

Thailand

Statement by H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand
at
“Third International Conference on Financing for Development”
on 15 July 2015,
Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Mr. President,

It is an honor for me to be here and share with you Thailand's experience and contribution on financing for development.

In less than a generation, Thailand has moved from a low-income to an **upper-middle income country**. We managed to fulfill all of the Millennium Development Goals, with some Goals fulfilled many years ahead of the set target. We have also transformed ourselves from a recipient to an **emerging donor country** with a view to assisting our friends from developing countries to achieve stable, equitable and sustainable development.

Thailand's success derives from employing both **conventional and non-traditional means** of financing for development.

The conventional means mainly consists of **improving domestic resource mobilization** through such measures as improving taxation capacity of the Government, enhancing micro, small and medium enterprises' access to finance, and fostering public-private partnership to fill the budgetary gap for large scale infra-structure projects that could not be covered by public spending alone or community projects via CSR.

While pursuing development through these conventional means, we attach great importance to ensure that policies and measures undertaken must promote growth that **fits well with the needs, strength and wisdom, as well as cultural heritage of the local communities**.

The **Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy**, initiated by His Majesty the King of Thailand, is another example of how we promote growth that best suits our way of life. After the 1997 crisis, the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy has become the guiding principle for Thailand's development policies. It reminds us to harmonize striving for growth with self-immunity to protect ourselves from external shocks. Because of this Philosophy, Thailand managed to withstand the recent crises largely unscathed.

We also see the need to **empower our local communities** to be better equipped to **preserve, protect and utilize traditional knowledge and cultural expressions** to bring about long term prosperity and well-being.

Recognizing that nominal growth rate is not the sole answer to sustainable development, Thailand believes that apart from GDP, other kinds of indicators for growth should also be taken into account. Thailand therefore supports the United Nations ongoing efforts in **searching for new indicators to measure progress toward the Post-2015 Development Agenda**. We believe that indicators that can measure factors such as economic resiliency and inclusiveness, including ability for countries to leap benefits of economic growth while being able to preserve their cultural heritage should be developed.

Mr. President,

This year marks the ten-year anniversary that Thailand has become a provider of Official Development Assistance. Through the **Thailand International Cooperation Agency** or TICA, we have taken up a new role as a modest emerging donor.

We have provided **more than 90 million US dollars per annum in terms of technical assistance, loans and grant aid** to developing countries all around the world, in areas such as agriculture, public health, tourism and rural development.

We are now working with development partners to create **triangular cooperation** to assist our neighboring countries and further afield through regional and sub-regional cooperation frameworks. We are also currently **co-developing Special Economic Zones** with our neighboring countries, aiming at creating mutual growth and prosperity. We wish to become a **“bridge”** between developed and developing countries to bring about sustainable and inclusive development, with no country or person being left behind.

Mr. President,

We realize that growth cannot be sustained without a strong economic, political and social foundation. Therefore, the current Thai Government has set a clear roadmap towards strengthening the country's competitive capability and democracy through a **comprehensive reform**, ranging from politics, national and local administrations, justice system, environment and social affairs.

Our special attention is also given to education reform as we believe that “investing in people”, despite time and heavy-budget consumption, is the key towards a stable society and sustainable development.

We aim to strengthen democracy that is based on **good governance, accountability, rule of law and human rights**. But most importantly, it has to be **people-centered**, which means that the reform must be **inclusive and suitable for the context of the Thai society** and ensure a better future with sustainable growth and enduring democracy. We are now working steadily towards this goal.

Mr. President,

Turning to the 3rd FfD outcome document, to be adopted tomorrow, Thailand is pleased to see that we are no longer focusing on North-South dimension but rather promoting an inclusive multi-stakeholder partnership that left no one behind. Thailand also welcomes the inclusion of new sections on Science, Technology, Innovation and Capacity Building, and Data, Monitoring and Follow-up as it reflects the change of our mindset and provides concrete measures and indicators to grant us a step closer to a poverty free world.

All in all, let's face it: To change the world we have to change ourselves.

Thank you.
