

Intervention

Regional Cooperation in the Asia – Pacific on Climate Change

by H.E. Mr. Prasobsook Boondech

President of the Senate of Thailand

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

At this moment no one can refuse that climate change and global warming are our common challenges because of the wide range of their impacts to all mankind. Those impacts seem to endlessly bring about or link to other further impacts. As you have seen and heard frequently about the meltdown of glaciers entailing higher rise of sea level that threatened the housing and infrastructure, climate change's impacts on water have also decreased water availability, possibly conducting in the near future to the conflicts due to water stress. On ecosystem, climate change has brought about erratic weather and more frequent unpredictable natural disasters. Erratic weather did not only decline agricultural production but also encourage migration of diseases-vehicle insects, resulting directly to our peoples' quality of living due to food deficit, health problems, and death. As for natural disasters, once it occurred, it caused a lot of damages and casualties. All said impacts reflected our vulnerability to cope with climate change. However, the problem is too big and tough to be managed by one country solely but requires an urgent global undertaking.

Even though many countries have tried to mutually find solutions to tackle the problem of climate change, fully tangible cooperation that will really work at global scale is still far from reality. Until now we have not yet actualized any globally accepted Post – Kyoto Protocol measures or new international agreements on the matter. Lately the COP-15 talk in December 2009 fruited only the Copenhagen Accord which is criticized a weak agreement with no other clear direction but some unambitious cuts of gas emissions. One among causes of the slow-moving achievement is the expense which a country has to pay in reducing gas emissions from its industrial production stages. Anyway, in my point of view, other causes might be our own intransigent lifestyles and the lack of appropriate policies. Well, as consumers of the gas-emitting products, we cannot act innocent outsiders of the problem. In the meantime, governments should implant awareness of the emissions' effects to global warming and climate change into the people's perception as well as launch stimulus policies to motivate people to purchase products on the basis of carbon label's indication.

Mr. Chairman,

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the time when concerns of our friends from the vulnerably low-lying lands are voiced lauder and lauder, we can no longer temporize actions to help them. In my opinion, instead of blaming any government's past oversight on the problem, instead of finger-pointing who must be more responsible for Green House Gases reduction, instead of using an excuse as poorer country to avoid shouldering the burden, we all should join hands to take appropriate actions in light of our part and of our own national strengths – or frankly said – instead of finding faults, we should find solutions - together.

As representatives of our peoples, we – the APPF members – should encourage our governments to launch policies on the increased use of renewable energy and on the reduction of (GHG) emissions in order to reach the target of 20 percent less carbon region by 2020, as set timetable by the Copenhagen Accord. We should enhance the international partnership in all areas, especially the collaboration between researchers and professionals, aiming at the update and exchange of best practices on climate management, know-how transfer on green technologies. Budget must be allocated more to support the ‘green’ projects. At the same time, we should exercise our legislative power approving pro-carbon neutral policies. In my own opinion, many rooms are still existing and available for us to expand our cooperation, both under the umbrella of APPF and beyond, such as the ASEP and the IPU. May I take this opportunity to invite your respective parliaments to attend the 122nd IPU General Assembly hosted by the Thai National Assembly between the forthcoming 27 March to 2 April. I have a firm belief that, with current potentials and mutual political will we have, our region can play a leading role in tackling with the climate change and global warming situations.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.
