

Intervention on
Cooperation and Practical Approaches that Parliaments and Knowledge Institutions
in the Region can take for Sustainable Development
Section III : Regional Cooperation
by Hon. Gen. Boonsrang Niumpradit
The Thai National Legislative Assembly Delegation
at the 25th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF)
15 – 19 January 2017, Viti Levu, Republic of Fiji

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to be here to discuss the topic of cooperation and practical approaches that parliament and knowledge institutions can take for sustainable development. During the past decades, we have made a big step to alleviate poverty, hunger, gender inequality and improve access to water and sanitation. However, the sustainable development challenges still remain. In order to promote sustainable development, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is necessary and requires effective plans and implementation in each country as well as cooperation among stake holders at all levels.

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand attaches great importance to the SDGs and has incorporated them in Thailand's National Economic and Social Development Plan focusing on people-centered development and following the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) of His Majesty the Late King Bhumibol Adulyadej. The Philosophy helped Thailand through several crises such as the 1997 Financial Crisis and the 2004 Tsunami.

We believe that, as an alternative approach for sustainable development, the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy can support the implementation and the realizations of SDGs. The Philosophy espouses moderation, reasonableness and resilience against uncertainties, as well as internal and external shocks. It teaches people to rely on themselves and instills a sense of balance between production and consumption.

His Excellency General Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, reaffirmed the significance of the SEP at international fora, including the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2015 and 2016 in New York. Moreover, Thailand, as the Chair of G77 for 2016, promotes economic cooperation and development

among the members and continues our support for sustainable development at international levels.

Thailand is willing to share best practices for implementing the SEP for SDGs with interested countries. We stand ready to exchange our experiences in applying SEP in the areas such as community development, agriculture, healthcare, fishery, water and land management, which we deem could provide essential condition for sustainable development and peace. Thailand International Cooperation Agencies (TICA) is the main agency in offering cooperation in SEP, including scholarships, fellowships, trainings and visits and capacity-building programmes, with interested countries through South-South, and trilateral cooperation.

In addition, all stakeholders involved in sustainable development at international levels should be geared to work in more proactive and coordinated approaches. Cooperation, sharing experience and building partnerships with international organizations such as the UN, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), can support implementation of SDGs.

Mr. Chairman,

Since we, as parliamentarians, are representatives of people in our respective countries, we must reflect the need of people and provide an effective means to guarantee the sustainable development. Effective laws are still important tools in this case. Laws and regulations should not only be revised but also enacted in a comprehensive manner to ensure sustainable development. Several legislations have been passed in Thailand in order to reduce inequality, such as the bills on the protection of the homeless, maritime labour, gender equality health care and promoting equitable access to resources and public services, which will support the achievement of Goal 3, Goal 5, Goal 6 and Goal 10 for example.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Regarding sustainable development, exchanging unique national experiences on sustainable development, including challenges and opportunities; and enhancing networking among members for future collaboration is a must. We all should work together and create an environment where “no one is left behind”.

Thank you.
