

Anand Panyarachun
Doctor of Laws

Anand Panyarachun, respectfully known as Khun Anand to the Thai people, is a towering figure in Southeast Asia, a key leader in international affairs, a devoted champion of democracy and reconciliation in his native land, and the founding chairman of the Kenan Institute Asia. During two terms as prime minister of Thailand in 1991 and 1992, he was instrumental in halting the militarization of politics in that nation and helped lead its people back to the path of democracy. In March 2005 Thailand's prime minister called on Khun Anand to set up a National Reconciliation Commission to look into and make recommendations on an insurgency that has racked the nation's mainly Muslim southern provinces. On the international stage, Khun Anand headed the 2004 High-level Panel on Threats Challenges and Change charged by the United Nations with looking at how the international community could address new and evolving security threats, and making recommendations for reforming the United Nations. The panel's report won the strong support of Secretary General Kofi Annan. Khun Anand has quietly made a major contribution to Carolina and the State of North Carolina through his pivotal role in founding and leading the Kenan Institute Asia. The institute works to build partnerships between Asian and American organizations in areas such as education, public health, environmental management, and better business practices. Khun Anand led the institute to champion sustainable economic and social development in Southeast Asia based on a model that emphasizes partnership relations between the nations of the region and the United States, rather than a donor-recipient relationship that often frustrates true development.