

THAILAND

**Statement by Mr. Siriruj CHULAKARATANA
Director-General of the Office of Industrial Economics
Ministry of Industry of Thailand
at the 16th Session of the UNIDO General Conference
29 November – 4 December 2015, Vienna, Austria**

Madam President Ms. Christine Stix-Hackl,
Mr. Li Yong Director General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Thai delegation, I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating Your Excellency Ms. Christine Stix-Hackl on your election as the President of the 16th Session of UNIDO General Conference, along with other members of the Bureau. I would also like to use this opportunity to thank the Secretariat and its staffs who work tirelessly behind the scene in preparation for this General Conference.

Madam President,

The Thai delegations would like to commend UNIDO for its outstanding efforts that lead to the success in promoting the Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development. The instatement of SDG Goal number 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation, is a strong endorsement to UNIDO's mandate. Thailand would like to reaffirm its full support and cooperation to UNIDO. We look forward to work together with you, Director General Li, and your staffs in realizing UNIDO's mandate.

Madam President,

Thailand's current development strategy focuses on the promotion of SMEs and the creation of Industrial Cluster. We aim to transform our economy from the existing 'resource intensive' to a 'knowledge-based' one. We have set a target for our SMEs to increase its net values by 75,000 million Euro in 2016. This ambitious goal will require us to be more forward in our thinking, more assertive in our actions, involving our private sectors, and above all, seek out international partnership and expert advice.

The partnership between UNIDO and Thailand can be dated back to 1968. There has been active and continued relationship between the two parties,

ever since. In total, Thailand has hosted more than 100 completed UNIDO projects with seven on-going projects. Thailand also has hosted the first regional office of UNIDO in our capital, Bangkok, since 2000. This office has provided a base for UNIDO's outreach programmes covering five countries in the South East Asia region. The significant of this region is sure to increase, especially with the rise of the ASEAN Economic Community or AEC at the end of this year. The AEC will become the world's third largest single market, next to China and India. The potential in this region is immense. Thailand determines to continue its support in expanding UNIDO's portfolio and activities in the region.

Thailand believes the on-going field office reorganisation will improve the effectiveness of UNIDO. We eagerly look forward to participate in the up-coming consultations on this subject.

Madam President,

On behalf of the Thai delegations, I would like to express our gratitude to the Director General, Li Yong, for his visit to Thailand in February this year. The Director General met with our Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Industry, Deputy of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, President of Thai Chamber of Commerce, and the Chairman of Federation of Thai Industries. The visits reinforced the relationship between Thailand and UNIDO and gave opportunities for high-level exchanges on a range of topics, including future investment trends in the region, the need for eco-industry, and the future collaboration between Thailand and UNIDO. We look forward to continue fruitful dialogues and cooperation with UNIDO.

We also thank the Director General for inviting our Minister of Industry, and his high-level officers to attend the Vienna Energy Forum. The minister found the forum to be highly inspiring and informative.

Madam President,

Thailand sees the Sustainable Industrialization, SDG9, as a key driver toward a successful industrial development in our country. The goal contains elements that will help to improve the industrial sector's productivity, reduces its impacts on environment, and eradicates poverty. We believe SDG9 will particularly benefit, our SMEs, which accounts for over 90% of our industrial producers.

The Thai government acknowledges industrialization as an important mechanism to drive our economy out of the middle-income trap and distribute our economic growth more evenly. The government is actively facilitating industrial development by implementing a number of measures, such as the mega infrastructure projects in the national rail projects, the legislation of a new investment bill to encourage innovative and environmental friendly

industry, and the establishments of industrial clusters and special economic zones.

In line with the African proverb often cited by Director General Li “If you want to go fast, go along. If you want to go far, go together”. Thailand believes the journey toward a more sustainable and inclusive industry is an extended one. We will seek to strengthen friendship and collaborations with countries and organizations that have common goals, namely UNIDO and other member states.

Madam President,

To conclude, Thailand firmly supports UNIDO’s continued constructive role in promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development and the implementation of SDG. We are convinced that UNIDO will continue to effectively adapt to changing realities and new challenges. We also believe that it is crucial that Member States and other stakeholders are engaged in determining UNIDO’s future role and activities. Thailand, as always, stands ready to work further closely with UNIDO and fellow Member States in advancing UNIDO’s agenda for the benefit of all.

Thank you, Madam President.
