

Royal regalia

Thai King Maha Vajiralongkorn will be presented with five royal instruments treated as symbols of kingship at his coronation event tomorrow. Here's a closer look at them:

THE GREAT CROWN OF VICTORY

The most important among all the royal regalia, the crown is adorned with diamonds set in gold enamel. It is 66cm tall and weighs 7.3kg. The high-reaching crown symbolises the summit of Mount Meru, the Hindu god Indra's heavenly abode, and its weight represents the monarch's royal burden.



THE SWORD OF VICTORY

Representing the king's ability to protect the nation, it is believed to be an ancient sword of the Khmer Empire. Dubbed "Phra Saeng Khan Chai Sri", the length of the sword is 89.8cm, including the 64.5cm blade. It weighs 1.9kg when enclosed within the sheath.



THE ROYAL FAN AND FLY WHISK

The royal fan and whisk signify the king's duty to chase away his people's troubles. Originally, the instrument of kingship was a fan made of palm leaf with gold-trimmed rim and gold-enamelled rod. But King Rama IV ordered the separate whisk to be made and included it in the royal regalia.



THE ROYAL SLIPPERS

The curve-tipped slippers are made of colourful enamelled gold and inlaid with diamonds. During the coronation ceremony, the slippers will be put on the king's feet. The royal slippers represent the ground of Mount Meru, the abode of the god Indra.



THE ROYAL SCEPTRE

The 118cm staff, called "Than Phra Kon", is made of Javanese cassia wood enamelled in gold. The finial is shaped like a trident and is gilded with gold, and its iron hilt is also inlaid with gold. The staff symbolises the righteousness of the king.