



**ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA)
5th AIPA CAUCUS MEETING
Da Lat, Lam Dong, Viet Nam, 12 - 13 May 2013**

Thailand Report

**On the Status of the Implementation
of the 33rd AIPA General Assembly Resolutions**

The National Assembly of the Kingdom of Thailand has circulated all resolutions adopted at the 33rd AIPA General Assembly to the Thai governmental agencies concerned, the standing Committee of the House of Representatives and the Standing Committee of the Senate for their implementation and further actions according to their tasks, functions and respective authorities. Significant progress has been made on some key developments as the followings:

Political Matters

on Maintaining Peace and Stability in the Region (RES. 33GA/2012/POL/02)

Thailand through Ministry of Defence has actively participated in ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) in strengthening practical cooperation between ASEAN and the Plus countries (U.S.A., China, Russia, Japan, India, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand) on strategic, defence and security issues affecting the region. The practical cooperation areas are maritime security, counter-terrorism, disaster management, peacekeeping operations and military medicine.

Ministry of Defence has also engaged in the joint training of Expert's Working Groups (EWGs) and the 2nd ASEAN Militaries Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise (2nd AHX). The training program aims to take more practical steps in defence cooperation among the militaries of the ASEAN Member States in order to strengthen the region's capacity and effectiveness in addressing common security challenges as well as to make further contribution to regional peace and stability.

Social Matters

*on Promoting the Development and Transfer of Low-carbon and Environment-friendly
Technology Research (RES. 33GA/2012/SOC/02)*

Thailand has utilized the 11th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2012-2016) as development strategies in managing natural resources and environment toward sustainability. The development guidelines include the shifting of development paradigm and redirect the country to a low-carbon and environment friendly technology.

The Thai government has set alternative energy usage as a national priority and encourages intensified energy research for greater self-reliance of the country, in addition to reducing greenhouse gas emission. The government has also restructured the country's production and consumption behavior to prepare for a transition toward a low carbon and environmentally healthy economy. Therefore, Thailand through the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) has formed an Energy and Environment Cluster to focus on three cores of research and development programs namely, Sustainable Environment, Effective use of Resources and Energy, and Renewable Energy and New Energy Technology.

These three programs seek to develop an energy-efficient production process, standardize fuel quality and optimize the use of alternative energy particularly from solar cells, bio-fuel, bio-mass and solid waste. All the programs are geared towards enhancing national energy security, reducing fossil fuel dependency and consequently environmental pollution.

Economic Matters

on the Creation of a Green Economy to Promote Sustainable Development (RES. 33GA/2012/ECO/02)

Under the 11th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2012-2016), the Thai government has launched a policy to strengthen as well as to secure agricultural sector, food and energy. The significant areas in the policy include supporting sustainable agriculture following the philosophy of sufficiency economy, upgrading the standard of food and agriculture goods quality, developing renewable energy, as well as producing electric energy, heat energy from bio-fuel, bio gas, household waste and residues from agricultural and industrial sectors.

The current plan also provides a green policy that calls for addressing climate change more rigorously and moving toward a low-carbon economy and society while the policy focuses on encouraging the use of resources and environment friendly technologies. The methods includes improving soil quality and preventing further erosion, reducing the amount of air pollutants, improving the efficiency of solid waste disposal, community waste water treatment and conducting studies as well as defining a strategy on the sustainable use of natural resources.

Moreover, Together with public organizations and stakeholders, Thai Green Label scheme was implemented by Thailand Environment Institute (TEI). This scheme has been implementing through bilateral mutual recognition agreement (MRAs) with six Eco Labeling Programs in six countries, including the Environment Development Foundation (EDF) of Taiwan, Japan Environment Association (JEA), Korea Environmental Industry and Technology Institute (KEITI), The New Zealand Eco Labeling Trust (NZET), Good Environmental Choice Australia (GECA) and China Environment United Certification Center Co., Ltd (CEC).

on Adopting Strategies for Poverty Eradication and an Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development (RES. 33GA/2012/ECO/03),

The Thai government has adopted the 11th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2012-2016) as a strategy on poverty eradication especially in agricultural sectors in which the Thai agricultural institutes and entrepreneurs can be major mechanisms for supporting self-reliance. The development strategies in this plan comprise of policies on increasing value of agricultural commodities along with supply chains and creating job and income security for farmers. In this sense, local products and services are supported to create value added while farmers and entrepreneurs are promoted to apply knowledge technologies and innovation that are environment friendly. Moreover, income insurance systems together with crop insurance scheme are developed to cover all farmers. The policies aim at providing better quality of life for farmer as well as inducing the youth, new generations and skilled labor to engage in agricultural careers.

In addition, Thailand's Ministry of Commerce pledge to control goods prices to alleviate the cost of living expenses. The pricing policy aims to oversee the people's cost of living in all aspects, whether it be consumer goods or farm produce, while inflation will be managed properly. Blue flag food stall project has been organized so as to offer saving on one-dish meals.

on Better Access to Technology, Market and Especially Financing for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) (RES. 33GA/2012/ECO/04),

The 11th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2012-2016) has also been integrated into a policy on strengthening SMEs in agricultural sector. It established one principle for developing agricultural institutes and community enterprises as major mechanisms to support self reliance and sustainability for SMEs. Therefore, the Thai government has provided SMEs with access to financial institutions' funding resources and improved criteria for investment promotion to better facilitate investment. Meanwhile, agricultural institutes and national agricultural council are encouraged to play a major role in guiding and encouraging industries, domestic services and business of small and micro community enterprises to enhance their national and regional competitiveness as well as broaden their market access.

WAIPA Matters

on Supporting the ASEAN Member States in Strengthening Their Collaboration in Implementing the MDGs to Narrow Development Gaps within and among ASEAN Member States (RES. 33GA/2012/WAIPA/01)

Thailand through Office of the National Human Rights Commission had convened the Southeast Asia regional dialogue on Advancing Women's Human Rights and Promoting Gender Equality with UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN OHCHR), the International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAW) Asia Pacific and UN Women during 1-3 November 2012 in Bangkok. The objective of this seminar is to share and exchange of experiences, best practices, and lesson learned on the operations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) among ASEAN member countries. The seminar is also served as a platform to create and develop measures for promoting gender equality, strengthening collaboration and building

networks among government sectors, national women organizations and national human rights institutes.

on Enhancing Capacity Building by Training of Relevant and Specific Skills for Women in the Rural Areas (RES. 33GA/2012/WAIPA/03)

The government of Thailand adopted the 11th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2012-2016) in October 2011. One clear objective of this plan has been integrated into policy on creation of the just society which emphasized on enhancing economic and social security for all Thai citizens. The policy aims to support equal opportunity for women to access basic and higher education, encourage labor rights in business enterprise and provide them with more job opportunities as well as fair wages and welfares.

The government of Thailand has also introduced the "The Thai Women Empowerment Fund" to be an urgent policy with the purpose of raising the potential of women and supporting their selves' reliance and sustainability in every domain.
