

Speech
Delivered by Hon. Mrs. Suwannee SIRIVEJCHAPUN
Member of the Thai National Legislative Assembly Delegation
at Asian Parliamentary Assembly
Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs
on 22nd November 2017
Istanbul, Republic of Turkey

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguishes Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Thai National Legislative Assembly Delegation, it is my great honor to be here among my dear colleagues, the APA delegations of the Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs. I would like to extend my appreciation to His Excellency İsmail KAHRAMAN, Speaker of the National Assembly of Turkey and President of APA, for his remarkable role as the Chairperson of the 10th Plenary Session and honorable Dr. Mohammad Reza Majidi, APA Secretary General including his effective staff for the preparation of study report on the social and cultural issues which helps conceptualize us on the substances concerned.

The Standing Committee of APA, especially Social and Cultural Affairs, exerted significant contribution to the variety of international concerns such as the migrant workers issues as well as the human and drug trafficking problems upon the United Nation's ideas on human rights.

Moreover, our organization has perceived Social and Cultural Affairs as one of the most important pillars and has attempted to find a wide – range, both in horizontal and vertical scope of cooperation among member countries including other international organizations to deal with the global concerns.

Remarkably, nowadays the world situation, particularly, in Asia where differences among developed, developing, and under developed countries still exist and the gap of mentioned imbalance needs to be eliminated. This situation, if we neglect it, may bring about the causes of the chronic problems in the continent including the human trafficking and the drug trafficking as well as the smuggling natural resources which can be spilled over across the world community. To bridge the gap between the poor and the rich, the United Nations agents, for instance, UNODC, UNIFEM, and UNHCR have tried to resolve the problems by utilizing their instruments via the multilateral cooperation and increasing the access to educational opportunity for the people.

Let me introduce one of the Thai National Legislative Assembly actions to deal with the educational inequity opportunity that is the implement of National Education Act, Child and Youth Development Promotion Act and Education Provision for Persons with Disabilities Act. All mentioned laws aim to increase efficiency and alternatives, and expand access to education services of Thai people.

For culture and society, Thailand has preserved its unique identity and traditions over the centuries, while also welcoming diverse cultures reaching its shores as the Kingdom increased its contacts with the outside world. Thai people are well-known for their friendliness, generosity and tolerance, regardless of gender, race and faith.

Additionally, culture, arts and religions have been upheld on the basis of freedom and integration. This has allowed the country to remain open to the outside world, ready to adopt innovations that benefit society. Culture is recognised as an important element of the Kingdom's social fabric and its dynamic economy, enabling all citizens to uphold their virtues, to live together peacefully and to continually adapt to change. Again, the Royal Thai Government respects fundamental freedoms and basic human rights. This reflects in the current Constitution of Thailand, which protects all human dignity, rights, liberties and equality of the people under a democratic regime of government with the King as the Head of State.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguishes Delegates,**

In this special occasion, I would like to invite all of you to take an active role in this event and to become a strong link to expand the cooperation between our parliaments, governments, and APA. The Thai Delegation will share experiences and views to create a greater spirit of trust and cooperation among APA member countries in Social and Cultural affairs.

Thank you for your kind attention.
