

Arts & culture



► From page 92

Thai women when she was crowned Miss Universe in 1988. She was seen as a beauty with brains, and a personal crusader of her social agenda. Porntip impressed Miss Universe judges with her wit and beauty. She outscored Miss South Korea with her English-speaking ability in the final round.

At that time, Thais didn't seem to mind that she could hardly speak in her mother tongue. Instead, they adored her eloquent English and felt proud when she wisely highlighted children's issues to prove that she was a beauty with a cause.



Although she has yet to prove she is a woman of the modern era, she has inspired a number of local girls to endow themselves with a global outlook, as Porntip spent most of her youth in the United States.

Porntip's quality epitomised the aspirations of women in the late 1980s, when globalisation had started to become a buzzword and women had started to nurture ambitions to climb the corporate ladder.

Later, beauty queens were no longer selected merely due to their demeanour and physical appearance.

► Page 95