

**Intervention on**  
**“Water and Environmental Sustainability”**  
**by Hon. Mr. Apichat Karikanjana**  
**At the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Forum**  
**Wednesday, 20 January 2010, Republic of Singapore**

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**Mr. Chairman,**  
**Distinguished Delegates,**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The increase of world population and inappropriate lifestyles, such as an excessive consumption of water, chemicals used in agriculture, drainage of contaminated water from both industrial and household sectors, resulted to the shortage and the under-average standard of water resources quality. Lately the Fifth Forum of the World Water Council held in Turkey on 16 – 22 March 2009 voiced concerns on water availability since the information of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development – OECD anticipated that within the year 2030 the population affected by the water crisis will rocket to 3.9 billions, it means half of the world population of the time! In addition, scientists predicted that the impacts of climate change will result in the shortage of freshwater, particularly in large river basins, Asia in particular, by the year 2050. All the said forecast reflects that conflicts due to water stress are waiting ahead of us and we have to do something in prevention of them.

As for Thailand, our people also face seasonal water crisis problems. Moreover, in the recent past, there was a significant conflict in water sharing between the agriculture, domestic and industrial sectors. Therefore, the government has always attached great importance to the sustainable development by filing the issue on the national agenda. The country’s national water vision and national water policy were established in order to reduce water shortage, mitigate flood, maintain and improve the ecosystem aiming at the well being of the Thai people. Currently Thailand’s Tenth National Economic and Social Development Plan from 2007 to 2011 set targets for safeguarding natural resources and biodiversity by maintaining forest and irrigated area for agriculture, enhancing environmental quality appropriate for the quality of life and safety of the ecological system and establishing a complete national biodiversity database.

As for the environment, now the volume of the refused has outpaced the state capacity to dispose it. Sometimes hazardous substances are imported without appropriate controlling mechanisms, in terms of procession, storage, transport, or destruction. Left behind are dangers to our peoples. In this connection, the authorities concerned have tried to maintain air quality above standard and limit the production of waste in urban areas, especially hazardous wastes.

Internationally, Thailand initiated the first Southeast Asia Water Forum in Chiang Mai, in 2003, resulting in the commitment of countries in the region to promote the integrated water resources management concept in coping with water problems. Additionally, Thailand continually supports the Mekong water resource and always actively promotes the activities of the ASEAN Working Group on Water Resources Management.

**Mr. Chairman,**  
**Distinguished Parliamentarians,**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As we are now facing common multi-dimensional environmental problems that require appropriate measures to tackle with, we, APPF parliamentarians, should accelerate the entry into force and the timely implementation of the Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) by all parties concerned. We should also provide our peoples with adequate information in order to promote the habitual awareness of “re-use”, “reduce” and “recycle” in their lifestyles. Under our legislative framework, we should advocate all policies that contribute to bringing unpolluted environment back to our peoples. Furthermore, the exchange and transfer of waste management technologies and know-how should be promoted as they are key requisites for the sustainable development. According to the latest innovation based on research and development, it leads to the successful project to manage water pollution in some countries such as Finland and Singapore which is the model of proper arrangement of the case. Thailand avails itself of this opportunity to assure you of our active supports to your endeavors towards the sustainable development of our region.

Thank you very much.

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