

(As delivered)
Intervention on
“Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially
on renewable energy”

By

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The Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

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Mr. Chairperson

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Although the establishment of policies and strategies by government is the most crucial part to promote the implementation of SDGs in every country, moving forward the SDGs demands multi-stakeholders initiatives especially the role of private sectors.

In Thailand, a considerable number of companies are increasingly recognized for their potential contributions to the implementation of the SDGs. Each of them sets its own targets and strategies with the SDGs, then aligns its business operations toward that direction. And for them, SDGs is a synonym of corporate governance.

As examples, Thailand's largest energy firm (PTT PLC) has contributed within its roles to achieve the SDGs by focusing on good governance, social and environmental responsibility, and greenovation. Moreover, there are currently 17 private companies from Thailand listed on the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI), the world recognition for commitment to sustainable business practices, reflecting their organizational engagement to sustainability.

The Thai Government and related national authorities have developed national policies and several measures have put in place to promote sustainable energy and energy efficiency.

As a result of government policy on renewable energy development, the consumption of renewable energy grows up continuously and significantly. This

leads to investment on renewable energy projects by private sectors. In 2016, investment on renewable energy by government and private sectors reached about 100 billion baht. Biomass energy investment played a major role of renewable energy investment, sharing 38.7%. Thailand set a goal to increase a share of renewable energy consumption from 8 percent in 2015 to 30 percent in 2036, contributing to reduce the greenhouse gas emission in the country.

For more than a decade, the country has applied Sufficiency Economy Philosophy principles guided by His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej to the works and activities of both public and private sectors. In particular, the said royal philosophy has deepened down to local communities to become self-reliant in using clean energy.

Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In summary, the Thai Delegation would like to make the following recommendations to further advance the uptake of renewable energy: (1) government has an important role in supporting the research and development, promoting efficiency of energy system, encouraging private sector to involve in renewable energy; (2) Knowledge and technology transfer, both national and international level, is important for enhancing sustainable energy. (3) Parliamentarians also have a key role to play in developing legislation to facilitate renewable energy development. (4) Environmentally friendly ideas and SDGs knowledge should be incorporated into an educational curriculum to raise awareness among the youth of the next generation.

I thank you all for your kind attention.