

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

By Sally Ananya Surangpimol, Managing Director, FIC Global Co., Ltd.
For the TCCC Business Excellence Awards for Best Thai Partner
Sheraton Grande Sukhumvit, May 27, 2005

His Excellency the Canadian Ambassador to Thailand, the President and Directors of the Board of the TCCC, distinguished guests, friends

I am truly honored to receive this award and even more pleased to accept it. My only concern, initially, was that I have to make a speech, like in the Oscars. The 4-minutes in the limelight, up on a stage, caused me sleepless nights, because, in Hollywood, glamour and fashion surround it. I felt I do not deserve star treatment as I am but a simple, steadfast, ordinary business person whose passion revolves around food and people.

Then I thought of how the TCCC Awards are, in fact, the ones I have always wanted to win. Because they recognize excellence in, and quality of, business, they appeal to me. These are the core concepts that form the backbone of my life and work, first as a science scholar in the Philippines, then a food scientist in Japan and now as a food business person, based in Thailand, who delights in corporate matchmaking, value-added brokering, systems assessments and human resources development.

That the award is for Best Thai Partner is particularly meaningful to me. Although Thailand is not my birth country, I have made it my home and base for the past 30 years. I spent all of my adult professional life here, creating a thoroughly Thai company, that for the past 15 years, has been at the forefront, closely intertwined with the development and globalization of the food industry and businesses in Thailand.

The fact that the other half of this award involves Canada, a country that I admire greatly, is equally significant. Canada impressed me and continues to touch me deeply with values that reflect those of my own. The recognition of other cultures, the respect for human rights, the constant focus on meritocracy, the efforts to provide equal opportunities – these are life-sustaining, quality-affirming statements that I hope and wish and dream, every individual, every business, every country in this world, will have.

Finally, in the spirit of the Oscars, the only concession I will make to that Hollywood event, I would like to publicly declare my gratitude to all of those who made this possible. I would like to thank all the Thai and Canadian business people present here tonight for proving that good, responsible corporate partnerships can be a reality. I would also like to thank Alan Haig-Brown, who, within our company, has already earned the FIC Best Canadian Partner award. But most of all, I would like to give heartfelt thanks and express unending admiration for all of the dedicated, dynamic, intelligent Thai and Canadian women, that I have worked with or continue to work with, either as part of my staff or as supporters. This award is dedicated to you, as you are central to our success.

Thank you.