

Thailand

**Statement by Mr. Pramode Vidtayasuk
Deputy Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Industry of Thailand
At the 13th Session of the General Conference
United Nations Industrial Development Organization
7-11 December 2009, Vienna, Austria**

Mr. President,

Mr. Director General,

Excellencies, Distinguished Representatives,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Thai Delegation, I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating Ambassador Soltanieh on your election as president of the 13th Session of The General Conference. I wish also to extend the same to the other honorable members of the Bureau on their elections. We are confident that this session will come to a successful conclusion under your able leadership and we assure you of our full support.

My delegation would also like to congratulate and welcome the reappointment of Dr. Kandeh Yumkella as the Director General. During his first term of office, we witnessed his outstanding leadership and management skills in intensifying UNIDO's role and capacity to provide services to Member States in a more effective and efficient manner. My delegation would

like to assure Dr. Yumkella of our continued support and cooperation in his second term of office.

Mr. President,

“The great recession of 2008” is the most serious economic crisis since the great crash of 1929. It has started from the financial crisis in many industrialized countries spreading to various nations in Asia and presently affects development and welfare of people the world over. However, we are glad to learn from several financial indicators showing signs of recovery. The global economy has now begun to recover, and the Asian region is taking the lead.

As a country struggling from financial crisis in 1997, Thailand stands ready to share our experiences and the lessons learnt. We believe that “moderation” or a middle path approach is the key to recovery and sustainability. The idea of moderation is an important pillar of the Sufficiency Economy philosophy of His Majesty the King of Thailand. This philosophy teaches us that we must balance economic development and modernization. In promoting such approach, we must take into account the well-being of the people, their economic, social, political and environmental needs so that the country is resilient and protected from both external and internal shocks.

Mr. President,

Thailand gives high priority to the rational and good balance of global food and energy crises. We have established the National Committee on the Management of Food and Energy, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, in order to address this crisis in the most concerted manner. Thailand, as the world's major food producer and exporter, will not impose restriction on rice export. Our policy on rice export deals at market price will be continued. We support free trade policy and are not in favor of any types of trade barriers. The WTO mechanism with the awaiting conclusion of the Doha Round will enable developing countries to benefit from trade in a way that will boost their food security-oriented development.

Thailand is of the view that the international community should turn the mishap of food and energy crises into an opportunity by developing and improving techniques that help increase productivity. We should further enhance trade and investment in downstream agricultural and food industries, including food processing and branding of agricultural products, to increase their values. Thailand supports the concerted efforts to solve the global food crisis at the multilateral level, especially through the United Nations system. In this regard, UNIDO should join hands with other agencies concerned to help address this issue by focusing its activities on technology transfer for capacity building of the developing countries, especially in needed areas

such as productivity, processing industry, and agricultural investment and trade.

Mr. President,

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to extend our appreciation to UNIDO and EU for implementing the project entitled “Trade Capacity Building in Thailand through Strengthening the Capacities of Testing laboratories for Food and Agriculture Products”. This project has partly contributed to the food crisis solution since it helps strengthen the food testing capacities and calibration technique of the National Food Institute of Thailand, as well as improves transfer of knowledge / technique to our neighboring countries including Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

Mr. President,

While we are gathering here for UNIDO’s 13th session of General Conference in Vienna, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is, currently, taking place in Copenhagen. Climate change is a concern for all of us and is the topic that is definitely high on everyone’s agenda. Even though Thailand produces only 0.8 percent of the world’s carbon dioxide emission and has a lower per capita emission rate than the global average, we have set high priority on the environmental protection.

As stated in our present and next National Economic and Social Development Plan, Thailand attaches great importance to the promotion of Green Economy and the Creative Economy. As far as industry is concerned, we also have a policy guideline to establish Eco Industrial Town where manufacturing and service industries should adjust themselves to be innovative, creative and environmental-friendly towards sustainable development.

At present, the Ministry of Industry of Thailand has implemented a number of projects such as Energy Saving for Small Enterprises, Cleaner Technologies, Capacity Development for Increasing of Energy-Efficiency in Medium sized Enterprises. Energy efficiency has been considered as an effective way to attain sustainable development and promotion of SMEs. Thanks to UNIDO's cooperation, one of the best practices on energy saving and conservation is the Industrial Energy Efficiency Project which has carried out many activities including energy management adviser creation courses, seminars on Industrial Energy Efficiency, both in Bangkok and urban areas, together with the international seminar in ASEAN countries.

Thailand participated in the International Conference on Green Industry in Asia which was jointly organized by UNIDO, UNEP, and UNESCAP on 9 – 11 September 2009 in Manila, the Philippines. We highly appreciate UNIDO's initiative on organizing this fruitful conference, and intend to take the measures adopted in the Manila Declaration on Green Industry in Asia as a guideline for

policy and action framework formulation for our industries. The major measures will include cleaner production, capacity building for the entrepreneurs, development and transfer of technology of resource and energy efficiency, promotion of investment and financing in low-carbon and resource-efficient manufacturing industries, as well as intensification of the corporate social responsibility (CSR) in the industrial sector. Thus, collaborative assistance and support from UNIDO and other concerned United Nations agencies to achieve our efforts are needed.

Mr. President,

The climate change issue is not a sole responsibility of any party. It has been caused by activities of people of all sectors including household, transportation, agriculture and industry. It needs all sectors working together to alleviate negative effects on the global warming. For developing countries, good adaptation and a good development policy must go hand in hand if we want to efficiently and effectively address the problem of climate change. It is also imperative that climate change and adaptation mainstreaming become central to national planning processes. Again, Thailand believes that sustainable development and Sufficiency Economy philosophy of His majesty the King of Thailand are indeed essential components of “green growth” which is the key for modern and sustained development.

Mr. President,

Allow me now touch upon the activities between Thailand and UNIDO, my delegation wishes to inform you that a draft Medium-Term Cooperation Framework between Thailand and UNIDO has been prepared to strengthen the collaborative efforts between Thailand and UNIDO in order to achieve our targeted Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Cooperation Framework is composed of five main target areas : Trade Capacity building, Energy and Environment, SME Development, Research Studies and Statistics, and Cross Cutting Issues. We are on the process to adopt the Cooperation Framework soon and expect to start the implementation in the year 2010.

The Ministry of Industry of Thailand supports the targets of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and has continually worked towards its achievement particularly on the important targets that UNIDO focuses on, i.e. poverty eradication, gender promotion, environmental protection and a global partnership for development.

Mr. President,

In closing, my delegation would like to re-emphasize that the global crises and climate change effects we are witnessing today are, by their nature, complex and interlinked. It is undeniable that the old development patterns have led in large part

to the current looming global challenges such as global warming, natural resource scarcity, unemployment, chronic hunger and poverty in developing world. Unless due attention is given to a transformative change striving for sustainable economic and environmental development, we are putting our future generations at risk. In this regard, Thailand believes that the concept of sustainable development and Sufficiency Economy philosophy of His Majesty the King of Thailand share the same value and that they complement each other in putting the global economy on a green path. We believe that UNIDO can play a catalytic role in strengthening the capacities of Member States to meet such challenge and, again, we look forward to working together with UNIDO on greening industry.

Thank you, Mr. President.
