

Poverty Reduction
delivered by
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Thailand Delegation
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Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to share with you Thailand's experience on the issue of poverty reduction emphasizing Thailand's situation as well as suggesting efforts for parliamentarians on the matter.

1. Thailand's situation on poverty reduction

Thailand has committed to alleviating poverty by putting this matter on top of the national economic and social development agenda. Having taken it seriously, Thailand has achieved the poverty and hunger targets of the MDG1 before the 2015 deadline and been pursuing a more mobilizing and agenda-setting theme through the MDG-Plus. However, several major challenges still remain. Disparities among regions and groups within country, including marginalization and vulnerable groups, continue to persist.

According to Thailand's first MDGs Report 2004, Thailand has achieved a considerable progress in reducing poverty and hunger over the last decade through a number of policy of Government aimed mostly at rural areas. Report indicates that the number and proportion of people in poverty and malnutrition had declined, however, obesity, especially among urban children, is a growing concern. Thailand therefore has undertaken further actions by reducing poverty to less than 4 percent by 2009. Priorities also focus on income equality, establishment of nation-wide nutrition data system and enhancement of effectiveness nutrition education.

From Thailand's perspective, economic growth is important to the alleviation of poverty, however, equality among people is also necessary to eradicate poverty with sustainability. In this regard, the Royal Thai Government has pursued both economic and social development policies in an equitable way, focusing on widening opportunity, building capacity, and improving quality of life for people.

His Majesty the King's philosophy of "Sufficiency Economy" has been applied as guidance for the Thai National development plans for more than a decade. Thus, the national development agenda has stressed the balance and sustainability in all areas, both economic and social aspects, of national development as well as emphasized the importance of community involvement and people participation. In particular, Thailand has pursued the national development agenda in the way that people can benefit from the economic prosperity and enjoy the Green and Happiness society.

2. Suggested efforts as Parliamentarians on poverty reduction

Our suggestions on parliamentarians' role in poverty reduction are as follows:-

- Supporting the MDGs plan and other related concrete efforts in order to reduce global poverty.
- Promoting sufficiency economy principle in accordance with standard of each country as the country economic and social development path in order to meet the challenges arising from globalization and other changes both in internal and external aspects.
- Supporting the important role of regional organizations to supplement national efforts in poverty reduction, for example, the exchange of best practices, promotion of technical cooperation and transfer of technology.
