

Press Release


**IBM Launches IBM Home Page Reader V3.02 Thai,
A Thai-speaking Web Browser - the 12th language of the world**

*IBM donates IBM Home Page Reader V3.02 Thai to academic institutes and
the visually impaired for educational contribution and Internet exploration*

February 12, 2003 IBM announces a launch of IBM Home Page Reader V3.02 Thai or HPRThai, Thai-speaking web browser targeting to help alleviate disadvantage of people with visual and printed disability, promote widespread use of technology in learning and enhancing quality of life. Up to the present, IBM also donates HPR-Thai to four academic institutes and the visually impaired and distributes this software through IBM business partners to retail market.

To become IBM Home Page Reader V3.02 Thai

HPR-Thai was developed and integrated with 3 key technologies including:

• *Thai Text-to-Speech Technology* the technology that helps transform text into Thai voice resulting from the collaboration between IBM and Centre for Research in Speech and Language Processing-CRSLP  Chulalongkorn University.

• *Web technology* the technology that helps manage HTML data on the Internet

• *Accessibility Technology* the technology specifically designed for daily internet use of the visually impaired supported by IBM Accessibility Center in Japan and the United States.

Key features of IBM Home Page Reader V3.02 Thai

- 1) Being web browser utilizing on the Internet capable of reading in both Thai and English languages.
- 2) Enable to read email and attachments as well as to identify between text and command program.
- 3) Including utility programs specifically designed for the visually impaired to set up software and perform basic Windows operation.

The HPR-Thai was designed for not only suitable for the visually impaired but also for general users that can be benefited from Thai voice programs which includes :

• A program able to read e-mail and electronic information

• A program providing voice interface beyond displaying the ordinary text on users screen.

• A program assisting foreigners to practice Thai speaking

• Thai speaking dictionary program with minimum data storage requirement

Songtham Phianpattanawit, Country General Manager, IBM Thailand Co., Ltd., said "It is once again that IBM delivers a-state-of-the-art technology to enhance learning opportunity and facilitate the way of life in Thai society. With the collaboration between IBM highly experienced team in national language development and Chulalongkorn University to develop technology based on IBM Speech Technology, HPR-Thai has been

evaluated until became a software solution that supports internet via thai-speaking talking web browser. The technology will help contribute learning opportunity generally among the society in the era of information technology".

IBM Home Page Reader V3.02 Thai donated to four institutes for education contribution

- 1) Thailand Association of the Blind
- 2) Thai National Institute for the Blind
- 3) Ratchasuda College, Mahidol University
- 4) Chulalongkorn University

Ajarn Monthian Buntan, Acting President of Thailand Association of the Blind said "At present, there are a large number of people with visual and printed disabilities in Thailand. HPR Thai is another significant tool offering digital opportunity to dynamically drive all together stepping to the information technology era".

About IBM National Language Development

IBM National Language Development is an expert unit to improve capability of Thai and Southeast Asian languages for IBM products. Capabilities include data entry, processing, reporting, printing, and etc. IBM also offers IBM ViaVoice integrated with text-to-speech technology and Voice Recognition technology to be utilized with other programs that required this technology. For example, IBM ViaVoice will enhance Word Processor capability for navigation, data entry and user interface. IBM HomePage Reader includes text-to-speech technology which facilitates the visually impaired access to webpages on the Internet.



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