

THE PRESIDENT'S REPLY  
TO THE REMARKS OF THE  
NEWLY APPOINTED AMBASSADOR  
OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND  
PISAN MANAWAPAT  
UPON THE OCCASION OF THE PRESENTATION OF  
HIS LETTER OF CREDENCE

Mr. Ambassador:

It is with great pleasure that I accept your Letter of Credence, which establishes you as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand, and I acknowledge receipt of the Letter of Recall of your predecessor, Ambassador Vijavat Isarabhakdi, who represented Thailand in the United States with great distinction. I extend a warm welcome to you and your family, and I look forward to working with you to deepen the relations between our countries.

Thailand and the United States share a long and enduring history of friendship, a friendship that began 182 years ago when Thailand was the first country in Asia with which the young United States established treaty relations. The constancy and breadth of our two nations' friendship is remarkable, both through the turbulence of world history and our respective eventful domestic histories. We are proud that His Majesty the King was born here in the United States, in Massachusetts.

Our nations collaborate actively on an exceptionally wide range of issues with regional and global benefits, including assisting refugees and displaced persons, countering illegal narcotics and wildlife trafficking, finding cures for the world's deadliest diseases, protecting the environment, preventing nuclear proliferation, pushing the boundaries of scientific research, and fighting transnational crime. The United States is Thailand's third-largest trading partner, and American companies are major investors in Thailand. As I witnessed myself in visiting Thailand in 2012, our people-to-people ties are also strong, including educational links that allow thousands of Thai and American students to study in each other's country. Our dynamic security alliance has matured, broadened, and deepened over time, supporting our

efforts to support regional peace and prosperity. We anticipate continuing to pursue, together, solutions to new and emerging challenges in the years to come. We also look forward to the restoration of democracy in Thailand, which will enable our cooperation and partnership to reach its fullest potential.

In the Asia-Pacific region, we will continue to look to Thailand as a partner and ally. Thailand is a founding member and an exceptionally important voice in all of the region's multilateral institutions, including the Association of South-East Asian Nations, the East Asia Summit, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, and the Lower Mekong Initiative. The United States will continue to work with Thailand and through the region's institutions to further our mutual goals of stimulating trade and economic growth and promoting security for all the people of the region and the world.

Mr. Ambassador, I look forward to working with you to strengthen the U.S.-Thai relationship, promote our shared values, and advance our common goals. It is a pleasure to welcome you back to Washington.