

The Essence of Transformational Leadership: Reflections from Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej

Khagendra Raj Dhakal

Specialist

King Mongkut's University of Technology North Bangkok, Thailand

ABSTRACT

The present world is in dire need of leaders who have vision to transform the life of people they are leading locally, nationally and globally. This paper reviews on how Late King of Thailand, Bhumibol Adulyadej, influenced his people during his leadership for 70 years. Especially, the paper analyses his leadership style based on Bernard M. Bass's Transformational Leadership Theory (1985). According to Bass, a transformational leader motivates, intellectually stimulates and remains considerate to his followers. The paper discusses on how the contribution of Late King supports the core four components of transformational leadership: (a) Idealized Influence, (b) Inspirational Motivation, (c) Intellectual Stimulation, and (d) Individualized Consideration. The paper also outlines the implications of Late King's legacy to the sustainability movement of Thailand and the world at large.

Keywords: leadership, sustainability, transformational leader, King Bhumibol