

Draft Intervention

by

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“Promoting Peace and Sustainable Development in Asia”

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Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia

His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG Samrin,

President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia,

President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly,

Secretary General of the APA,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure and honor to address this 9th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly which is being held in Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia. It is also my great honor to be here with all of your honorable. We are touched by the warm hospitality which the host has accorded to us since our arrival in Cambodia. I recognize very well that the ultimate objective of this conference is to find means to encourage for promoting peace and sustainable development which ensures a better world for everyone.

I would like to extend my special thanks to His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG Samrin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia for your remarkable role as the Chairperson of this Plenary Session and also express my appreciation to Secretary-General of the APA for his great work to the organization.

**Mr. Chairperson,
Honorable Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Almost a decade, the APA has set its goals to be one of the inter-parliamentary organizations to make the concretion and solidarity in Asia under the conceptual ideas of peace and security creation. Through many years, we have assembled to share our views and experiences on important subjects for finding the best practice, particularly peace and sustainable development among Asian countries.

Under the world situations, we must face the fact that in many parts of the world still suffer from new forms of wars and conflicts, ethnic or violence, violence against women both in conflict and in daily life. Recently, a terror threat becomes a major issue of our concern.

In order to promote peace and sustainable development to the continent, the inter-parliamentary cooperation plays a vital role in such mission. The APA could serve as a way to further strengthen and become a forum for multilateral and bilateral dialogue and consultation on the establishment of effective principles for dialogue and cooperation, featuring decision-making by consensus, non-interference, incremental progress and moving at a pace comfortable to all member countries. Mutual understanding can be gradually built up by cooperative activities as well as the transparent and sincere parliamentary diplomacy of the relevant parties should be promoted by the members of APA in all aspects. I see the APA forum as an excellent venue for sharing our experience in promoting peace and sustainable development. Furthermore, APA has been a forum where parliamentarians from Asian member states foster their partnership and cooperation to consolidate the positions of Asia in the world as a global player and to contribute parliamentary dimension to achieve the goals of Asia.

Externally, APA has underscored the importance of further deepening and broadening cooperation with our dialogue partners. Thailand shall enhance this external relation and shall encourage support from friends of Asia in fulfilling the goals of the Asian Charter.

Promoting Peace

As a peace-loving nation, Thailand fully supports the concept of promoting peace, which is a long-term process to lay concrete foundation for sustainable political, economic and social development, particularly in post-conflict situations.

As I have mentioned, the way of parliamentary diplomacy for peace and sustainable development has to be constructed under the negotiation and discussion processes carried out according to the procedure in international organizations. And the main objective of parliamentary diplomacy is to increase mutual understanding and to maintain friendship among the Asian countries, as well as, to increase the democratic legitimacy of inter-governmental institutions.

Thailand strongly believes that sustainable peace and development can only be achieved through political will and parliamentary dimension that will lead us to solidarity by way of trust and confidence in Asia. Driven by the objective of security and well-being for the people in Asia, the APA member countries, as the legislative branch, can work closely with each other by exchanging their experiences and point of views on how to promote peace and sustainable development via the channel of parliamentary diplomacy like this forum.

Sustainable Development

To create sustainable development, under the view of that human resources are the key ingredient in the development process, Thailand has therefore supported a people-centred development strategy. Development should be created from within, making maximal use of local resources, both human and natural resources, and ensuring local ownership and strength. Local communities should be empowered, so they could stand on their own feet. Civil society organizations should also be engaged in the process.

Thailand has pledged itself to pursue strong foundations for sustainable development. We believe that democracy and development have a natural link. We have applied the late His Majesty, King Bhumibol's guiding principles of the philosophy of sufficiency economy for our national economic and development plans for many years. The philosophy of sufficiency economy means that one is not motivated by acquisitiveness but by the desire to live with contentment within one's, the community's and the nation's means. Sufficiency economy will contribute, at the individual level, to one's wellbeing and, at the local and national level, to sustainable development. It is our aim, to enact laws facilitating and enhancing the capabilities of Thai people to live such lives.

**Mr. Chairperson,
Honorable Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Thai Delegation, I believe that promoting peace and development processes are overlapping and mutually reinforcing. Development in the political, economic and social tracks should be implemented simultaneously, in order to leverage economic opportunity and create social atmosphere conducive to long-term peace for people, particularly vulnerable groups, such as women, youth and children as well.

While public infrastructure and utilities are being developed, access to services should also be improved, particularly for the marginalized groups. More importantly, the root causes of conflict should be addressed systematically through the equitable development process.

Thailand believes in conflict prevention as a more effective means to ensure sustainable peace. In this regard, a regional monitoring mechanism should be put in place so that action should be taken before any probable conflict would erupt. Politically, in order to promote peace and sustainable, both the government and the parliament must focus on accountability, good governance and promotion of public participation, while at the same time sincerely respect civil and human rights and the rule of law.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Thai Delegation, I affirm that this is the best opportunity for all of the APA Members to carefully and seriously think about how to create our own channel for promoting cooperation in peace and sustainable development. I, therefore encourage all APA members to adhere to the aims and objectives of the APA and also lend support to the efforts of the relevant parties on this issue and to achieve peace and sustainable development in Asia.

Thank you for your kind attention.
