

Many activities have been held throughout the month of August to celebrate Her Majesty the Queens birthday, 12 August, which is also observed as National Mothers Day.

International visitors have been invited to join Thai people in various activities as a tribute to Her Majesty in commemoration of her 83rd birthday this year.

On this occasion, a candle-lit ceremony, led by the Prime Minister, is held each year at about 7:00 p.m. on 12 August at Sanam Luang ceremonial site in Bangkok. The ceremony also takes place simultaneously in the provinces.

A special exhibition, entitled "The Way of Silk, the Way of Thai: A Tribute to Her Majesty the Queen, will be held for two weeks from 17 to 30 August 2015 at the Siam Paragon Shopping Complex in Bangkok. It is meant to recognize Her Majestys continuous contribution to the conservation, development, and promotion of Thai silk.

The event will showcase top-quality Thai silk from the most famous silk-weaving villages in Thailand. There are also demonstrations of silk-weaving and fashionable techniques in wearing Thai silk, as well as mini-fashion shows.

Another exhibition on rare Thai fabric will be organized by the Ministry of Culture in honor of Her Majesty the Queen, who has played a significant role in promoting Thai fabrics. The exhibition will take place at the Bangkok National Museum for 83 days, from 14 August to 4 November 2015.

With her keen aesthetic sense and interest in folk arts and crafts, Her Majesty the Queen has actively promoted the use of locally available raw materials in producing high-quality crafts. She also provided teachers for craftspeople, and the practice was institutionalized in 1976 with the setting up of the Foundation for the Promotion of Supplementary Occupations and Related Technique (SUPPORT) to buy handicrafts from villagers and provide training for them. SUPPORT shops are also well-known as outlets of folk arts and crafts under Her Majesty the Queens supervision.

As part of the celebration of Her Majestys 83rd birthday, the Community Development Department, in cooperation with several agencies, is organizing a SUPPORT and OTOP Trade Fair between 8 and 16 August 2015 at Challenger Hall 2, IMPACT Exhibition and Convention Center, Muang Thong Thani, Nonthaburi province.

OTOP stands for the "One Tambon, One Product program, aimed at building up small enterprises in communities by encouraging the people to manufacture local products using their homegrown skills and expertise.

SUPPORT handicrafts and OTOP products from all parts of Thailand are put on display and on sale at the SUPPORT and OTOP Trade Fair, the fourth of its kind. More than 2,000 booths are joining this fair, which also includes food shops, exhibitions, and cultural shows.