a continuing series of budget surpluses, thus enabling Thailand to achieve a high economic growth rate for many years.

In 1992, he was appointed Senator, and led a sub-committee to draw up Thailand's Seventh National Economic and Social Development Plan. Later that year, he became Deputy Prime Minister, entrusted with the important role of overseeing the country's economic and trade policy-making, a position that he held until 1995.

As Deputy Prime Minister, he was actively involved in international trade policy. A staunch supporter of free and fair trade, Dr Supachai played a pivotal role in the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) and in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). He also promoted efforts to liberalise trade in the region through what has eventually become known as the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA). His active participation in ASEAN regional activities helped forge closer relationships between member countries and enhanced their position as a unified economic grouping with a strong voice in international negotiations.

As Chairman of Thailand's International Economic Policy Committee, Dr Supachai was highly influential in charting the country's international trade and economic policies. In 1993, he convinced the public and private sectors of the need for Thailand to accept the Uruguay Round package of the World Trade Organization (WTO), helped steer its ratification through Parliament, and subsequently ensured his government's full and faithful implementation of its obligations under this agreement.



On the wider regional and inter-regional stage, Dr Supachai has played instrumental roles as initiator and active supporter of numerous trade and investment facilitating fora, groupings and development projects. Dr Supachai was the first to push for the formation of the Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) that brings together heads of governments from Asia and Europe to foster closer ties between the nations of the two continents. He has been a major driving force behind the Greater Mekong Sub-region from its inception, pushing for closer economic integration among the economies of Yunnan Province of China, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar and Vietnam. He was the initiator in the BIMST-EC consultative group that links countries in South and Southeast Asia, namely Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

Following the change of government in November 1997 in the wake of Thailand's financial crisis, Dr Supachai was appointed Deputy Prime Minister in charge of economic policies, and Minister of Commerce. In this latter capacity, he relaxed Thailand's restrictions on foreign participation and ownership and brought the country's accounting standards into line with international practices to enhance and ensure transparency in the economic system. In 2000, Dr Supachai was awarded the Nikkei Asia Prize for Regional Growth.

Dr Supachai's career, then, has been characterised by his passion for facilitating the development of international relations, investment and trade. He is perhaps best known for his recent leadership of supranational organisations that adhere to this principle.

In 1999, he was elected Director-General of World Trade Organization, taking office in September 2002. During the three years he held this office, he concentrated on pushing forward the difficult process of the Doha Round of international trade talks, on which rest many hopes for future economic progress in developing countries.

In September 2005, Dr Supachai became Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), where his expertise, international prestige and commitment to development are already proving invaluable in the realisation of the organisation's aspirations.

Throughout his career, Dr Supachai has enjoyed a high reputation in the world of academia. His scholarly book *Educational Planning and Growth in Developing Countries*, which was based on his PhD dissertation, has been widely used by universities in Europe. He has served as a Visiting Fellow at Cambridge University and Visiting Professor at the International Institute for Management Development, Lausanne, Switzerland. He has published a number of books, including *Globalization and Trade in the New Millennium* (2001), and *China and the WTO: Changing China Changing World Trade* (2002), the latter of which he co-authored with Mark Clifford. He is currently Chairman of the Board of Governors of Yonok College in Lampang, Thailand, a post he has held for the past 13 years.

Mr Chancellor, for his outstanding services to his country, for his resolute efforts to promote trade and investment in the South-east Asian region in particular and in the world as a whole, and for his significant contributions to academia, I present to you Dr Supachai Panitchpakdi for the award of Doctor of Social Sciences *honoris causa*.

素帕猜·巴尼巴滴博士

榮譽社會科學博士

贊辭

近年來，世界各地的距離逐漸拉近。這個統稱為「全球化」的過程，促進了全球各國之間的人民往來、投資活動及經商貿易。「全球化」如此成功和普及，令我們不禁對這新的自由開放環境視為理所當然。誠然，這些變化已在各方面改善了全球數以百萬計人民的生活，但若非有部份人願意奉獻畢生心力，悉心建立理想的投資及自由貿易環境，恐怕當下的進境未必可以達到。

監督先生，今天我們很幸運，這裡有這樣的一位傑出人士，他就是榮譽社會科學博士學位的領受人素帕猜·巴尼巴滴博士。

素帕猜博士在鹿特丹伊拉斯謨斯大學(Erasmus University)獲取碩士及博士學位，專研經濟規劃及發展。他是在首位諾貝爾經濟學獎得主丁伯根教授(Jan Tinbergen)的指導下完成其博士論文。

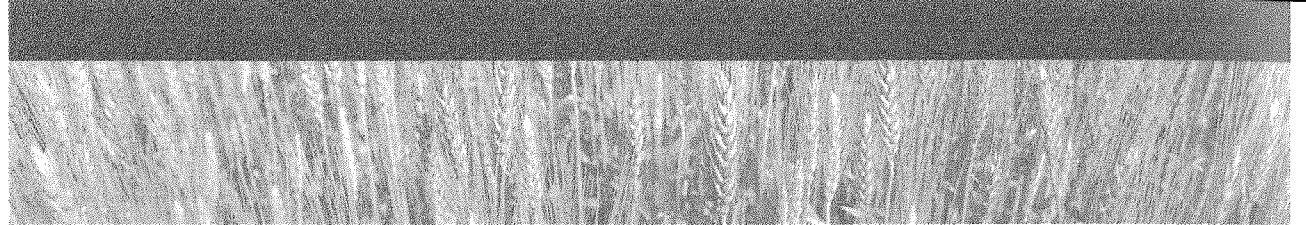
素帕猜博士於1974年加入泰國銀行，展開了他的個人事業。於泰國銀行任職期間，他在經濟及金融事務上的專業知識旋即備受認同，更被委任為金融機構監察部部長。

於1986年，他毅然投身泰國政壇，競逐國會議席。他成功當選為國會議員，其後更被委任為財務部副部長。在首任期間，他推行增值稅制度，奠定成立國家進出口銀行的基礎，並且改進了政府國營企業資金的運用方式。除此之外，他亦協助制訂嚴格的財政管理體制，令國家持續錄得財政盈餘，使泰國多年來獲得相當不俗的經濟增長率。

於1992年，他獲委任為參議員，領導小組委員會擬訂泰國第七個國家經濟及社會發展計劃；同年更晉升為副總理，掌管國家的經濟及貿易決策，直至1995年才離任。

作為泰國副總理，素帕猜博士積極參與國際貿易政策，他竭力捍衛自由公平貿易，於亞太經濟合作組織(APEC)及東南亞國家聯盟(簡稱東盟)扮演著關鍵的角色。他致力推動現稱東盟自由貿易區區內的自由貿易。他積極參與東盟的區內活動，協助成員國家之間建立更緊密的關係，鞏固並增強其作為一個經濟集團的地位，在國際商貿談判中發揮強大影響力。

作為泰國國際經濟政策委員會的主席，素帕猜博士對制訂國家國際經貿政策有重大影響力。於1993年，他成功說服泰國國內的公營機構和私營企業，同意泰國政府接納世界貿易組織(簡稱世貿)烏拉圭回合的整套方案，協助其通過國會批核，並在其後確保泰國政府全力並如實履行協議所列的責任。



在宏觀和跨區域的層面上，素帕猜博士在區內及各區間發起不少貿易及投資組織拓展計劃，並且給予大力支持，地位舉足輕重。素帕猜博士更率先推動籌組歐亞會議(ASEM)，促成歐亞國家的政府首長共同推動及鞏固兩大洲國家的緊密聯繫。自從大湄公河次區域創立以來，他一直積極推動中國雲南省、老撾、泰國、柬埔寨、緬甸及越南的經濟整合。他亦為孟印緬斯泰經濟合作(BIMST-EC)諮詢小組的發起人，將孟加拉、印度、緬甸、斯里蘭卡及泰國等南亞及東南亞國家連繫起來。

1997年11月，泰國政府在金融危機後出現更迭，素帕猜博士被委任為副總理及商務部長，掌管國家經濟政策。在任職商務部長期間，他放寬泰國對外資參與及擁有權的管制，並把國家的會計標準提升至國際會計要求的水平，致力加強及保障經濟體系的透明度。於2000年，素帕猜博士奪得日經亞洲獎的亞洲區域成長貢獻獎。

素帕猜博士的事業，清晰地突顯他對促進國際關係、投資及貿易的熱誠。他最為人熟悉的成就，應是他近年於幾個超國家組織擔當的領導工作，充份體現他對自由公平貿易原則的堅持。

於1999年，素帕猜博士被選為世界貿易組織的總幹事，並於2002年9月就任。於其三年任期期間，他致力斡旋世貿組織多哈回合的國際貿易談判，歷盡艱辛，為發展中國家帶來未來經濟發展的新希望。

於2005年9月，素帕猜博士成為聯合國貿易和發展會議(UNCTAD)秘書長，其專業知識、國際聲譽及銳意發展的使命感，對實現該組織的目標已產生重大的推進作用。

素帕猜博士在學術界同樣享負盛名。他以其博士論文為藍本的著作《發展中國家的教育計劃和發展》(*Educational Planning and Growth in Developing Countries*)，獲歐洲不少大學廣泛引用。他曾是劍橋大學的客座院士及瑞士洛桑國際管理發展學院的客座教授。他著作甚豐，包括《新紀元的全球化與貿易》(*Globalization and Trade in the New Millennium*) (2001)，以及與 Mark Clifford 合著的《中國與世貿：蛻變中的中國改變世界貿易》(*China and the WTO: Changing China Changing World Trade*) (2002)。素帕猜博士現出任泰國南邦府如諾大學的校董會主席，他擔任此職已達13年之久。

監督先生，素帕猜博士對他的國家貢獻良多，同時熱心推動全世界的貿易及投資活動，於東南亞地區尤其不遺餘力，在學術界亦貢獻甚巨。本人謹此敦請監督先生頒授榮譽社會科學博士學位予素帕猜·巴尼巴滴博士。