

ROYAL PROJECTS

UN awards the King for cleaner habitats

HM to receive top honour for improving water management

■ *The Nation*

THE UNITED Nations has honoured His Majesty the King with an award for his "outstanding contribution to sustaining habitats and improving the quality of life of people in cities and communities", a UN statement said yesterday.

The Habitat Scroll of Honour Award - a handcrafted gold plaque - will be formally presented to HM today at the Klaikangwon Palace by Anna Tibaijuka, the UN's executive director of UN-Habitat, host of the award, and the UN's under-secretary general.

It is the highest award conferred by the United Nations to individuals, projects or institutions in recognition of significant contributions to improving human settlements.

It is normally presented every October at a ceremony marking World Habitat Day.

The Habitat Scroll of Honour will be accompanied with a special citation recognising the King's "outstanding contribution to improving water resource management in Thailand".

"The King's tireless efforts to developing the human habitat in Thailand have been well documented. Notable among his contributions include the pollution control of Bangkok's canals and the innovative water treatment of Makkasan Lake," the statement said.

HM's Pa Sak River Basin Development Project has reduced water pollution in Bangkok and other major cities in the Central region while other projects have targeted the management of floods and the salinisation of water resources in the Southern region.

"The comprehensive and integrated nature of His Majesty's Royal development projects is a lesson to all of us eager to protect our natural environment," the statement quoted Tibaijuka as saying.

HM's concept of a sufficiency economy can also form the basis of value-based water education programmes throughout the Asia Pacific region, the statement read.

The UN Human Settlements Programme of UN-Habitat has been mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all.

UN-Habitat is also closely involved with helping the world community to halve, by 2015, the number of people living without clean water and adequate sanitation.