

**Intervention on Poverty Alleviation
The Standing Committee on Economic and Sustainable
Development Affairs of
the Asian Parliamentary Assembly
by Honorable Dr. Phairoj Tanbanjong
Leader of the Thai Delegation
on 20th – 21st September, 2011
in Moscow, Russian Federation**

Mr. Chairman,

It is my honor to be granted this opportunity to take the floor discussion on behalf of the Thai Parliamentary Delegation and I would like to thank His Excellency Mr. Valery YAZEV, the Vice President of State Duma for your hospitality and warm welcome since our arrival in Moscow. I also would like to express my sincere appreciation to the report of Dr. M.H. Nejad Hosseinian, the Secretary General of the APA, for his contribution to our organization.

According to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Report 2010 – prepared by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the world's poorest countries have made impressive gains in the fight against poverty even the significant setbacks caused by the global economic crisis that plunged much of the world into recession in 2008 and 2009, and the high food and energy prices, the world is still on track to achieve the MDGs.

The developing countries and least developed countries in Asia still lag in efforts to improve living standards. While developing countries have been struggling to alleviate poverty, they are also facing new challenges posed by globalization, both fundamental and interrelated trends as well as the integration of global economy. These trends are changing not only the economies of the countries of Asia but also their environments, cultures and societies. They are likely to adversely affect the urban poor and threaten to widen the gap between the “haves” and the “have-nots” in the society. Those with capital and access to information and the ability

to translate that information into economic, political and social gain will benefit from globalization. Since the poor do not have capital and are often unable to access information, they are likely to be further impoverished and marginalized.

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand does support the APA goals and MDGs as the milestone to eradicate all types of poverty in our continent. To achieve the APA goals and the MDGs related to poverty eradication, we, as the parliamentarians, have to actively contribute and support the policies implementation with political will. This is the time for all APA Members to carefully and seriously think about how to make the channel for cooperation on poverty alleviation in line with the APA goals and MDGs. I therefore encourage all APA members to adhere the aims and objectives of the APA and also lend support to the efforts of all parties concerned.

Thank you very much
