

Other fields

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royal-page students had duties to perform.

Throughout his years as a royal-page student, Pin learned to compose verse, and became a prolific writer.

When Pin turned 18, the Religious Affairs Ministry awarded him a scholarship and sent him to the United Kingdom. Although he did not further his education in mathematics, in 1927 he worked out slide rules that could identify the day of the week from a complex formula if a specific date, month, and year were given.

Pin obtained BA honours in Sanskrit from Oxford University in 1928, and a master's degree from the same university in 1931.

Just one week after he came back to Thailand in 1931, Pin started his education career as an official at Krom Vichakarn, now the Office of the Vocational Education Commission.

In 1932 he taught mathematics, Thai and English at

Chulalongkorn University. Two years later he was in charge of the university's teacher-preparation programme, known today as the Faculty of Education, and served as the headmaster of Horwang Secondary School, considered the country's first demonstration school.

In 1937 Pin started work on one of his great accomplishments – the Triam Udom Suksa School – the country's first co-ed school and the first to have a fixed class schedule.

However, World War II began and disrupted education in Thailand. Japanese troops raided and occupied the buildings of the Triam Udom Suksa School in Bangkok and Pin struggled to find a place to teach his students. During those years the students were evacuated many times and had to travel to many provinces to continue their classes.

In 1942, Pin took up the responsibility as the head of Krom Vichakarn. Under his leadership, every province had at least one senior secondary school and the budget manage-

ment was so efficient that despite financial constraints, teachers at local schools across the country were guaranteed a Bt12 salary.

After the war ended, in 1946, Pin was granted an audience with King Rama VIII on May 31. "His Majesty asked me for a frank report on the country's education situation overall. I explained many things, particularly the important role of the teacher-preparation programme," Pin wrote in his autobiography.

The king instructed Pin to never abandon his good work. True to his pledge, Pin worked tirelessly to provide quality education to Thai people.

Pin later served as permanent secretary at the Education Ministry, from 1946 to 1957. During his tenure, he established a school to train would-be teachers. Today, it is known as the Srinakharinwirot University. He also established Satit Prathumwan demonstration school and Satit Prasarnmit primary demonstration school. He also oversaw

the drafting of the country's first national education plan.

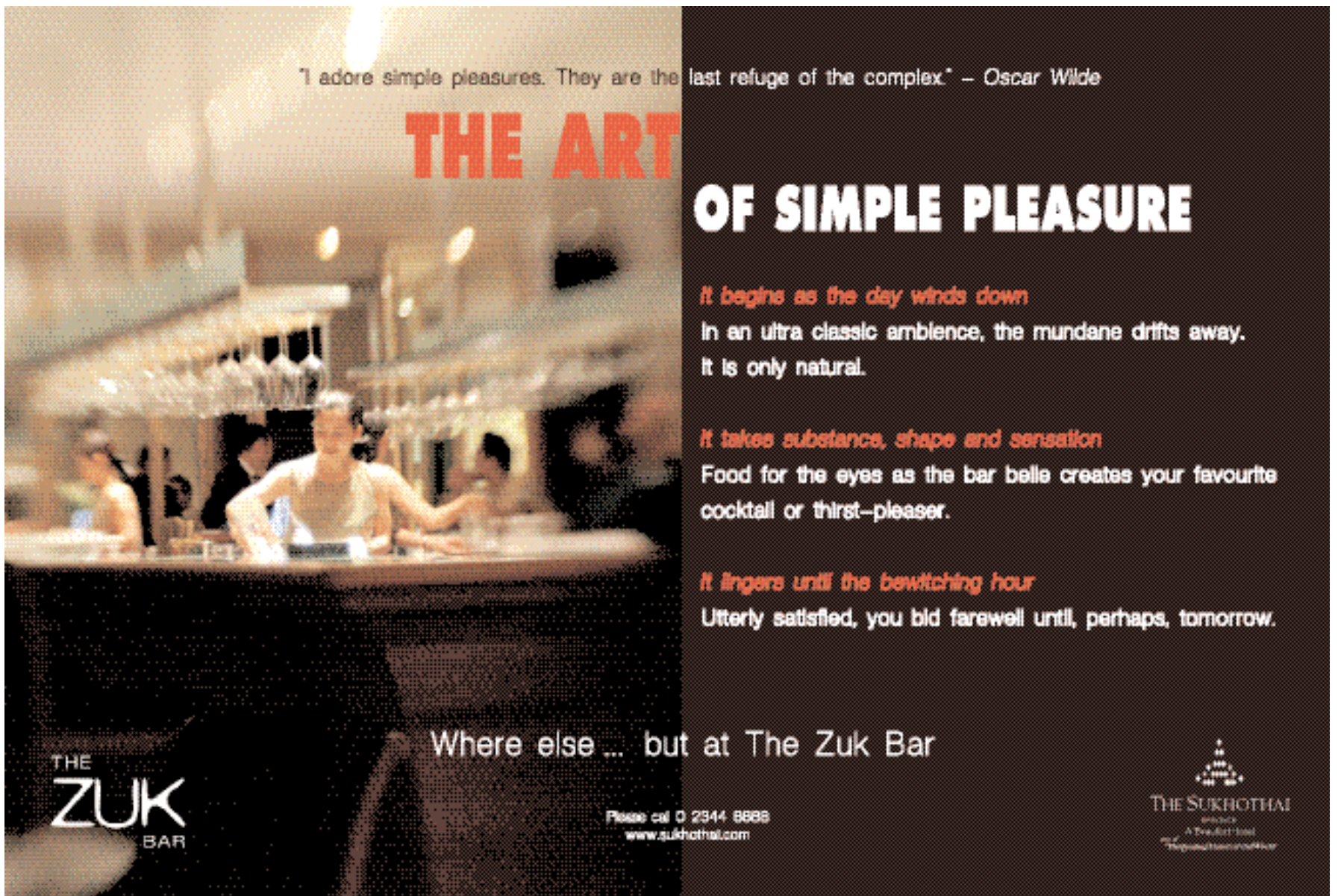
Under his initiative, a planetarium was opened in Thailand.

In 1957, Pin was appointed as education minister. He had served in this post until 1969 during which time he established Silpakorn University's Sanam Chandra Palace Campus and Chiang Mai University.

Due to his overseas education and his position in the Education Ministry for 22 years, Pin had ample opportunity to work at regional and international levels.

On an international level, Pin played an important role that later led Thailand into Unesco membership. He was among the founders of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation and initiated the establishment of the group's secretariat in Thailand.

Pin was married to Dussadee Kraireuk (now Thanpuying Dussadee Malakul na Ayutthaya) but had no children. He passed away at the age of 91, in 1995.



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