

Speech for the 6th STI Forum
by
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Your Excellency Ministers,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we all know, since the beginning of 2020, the world has lived with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and has created the so-called “New Normal” across the globe. It has a boundless impact on all segments of the world and will continue to change the way we live. In combating with the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen how the world unites, especially among global academic and scientific communities. Innovation has become key to humanity’s survival and the UN Sustainable Development Goals are all innovation-driven solutions to the issues of today and tomorrow.

Under this pandemic, we have witnessed the use of scientific and technological research and development along with global collaboration, towards the understanding of the outbreak, as well as the development of new drugs and vaccines to cope with the COVID-19 disease. As far as the availability of the vaccine is concerned, securing the vaccine supply

chain and the logistics of delivery are top priorities that many countries are hoping will restore their faltering economies and protect their populations against this devastating illness. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is essential to many industries. Healthcare is particularly no exception. Therefore, international R&D collaborations, such as this Forum, are key sustainable and resilient COVID-19 recovery.

As for Thailand, the government recently introduced Bio-Circular-Green Economy or “BCG Economy” as a new economic model for inclusiveness and sustainable growth. BCG Economy utilizes Thailand’s strengths in its rich biodiversity and robust agricultural activities. We are promoting its cultural diversity to promote economic wealth along with social well-being. Based upon Sufficiency Economy Philosophy initiated by our late King Bhumibhol, the BCG Economy model enables the local communities to thrive with resiliency while sharing and connecting to the global communities.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to invite collaboration from all nations throughout the world to work with Thailand to advance BCG Economy towards sustainable development goals.

Thank you very much.