

ที่แจ้งรับ เลขที่ ๑๘๖๖/๖๕๖๖  
วันที่ ๑๕.๑๑.๖๖  
เวลา ๑๕.๓๓



ที่ พม ๐๒๐๗/ ๔๕๕๗๖

กระทรวงการพัฒนาสังคมและความมั่นคงของมนุษย์

๑๐๓๔ ถนนกรุงเกษม แขวงมหานาค

เขตป้อมปราบศัตรูพ่าย กรุงเทพมหานคร

รับที่ ๓๓๕/๖๕๕๖

วันที่ ๑๕.๑๑.๖๖

เวลา ๑๑-๑๐ นาที

๔ ธันวาคม ๒๕๕๖

เรื่อง การขอสนับสนุนข้อมูลในการประชุมประจำปีรัฐสภาภาคพื้นเอเชียและแปซิฟิก (APPF) ครั้งที่ ๑๘

เรียน เลขาธิการสภาผู้แทนราษฎร

อ้างถึง หนังสือสำนักงานเลขาธิการสภาผู้แทนราษฎร ที่ สผ ๐๐๑๐/ ๐๓๗๘๓ ลงวันที่ ๑๑ พฤศจิกายน ๒๕๕๖

สิ่งที่ส่งมาด้วย ข้อคิดเห็นและข้อมูลการดำเนินงานด้านความร่วมมือในภูมิภาคด้านมาตรการทางสังคมในช่วงวิกฤติเศรษฐกิจ

ตามหนังสือที่อ้างถึง สำนักงานเลขาธิการสภาผู้แทนราษฎรขอความร่วมมือกระทรวงการพัฒนาสังคมและความมั่นคงของมนุษย์ สนับสนุนข้อมูลการดำเนินการและทำที่ของประเทศในประเด็นด้านความร่วมมือระดับภูมิภาคในเอเชีย-แปซิฟิก ในหัวข้อเรื่อง "ความร่วมมือในระดับภูมิภาคเกี่ยวกับมาตรการทางสังคมด้านแนวโน้มความตกต่ำทางเศรษฐกิจในปัจจุบัน" สำหรับการประชุมประจำปีรัฐสภาภาคพื้นเอเชียและแปซิฟิก (APPF) ครั้งที่ ๑๘ ระหว่างวันที่ ๑๗-๒๒ มกราคม ๒๕๕๓ ณ สาธารณรัฐสิงคโปร์ ความละเอียดแจ้งแล้ว นั้น

กระทรวงการพัฒนาสังคมและความมั่นคงของมนุษย์ ขอส่งข้อคิดเห็นและข้อมูลสรุปการดำเนินงานที่เกี่ยวข้องกับประเด็นข้างต้น รายละเอียดปรากฏตามเอกสารแนบ

จึงเรียนมาเพื่อโปรดพิจารณา

กลุ่มงานกิจการพิเศษ

รับที่ ๐๖๒/๕๒

วคพ. ๑๕ ๑๑.๖๕

เจ้าหน้าที่รับผิดชอบ.../คช

ขอแสดงความนับถือ

(นายวัลลภ ทยอทับทิม)

ปลัดกระทรวงการพัฒนาสังคมและความมั่นคงของมนุษย์

สำนักงานปลัดกระทรวง

สำนักนโยบายและยุทธศาสตร์

## กระทรวงการพัฒนาสังคมและความมั่นคงของมนุษย์

ข้อมูลการดำเนินงาน และข้อคิดเห็นต่อวาระการประชุมว่าด้วย ความร่วมมือระดับภูมิภาคด้าน  
มาตรการทางสังคมในช่วงวิกฤตเศรษฐกิจ

### **The Government's efforts on social measures in the current economic downturn**

Global financial and economic downturn has deteriorated economic health in every country. This crisis has not only devastated business industries, and weakened the well-being of all people, in particular, the poor and the vulnerable, but it also has brought about the emerging new vulnerable groups such as laid off workers, new graduates, low income citizens, unemployed persons, self-employed, entrepreneurs and so on. Therefore, it is a worrying spillover effect of the global financial crisis which intensifies the ongoing social problems.

Recognizing the urgency and essence of the impact from financial crisis, the Thai Government has carried out urgent measures to mitigate the negative effect of the financial meltdown through the economic stimulus package. Examples of the urgent measures are (1) the one time gives away money of 2,000 Baht or about 57 US Dollars under the economic relief scheme for workers whose salary is below 15,000 baht or about 430 US Dollars, and (2) the allocation of monthly allowance of 500 baht or roughly 14 US Dollars for people over 60 years of age who are not employees or civil servants. Apart from that, the Thai Government has also increased the amount of free-interest loans being offered to the older persons in need by doubling the amount from 15,000 which is about 430 US Dollars to 30,000 Baht or 860 US Dollars. The free-interest loan will help to generate employment and more income for the elderly as well as enable them to serve as active contributors to the society.

In addition, the cabinet approved 56 billion baht fund to improve the people's quality of life. It comprises of seven projects concerning free education for 15 years, Sufficiency Economy promotion, subsidies for older persons, training for the unemployed, health volunteer recruitment, the construction of housing units for junior police, and the improvement of health stations.

The stimulus packages are expected to ease living burdens of the poor and the vulnerable as well as to drive the local economic growth expectedly up by 0.2% of the forecasted GDP and create 80,000 jobs.

To continuously stimulate economy and enhance sustainable development from the grass root level, the Thai Government launched the second phase of the economic stimulus package between 2010 and 2012 fiscal year, amounting to 1.57 trillion baht. The second phase aims to boost public investment to five percent of national income and create jobs for about 1.6 million people within the next three years through public investment in 14 areas such as infrastructure development, social welfare, creative economy, health sector, education, and community investment. Intentionally, all of the Government's efforts are set to achieve an ultimate goal is to ensure the better well-being of Thai people and promote balance development of economy and society.

#### **Social measures for Persons with Disabilities (PWD)**

The Persons with Disabilities Empowerment Act B.E. 2007 stipulates that PWDs shall enjoy the rights to access to and benefits from facilities, public welfare and other government's welfares. In this regard, monthly allowance of 500 baht per PWD, a newly social measure for PWDs, aims not only to stimulate economy, but also relieve PWDs' living burden during economic downturn. The Government will allocate BHT 500 or roughly USD 15 monthly allowance to PWDs who hold the disable ID card. Currently, the Government is encouraging and raising awareness of PWDs throughout the nation to register for the disability ID card at their local administrative offices. The allowance will be started to allocate nationwide in April 2010 and so on.

#### **Community Based Welfare Project**

In line with the Sufficiency Economy initiated by H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the Community Based Welfare project aims to ensure secure life of people in the community for better quality of life. The heart of the project is to promote self-reliance and caring society based on religious belief, local tradition and wisdom by using people participatory process. Under this project, the

community welfare fund is established and managed by local communities with portion funding and consultative support of the Government and local administrative organizations. The community welfare fund will provide not only financing, but also strengthen good relations and trust in the community. At the utmost, the project will bring about immunity and self-dependence for the local people which will empower them to weather through difficulty during the economic downturn. Up to date, there are 2,917 welfare funds comprising of almost 900 thousand members throughout the nation joining this project and the Government is encouraging communities to adopt this project and expanding the number of members.

### **The Housing Programme for Low Income Earner (Baan Eua-Arthon-BEA)**

Recognizing that secure residence is a basic need for secure life, and low income people have less opportunity to possess a well-built house, the Government has initiated and implemented the Housing Programme for Low Income Earner project or Baan Eua-Arthon (BEA) since 2003 to provide chance for low income people to secure a house.

BEA is a community housing program enabling low income households to obtain homeownership in new communities with social and personal security. This program aims at providing land tenure and affordable homes in a community with new infrastructure. In addition, its main purpose is to reduce the number of slums and curb its expansion. Under this project, down payment is not required for eligible persons who earn monthly income not more than THB 15,000 or about USD 450. The Government subsidizes THB 80,000 or around USD 2,420 of the total cost THB 470,000 or about USD 14,240 per housing unit. Standard housing models are designed and used for BEA projects throughout the nation. The target number of BEA is almost 300,000 units. So far, about 200,000 units have been built and the remaining units are currently under construction. During the current global economic and financial meltdown, BEA plays much very significant contributions to assure housing security for low income people and relieve the severe social impact on the poor.

However, challenges for implementing the BEA project are needed to solve, as follows;

- Unbalanced Supply and demand: BEA projects in the city areas always face excessive demand problem while many BEA projects located in remote areas have low demand;
- Design and size: Housing model doesn't reflect the actual circumstances in the project areas i.e. the standard models for urban areas are inappropriate for rural areas;
- One Price Policy: All housing units are priced equally nationwide no matter location, design or size.
- Subsidy: Even though there are differences in each area such as local infrastructure, environment, and landscape, Government's subsidy is equally allocated to all BEA projects.

The Government is attempting to address the mentioned challenges through cooperation and discussion with experts, civil society, communities, local people and relevant organizations to ensure the inclusive society and the well-being of low income people, particularly in the global economic downturn.

### **Social Safety Net**

With regard to social safety net, Thai government also stressed on protective and recovery strategies to guarantee well livelihood of Thai people. We realize that social safety net is an effective mechanism which can mitigate impacts of uncertain economy and enhance social immunity for people to stand ready for unexpected situations. Thailand, therefore, has set three layers of social safety net to ensure that the target groups are not abandoned.

#### **Layer 1: Voluntary Contractual Saving System**

This is non-compulsory saving. People are encouraged to join this system voluntarily. The government would offer motivation such as tax reduction to encourage employers and employees to join the programme. The Provident Fund, for example, is drawn upon voluntary agreement between employers and workers. They will decide on how much the contribution from both sides is paid to saving

fund for retirement, disabilities or unemployment. The members can also receive benefits from funding management through investment and interest. In addition, the Thai Government is planning and working towards establishing the National Saving Fund to enable approximately 24 million unofficial workers who are not included in the Government's social security system to access to welfare and ensure their security during old age.

### **Layer 2: Publicly Mandated Defined Contribution System**

This is a mandated saving system which is intended to diffuse risk of uncertainties in society. In that regard, income earners are mandated to pay contribution to the fund. For example, in the government sector, the Government Pension Fund was established in 1996 to guarantee the retired pension fee, benefit and compensation for government officials by automatically deducting slight amount of salary to contribute the saving fund. As for the private sector, Thailand has had the full-fledged social insurance which is the tripartite contribution from employers (5%), workers (5%), and the government (2.75%). Employees will be protected in cases of accident or illness, disability and death, either related or unrelated to work as well as childbirth, child assistance, unemployment, and old age.

### **Layer 3: Social Welfare system**

The government plays important role in providing welfare and financing to help people who don't fall in any two mentioned systems for acquiring basic living needs. One of the government schemes is the Universal Health Coverage Scheme which provides free medical services for not only Thai persons, but also legal immigrant workers. People who are eligible for the scheme must neither receive nor be eligible for other government health schemes and should be listed in a census registration or hold legal immigrant workers ID. Presently, people can receive medical treatment at nationwide hospitals and almost ailments ranging from non-severe diseases like flu or small injuries to severe diseases like cancers or heart disease are included in this program.

## **Recommendations**

The current financial crisis is threatening the global efforts to eliminate poverty and build inclusive society. The income gap is widened, the poor becomes poorer, and many countries are facing the rise of unemployment rate. However, the crisis can be our opportunity to forge closer cooperation to seek effective social measures in the crisis. Thailand would like to highlight some recommendations to tackle the crisis, as follows;

- The APPF member countries should provide parliamentary support for strengthening social protection for the vulnerable groups such as women, children, persons with disabilities, and older persons;
- The APPF member countries should focus on empowering local people to take care of themselves as well as people in community with the support of the government. This will address the problem at the root cause and strengthen their immunity for unexpected circumstance.
- The APPF member countries should seek concrete preventive measures for the reoccurrence of the financial crisis such as the promotion of good governance and Corporate Social Responsibility in all sectors, in particular, private sector and government sector;
- Despite the sign of recovery in many countries, the stimulus packages applied by member countries should be continuously injected. Economic prosperity requires ongoing attention to make sure strong economic and financial foundation.
- The APPF should dialogue the exchange of best practices and experiences of social measures to relieve the impact of global financial crisis on vulnerable groups such as women, children, persons with disabilities, and older persons;
- The APPF should monitor and follow up the implementation of the agreed commitments by the member countries to ensure effective and active compliance.

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# บันทึกข้อความ

กลุ่มงานกิจการพิเศษ  
สำนักองค์การรัฐสภาระหว่างประเทศ  
สำนักงานเลขานุการสถานทูตตามกรอบ

ส่วนราชการ สำนักองค์การรัฐสภาระหว่างประเทศ

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สมร

ที่ ๑๘๖๑๒/๒๕๕๒

วันที่ ๑๔ ธันวาคม พ.ศ.๒๕๕๒

เรื่อง การขอสนับสนุนข้อมูลในการประชุมประจำปีรัฐสภาภาคพื้นเอเชียและแปซิฟิก (APPF) ครั้งที่ ๑๘