

**Statement by Mr. Komate Kamalanavin,  
Deputy Director General, Department of European Affairs,  
Head of the delegation of Thailand  
at 19th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum  
(Special Session III) on 16th September 2011**

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Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all allow me on behalf of the Thai delegation to express our gratitude to the host and the OSCE Secretariat for the excellent organisation of the 19<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum in Prague and especially for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to our delegation.

Thailand, as an Asian Partner for Cooperation in OSCE has actively participated and contributed to various OSCE activities, both as a participant and a host to several OSCE events.

During the past few days we have intently listened to the various speeches and interventions with great interest. This morning we are delighted to have the opportunity to share our own perspective and practices in the field of energy and transport.

The promotion of sustainable energy is the Royal Thai Government's top national agenda. To achieve that goal and strengthen the country's greater self-reliance, Thailand has invested in oil and gas exploration and production both domestically and internationally as well as secured Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) supplies from overseas markets.

Nonetheless, in order to sustain our economic growth, we recognise that we cannot rely only on conventional fossil fuels alone. Thus, we have established and implemented various mechanisms to promote the use and development of renewable and alternative energy. By the year 2022, we will increase the proportion of renewable and alternative energy mix to at least 20%. To achieve the set target, Thailand has put in place a number of supporting measures to assist renewable energy investors, including technical and financial support, such as soft loans and adder costs for small and very small power producers.

These measures have yielded very satisfying results. At the end of last year — 3 years after the implementation of the Renewable Energy Development Plan (REDP) — the portion of our alternative energy consumption has increased from 6% to 10%. Furthermore, Thailand is now one of the region's major hosts for clean energy projects, one of which is a joint 204 megawatt solar farms development launched by our private sector, the International Finance Cooperation and the World Bank. For this year, the anticipated fluctuation in energy prices, toppled with the recent nuclear incident, has convinces us of the necessity to move forward with our REDP in order to strengthen our energy security and lessen the environmental impacts.

Thailand also attaches great importance to energy efficiency. With the implementation of the 20-year Energy Efficiency Plan (2011-2030), we expect to reduce final energy use and energy intensity by 20% and 25%, respectively, by the year 2030.

The measures will be directed at all relevant sectors, but particularly within the most energy-consuming ones, among which are transport and industry.

To strengthen national energy security and competitiveness, Thailand's energy development strategy will focus on efficient use of energy, and acceleration of renewable and alternative energy development to replace the use of fossil fuel. Thailand views that the OSCE's best practices and experiences in developing renewable and alternative energy as well as energy efficiency and conservation will be beneficial to Asian Partners for Cooperation, in particular Thailand, in achieving energy security, economic development and environmental sustainability.

Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

On transportation, Thailand believes logistics or connectivity development is an important driver of international competitiveness. By eliminating the barriers that prevent the smooth and timely flows of goods across borders, logistics development plays a vital role in facilitating cross-border trade and transport.

ASEAN, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, a 44 year old geopolitical and economic organisation of ten countries located in Southeast Asia, aims to establish an ASEAN Community by 2015, which will transform ASEAN into a more mature regional organisation, ready to contribute in overcoming the global challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In October 2010, The Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity was adopted, with a goal to promote regional integration that contributes meaningfully to the narrowing of development gaps within and among ASEAN Member States.

Enhancing regional connectivity has become a strategic priority of ASEAN, which will be a key cornerstone for ASEAN Community-building that serves as the first step towards intensifying connectivity with other regions, including Europe. We hope that OSCE could share its experience and expertise in assisting ASEAN to enhance our connectivity in all three dimensions, namely physical, institutional, and people-to-people.

On physical connectivity, or infrastructure development, OSCE's experiences and best practices in green economy could be shared with ASEAN so that we cooperate to create a green web of transportation network within and beyond ASEAN that would in turn result in a more sustainable and green society.

On institutional connectivity, or regulatory development, OSCE's experiences, in particular, in region-wide cross border management of transportation including *software issues* (single window, single stop), safeguards to deal with the unintended consequence of connectivity, could benefit ASEAN in implementing its connectivity initiative.

On people-to-people connectivity, ASEAN could learn the success story from Europe's integration leading to full mobility of people with a sense of common identity. Exchanges of experts and best practices on promoting community awareness and understanding, as well as continued assistance on migration and border management, would be a fruitful area of our cooperation.

**In this connection, we note with appreciation Europe's involvement in the ASEAN Air Transport Integration Project (AATIP), which will contribute towards sustainable ASEAN economic growth and the integration of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), through the development of the civil air transport sector. The program will also support ASEAN Connectivity as it will strengthen institutional frameworks and capacities in order to achieve a safe, secure, and sustainable ASEAN Single Aviation Market by 2015.**

**Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,**

**ASEAN Connectivity itself, however, is only a first step. To realise the full potential of connectivity, ASEAN is also developing its links with the outside world. Therefore, Thailand has promoted the concept of "ASEAN Connectivity Plus" which aims to enhance ASEAN Connectivity with other regions such as Asia, Europe, Latin American Pacific Basin countries, and interested partners.**

**In this regard, for ASEAN connectivity to attain its full potential, close cooperation with Dialogue Partners, including OSCE Member States and Partner for Co-operation, is necessary. ASEAN remains open and welcomes cooperation with all organisations.**

**Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Thailand is not merely interested in economic and environmental dimension of security, in fact Thailand attaches high importance to non-traditional security issues in the OSCE as well. Thailand has hosted several OSCE events, such as 1) the Thailand Conference on Sharing of Experiences in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings: Opportunities for Co-operation during 16-17 June 2005; 2) The OSCE-Thailand Conference on Challenges to Global Security: From Poverty to Pandemic during 25-26 April 2006; 3) The Workshop on Combating Illicit Crop Cultivation and Enhancing Border Security and Management: Thailand as a Case Study during 24-28 January last year.**

**In further strengthening the cooperation with the OSCE, I am pleased to announce that at the beginning of next year Thailand will host the "2012 Thailand – OSCE Conference". We will likely focus on sharing our best practices in the field of traditional and non-traditional security issues, as well as strengthening cooperation between ASEAN/ARF and the OSCE. We look forward to warmly welcoming delegates from OSCE member countries and Partners for Cooperation to attend the meeting in Thailand.**

**Thank you.**

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