

**Intervention on
“Sustainable Development”
by Hon. Mrs. Pikulkeaw KRAIRIKSH
Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, The Senate
Panel Discussion II
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**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Parliamentarians,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In June 1992, delegates from 178 nations met in the World Summit at Rio de Janeiro, known as Rio Earth Summit, discussing on the pressing global environmental problems. Focused in its Declaration, human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature. The Declaration also stated that, in order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it; all States and all people shall cooperate in the essential task of eradicating poverty as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in order to decrease the disparities in standards of living and better meet the needs of the majority of the people of the world. Furthermore, States shall cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystem. The Summit agreed major treaties on biodiversity, climate change and forest management as aspects for sustainable development. It also approved Agenda 21 as the blueprint for sustainability in the 21st Century.

Ten years later, the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), also known as Earth Summit II or Rio +10, took place in Johannesburg, South Africa between August 26th and September 4th 2002, with broader agenda reviewing the progress after the Earth Summit I. A wide expansion of topics were discussed including poverty, water quality and availability, clean energy, health, good governance, technology, production and consumption, oceans and fisheries, and tourism.

Despite many efforts initiated in the said Summits, the record of moving towards sustainability so far appears to have been quite poor. Is it now a time for us to review overall direction and results of the past sustainable development plan? In my opinion, the following conditions are needed in order to bring sustainability to all countries whose resources are limited.

- Population control becomes essential, the country may need to manage population growth.
- Non-renewable energy has become scarce, thus, the country needs to find indigenous renewable energy for replacement. Non-renewable use rate needs not exceed renewable replacement rate.
- We need to allow renewable resources to regenerate so that they will never become scarce. Thus the renewable resource use rate should not exceed renewable resource regeneration rate.
- Our environment has absorptive capability for most of pollutions. We can pollute at a certain level without negative environmental impact. Thus, pollution emission rate should not exceed environmental absorption rate.
- Biodiversity is a good indicator for live supportive capability of our environment. The countries should enrich their biodiversity by setting and enforcing environmental laws and standards.

As for Thailand, to reach the goal of being the balance state, we apply His Majesty the King Bhumibhol Adulyadej's sufficient economy philosophy based on self – support, reasonable consumption and living in moderation. We promote knowledge base with local participation in the management of natural resources environment and empowering community to take responsibility in its natural resource management, increase efficiency of natural resource utilization and recycling for ecosystem recovery, reduce emissions from production and consumption to the level that ecosystem can completely absorb or destroy, and revive and protect natural resources and environments so that they are plentiful and provide a sustainable economic production platform. In addition, all sectors strengthen concerted action towards the sustainability. The government has been adopted in building up indigenous scientific and technological capabilities in order to enhance competitiveness of target sectors covering industrial sector, community economy, and social sector. Subsectors with potentials, such as food, automobile, ICT, fashion, healthcare and tourism, are selected to be priorities. The Board of investment took more active approach towards investment for sustainable development creating balanced growth in different aspects of economy industry, leveling up the industrial sector to high – technology industry as well as paying more attention to value – added creativity which will help reinforce the country's growth in the long run. In term of ecotourism policies, the authorities concerned manage tourism resources and environment within the capacity in zoned areas; controlling and limiting pollutions in tourism areas in order to protect and maintain the environment, and decrease environmental impacts from tourism. They also supply adequate basic infrastructure and services in ecotourism areas as well as develop a learning process for tourists in order to stimulate an awareness of ecotourism.

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As we are now facing common problems that require appropriate measures to tackle with, we, ASEP parliamentarians, should accelerate the entry into force and the timely implementation of the multilateral agreements by all parties concerned. Under our legislative framework, we should advocate all policies that contribute to bringing sustainable development to our people. Thailand avails it self of this opportunity to assure you of our active supports toward the sustainable development of our region.

Thank you very much for your attention.